



Keeping Your Construction Accounting And Project Management Software Up To Date

Learning Why It's Time To Switch Your Legacy
Solution



Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Project Management Made Digital	4
Dealing With Extensive Product Options	5
Making The Choice Based On Proven Technological Developments	7
Choose A Software Provider For Your Present & The Future	9
Make Sure You Know Your Part	9
Understand The Market	10
Always Choose A Scalable & Intuitive Solution	11
The Details You Need To Include	12
Futureproofing The Technology	12
About ProjectPro	14



Introduction

If you often find yourself absorbed in thoughts wondering that if you need to upgrade your software already? Or have a feeling like you need to upgrade your software? then it is time to get over your existing construction management software.

However, these feelings are quite common within the construction industry as the rate of change of technology is swift. But this does not mean adopting any random solution in the market, rather you should look for a future-proof solution. Adopting a new technology should be done based on some criterion of selection that works on the long-term benefits of the solution.

But why technology is changing so rapidly? And the more important question is which technology is going to last more?

Every new year calls for some new trends and predictions in this age of the internet. But the truth is only a few of these trends are real highlights that make a landmark worth approaching. For instance, it is widely predicted that the use of social media is likely to be outnumbered by messaging apps. Apart from this, there were so many revelations made around the use of AI, AR, and Big Data in our day-to-day routine.

Though it is a good idea to be thoughtful of the next big thing, the more important thing is using a technology that has no barrier with humans. In short, either it is the manufacturing industry or construction firms, they all need solutions that can offer a smooth flow of information allowing easier communication and better team collaborations. Thus, any technology-related decisions must be made after careful understanding of the technology, trends, and your actual business needs in long term.





Project Management Made Digital

First of all, it should be understood that digital project management is not a new process. For so many years, construction companies have been working on tech-based solutions to meet their project management needs. It all started with the computers kept in trailers or cabins with in-house servers while all the forms and documents were transferred using emails.

Since construction projects involved a massive amount of information, the introduction of desktops to the project managers, field teams, and office staff took off an entire load of pen and paper. Apart from this, the introduction of applications in the late 90s made it more convenient to store project data even if they had limited accessibility. Also, the use of VPN got more prominent at the construction site allowing teams to communicate better and retrieve any information that can affect the project activities.

Though all these technological advancements would have sighed relief to construction teams back in the 90s, the firms that are still relying on outdated practices have to suffer from slow VPNs as they run through hundreds of emails. Moreover, the content in the emails gets outdated until it reaches the on-site team since there is no access to real-time revisions and verbal communications cannot meet the rapidly changing environment at a construction site.

Overall, such systems create issues with the volume of data making it difficult to manage all the important updates related to contracts, change orders, drawings and data, insurance, and RFIs. Furthermore, such hassle causes slipping of project schedule deviating the profitability and productivity goals of all the teams since there is no concrete solution that could help anticipate delays made on permissions, material resources, obtaining equipment, and other important decisions that can help keep things streamlined.

This is why modern-day contractors and construction firms must switch to digital platforms such as centralized platform-based solutions that run on advanced cloud and business intelligence technology. Working on such solutions can also help to cut the implementation time saving expenses, preventing delays, and allowing quicker construction.

Dealing With Extensive Product Options

If it comes to development and transition, the introduction of Cloud and Mobile technology has made it to the efficiency goals. The improved control on data and easier yet more secure accessibility are certain features that have made the modern solutions much more capable in comparison to their ancestors.

However, this sudden change in technology and ever-advancing trends have made construction companies face confusion. This is why most construction contractors and project managers come to the thought of upgrading their existing software solutions. And it is very natural when you invest in a solution that does not meet your needs, but you made the decision since it was ruling the market. Besides this, there can be situations where you may have invested in a state-of-the-art product but eventually, the brand loses its control on all the advances making them phase-out of the league to be the best construction management software.

If it comes to all the construction management software service providers in the market, most of them are running on a support-only or maintenance-based model with no option to make developments. But such an approach can be degrading to construction businesses who have varying needs. The modern construction accounting and project management software need to offer a wider range of implementation models based on user requirements.

And even if it needs the construction technology providers to sunset some of their technology, it should never be restricted. The construction industry must have access to new endeavors in a more confident manner. Also, it would be equally beneficial for technology providers as it would allow them to freeze things that are not working for the customers.

A similar example can be taken from ProjectPro, an all-in-one construction accounting software based on Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central. With the motive to empower their customers, ProjectPro not only works on customizations and third-party integrations but also revamps its platform (presently running on Business Central v17) with any advances made to it.

However, the frequent change in construction technology often leads to reliability issues, making the customers adopt one of these three choices:

#1 Upgrade

When customers are not able to yield the required performance from a construction software, they go for the upgrade path. However, the upgrade process needs customers to deal with so many acquisitions while paying for transition just like the purchase of new software. Even the project lifecycle works through various phases of implementation, training, and making the product live to the teams. Another major drawback of the upgrade process is the data transfer. When you need to upgrade from one platform to other, it involves extensive data transfer before the old system is made to close.

#2 Stick To The Existing System

If not upgrading, construction firms prefer to stick with their existing solution rather than making any investment in some new technology. This is actually a pretty easy decision to make even when you hear that the construction management software you are using is likely to end, either it is the whole lineup or the specific version of it as things could be kept resumed even after hearing such news. However, as time passes, outdated technology could make your system slow down your operations and in worst-case scenarios, you may even lose sudden access to all your systems and data.



#3 Go For Next-gen Solutions

Even though it may seem like a stressful task giving you a feeling of running a race of technology where each new day brings some better-performing solutions, investing in new software can benefit your business to great extent. The only thing that you need to keep in mind for its success is to choose software that has proven performance capabilities. Remember, it is not about investing in the technology of the future, it is about making a wise investment. Therefore, you should always choose software that can meet your business needs in the long term while giving you an extra edge over your competitors for a decent amount of time.

Making The Choice Based On Proven Technological Developments

If you are working in the construction industry for a long time, you must be already familiar with the fact that Cloud, Mobile Technology, and Business Intelligence are certain features that are going to be the future of construction technology. Thus, it becomes natural to align with a construction accounting and project management software like ProjectPro that can offer such capabilities. Since the construction solutions with the most potential are likely to embed Cloud and Mobile, it makes a wise choice to switch to a solution that can hold all the data and process operations smoothly.

As these solutions are designed to run on any device, irrespective of the platform on which your device is based, there are so many benefits that you can yield:

- With the cloud, all your data is immediately saved and accessible to all your team members who need real-time information on the ongoing activities and project status. Also, the cloud can benefit in overcoming any delays to the process as it constantly keeps on syncing all the online and offline information resisting any data lags.
- The advanced platform-based cloud technology is easy to use as it allows you to scroll or navigate through different dashboards for convenient management of the tasks related to resource planning or customer relationship management. moreover, it never needs you to deal with software breakdown, server issues, or storage errors.



- When you partner with a reliable and professional brand that is not involved in money-making tactics, you get to enjoy subscriptions that can serve all the users, leaving no space for frequent licensing needs. This means you can simply pick the subscription-based on your frequency of use and you can skip the hassle of spending money and effort on purchasing licenses for all the users. Moreover, these solutions could help you limit the access as per your convenience ensuring no data is lost or compromised by untrusted users.
- When you have all your data at a centralized cloud-based location with features like archiving, it feels much more convenient to manage all the records. Also, the information available can be easily put to use when a similar project or activity needs some troubleshooting.

All in all, using a cloud-based technology like ProjectPro helps you ensure security with greater ease of access at the same time. It does not need you to invest in expensive maintenance work that you may encounter with an in-house server.

Also, cloud-based software is usually backed on multiple servers across various physical locations. This helps you enjoy hassle-free access to your data, irrespective of the issues that any of the server locations has encountered. However, such situations are very rare as these servers have all the technical and power back up required to avoid any data loss or downtime that could happen due to online attacks or disasters. Above all, these solutions come with authenticated access like features keeping your data safe and restricted to you only or the people you want the system to trust.

Though most construction firms using legacy solutions resist choosing an advanced software wondering it would give ownership of their data to some unknown firm, it entirely depends on your choice of solution provider. Make sure you never sign a service agreement with a construction management software technology provider that has a clause to use or access your data in the name of improving the experience. And even if you do, make sure there are certain provisions that restrict them or hold them liable against any compromises made to the information which is private to your business.



Choose A Software Provider For Your Present & The Future

Make Sure You Know Your Part

When you need to pick software that is packed with all your present requirements and is equally efficient to perform in the future, make sure you know your part of making the research. Make sure you get to a decision only after having the authentic data and other information of the construction accounting and project management software provider you choose for your business.

The First Step

The first step to finding the perfect construction software for your business is to analyze your existing process. This will help you locate all the limitations of your existing solution and locate all the areas that need improvement. Furthermore, you should create a list of all the issues with your existing solution to have a quick checklist of priorities that you need from a new solution. It can be the inefficient processing of AIA Billings or the poor tracking of change orders, all you have to make sure is that you invest in a tool that can meet your unique needs. Also, you should choose software that is not only good for the present but can help you grow in the future with dedicated R&D teams working to upgrade the solution with better and necessary features.

The Second Step

Once you know the list of features you need with your software, the next thing that you need to do is start looking for the solutions. However, this should not be a generalized process like investing in software that is used across different businesses and industries. It should be dedicated software that can meet the industry-specific needs of your business offering capabilities that are designed to serve construction-related operations.



The Third Step

When you are done shortlisting some technologies for your business, it's time to go for demonstrations. This should be done with your team involved as your project managers, field supervisors, and other staff could check through system capabilities and their suitability for your business. Also, you should always ask the vendor for demonstrating the solution and not some specific features of the product that makes it unique from others. In short, always make a choice based on the relevance of the software solution to your business.

Understand The Market

Adopting a new construction technology is not an easy investment and it is not always necessary that the solution provided by a big brand is the perfect fit for your business. There are chances that the brand you invest in is not working on product improvements and can only help you with support on failure which at times can make you lose productivity with no provision to customize.

Also, you should look for a brand that can help you with resources and stability that can help take maximum advantage of a software solution. This can be achieved by investing in a brand that has a team dedicatedly working on certain competencies vital for your business. On top of it, consider a vendor that is established and known for its collaborations with other key industry service providers, making the software purposeful and advantageous for business.

Moreover, when you invest in a centralized solution like ProjectPro, it allows you to keep all your data synced for improved accounting, estimates, scheduling, and other routine tasks with no chance of error. Using a centralized system is always beneficial for business since it cuts down all the downtime that you may need to face with disparate solutions.

Besides this, dedicated construction management software offers a wide range of resources such as videos, articles, blogs, and other content that can help you plan your business operations better. All you need to do is look for software that has more success stories and a rich customer base that can be easily crawled through case studies and reviews.

Moreover, you can also check the software for certain performance factors such as implementation time, the performance of the solution, functionality, and features, usability of the software, and of course, support and responsiveness offered with the software by the vendor.

Always Choose A Scalable & Intuitive Solution

When you choose a scalable solution, it guarantees you performance with your ever-expanding and changing business needs without making you spend more money. Especially, when you are associated with a small or medium-sized construction firm, having scalability allows you to have the ease of use and features at the same time.

Moreover, it is necessary that you should understand the features that you are never going to use, and even if you get some extra features, these should only be done based on the study that what features you are likely to need in the future. This helps you cut any unnecessary costs and create a solution that can meet the needs of the present as well as future.

Besides scalability, if it is one thing that you must keep in mind while switching from your existing software to a more scalable solution is to create an intuitive solution that can offer the necessary ease of understanding. It should be a technology that contains the human frame of reference and cuts any complexity based on computer logic.

Such solutions reduce the time to implementation and immediately start delivering value to the business or operations. Also, when you are using such comprehensive technology, vendors are often involved in product developments made based on customer feedback, allowing space for agility. When you choose such a product, it gives you the advantage to take over your competition. Also, when the software provider is investing resources to check their customer response through online forums, direct mails, etc. it can be considered as a green flag that the software provider you choose is taking care of actual needs of the customers to innovate and evolve the solution.

Overall, the technology that is built and improved based on customer experience always stays more closer to platform enhancements and error resolutions. On top of that, the added benefits like SaaS-based service, cloud updates during the non-peak hours, are all certain features that never restrict your performance with inconvenience or unwanted expenses.

The Details You Need To Include

Quality construction is all about real-time sharing. Therefore, if you are planning to switch or upgrade your existing construction software for some additional functionalities, make sure you understand all the essential efficiency features you need to have with your system. Here is a quick list of productivity features that your construction accounting and project management software should include:

- Easy monitoring of project health from the dashboard
- Contracts and Change Order Management
- Keeping a check on punch list items (precise reporting on the up-to-the-minute open or closed status of activities)
- Quicker revisions and improved processing of RFIs and Mark up Drawings
- Quick sharing of Jobsite photos and project status
- Easy access to codes, design specifications, and any manufacturing instructions
- Tracking electronic cards
- Manage meeting minutes and action plans.

Futureproofing The Technology

When we talk about futureproofing the solutions, it is all about purchases that can work on business needs in present as well as future without losing their stability. It should be a consistent solution that is designed by professionals who have the essential expertise in the construction industry.



It is necessary that your technology decisions in construction should never be made based on what is trending in the market or what tech enthusiasts are talking about. Since you need to operate with the solution at ground zero, the software you choose must add value to your time, money, and projects. Construction is an industry that does not allow any bandwidth for hopping different solutions, therefore, it is crucial that you assess your needs well and evolve for the future with a solution that meets your needs of the present, tomorrow, and beyond.



About ProjectPro

ProjectPro is a cloud-based **Construction Accounting Software** Solution integrated with Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central. It is designed to help construction companies manage tasks and requirements related to Project Accounting, Resource Management, and Project Management.

Streamlining business processes for construction firms, real estate developers, and contractors, ProjectPro can be used to work on integrating data, transaction processing, and robust reporting. Moreover, features like Cloud and Power BI help construction companies for improved Business Decision Making.

Some of the other features include Project Management, AIA Contract Billing with Retention, Advanced Job Labor, Change Order Tracking, and Material Planning. Moreover, ProjectPro includes Subcontract Management, RFQs, TimeSheets, and keeps users updated with real-time Notifications and Alerts. It also comes with a dedicated mobile technician app that can help with field service operations.

At ProjectPro, we help construction companies with customized software solutions to make their construction business sustain and grow in this digitally growing world. We help you turn your vision into a value with promising services and a pleasant customer experience.

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Take Care! Stay Safe!

