



# How will the cloud work for your construction business?

## 10 Effective Ways

E B O O K





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# Introduction

Are you still not using the cloud? You're screwing up your business! It is quite visible that cloud computing will be the construction industry's future, and everything will be digital. Regardless of construction companies, several other industry owners currently use IT operations.

Why? This is because of the exceptional flexibility, security, mobility, and cost-effectiveness it offers.

Top construction experts believe that the industry can highly benefit from the tech, and its adoption rate is rising. If you look at old statistics, according to the survey, 16% of the construction contractors realized that cloud computing was essential to their business. And according to a recently released survey, 85% of contractors had already implemented, and few are planning on implementing cloud solutions.

What's the biggest reason behind this rapid growth? The construction industry is known for being one of the least digitized industries in the world. But, to be fair-minded with construction professionals, the technology needs to be capable of simplifying the industry's complex workflows and challenging environments.

However, in the past few years, developers are emphasizing more on SaaS solutions to utilize cloud computing, 4G wireless internet, and mobile devices for the construction industry. This is what led to the explosion of contractors in the cloud.

All these aspects have made cloud computing the foundation of construction's digital revolution. It addresses all the powerful software solutions and actually enables the industry to leverage the latest tech. So, if you haven't moved to the cloud, now is the time to figure out why and how you should get into it.

Have you heard of cloud-based construction document management, accounting, and project management? Cloud computing is transforming the way companies do business and construction is not an exception in this regard. Now construction professionals can manage and store data on the cloud rather than on internal servers or computers, allowing them to transfer and exchange data from almost any location, including on-site construction locations.

Undoubtedly, a massive amount of information is generated in construction projects—submittals, plans, specifications, and models—and each piece of that information goes through several levels of iterations. This amount and speed of change can be challenging, specifically when there is no single platform for coordinating, storing, and sharing this information.

Cloud-based construction project management platforms—addresses these common issues and can help you prevent errors from causing project uncertainty.





# What is cloud computing?

In simple terms, cloud computing is basically outsourcing your data processing and storage to more robust machines. This type of outsourcing not only allows you to do more with less but also gives you the freedom to manage everything from anywhere with an internet connection. The cloud eliminates the hassle of hardware limitations, improves accessibility, and prevents data loss.

In the present business scenario, construction business owners should get what they need right when they need it, whether they're on their tablets, computers, or mobile phones – or in the office, out in the field, or on the go. Cloud computing provides users easy accessibility to data wherever they have an internet connection.

Earlier the internet was amazingly fast and all around, processing happened efficiently on computers, and the data was stored on hard drives. This means we all were constantly limited by the hardware. And if you lack the computing power to run a program then, upgrading your computer was a must. More so, if you ran out of space on your hard drive, you had to delete files or buy an external drive.

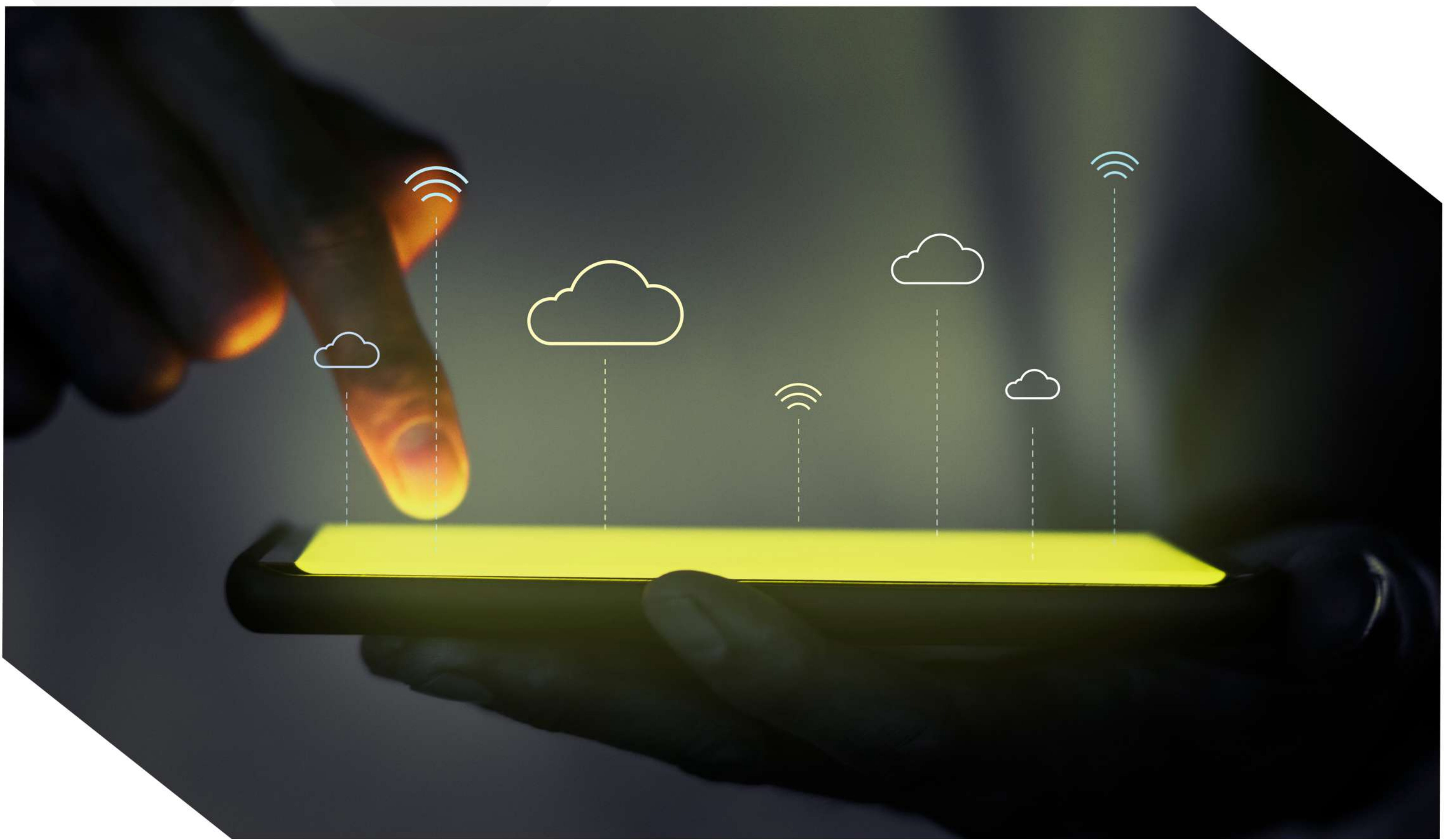
But with the digital evolution, broadband internet came into the picture and dramatically everything changed around us. The extended bandwidth of high-speed internet simply leads to data transfer a hundred times faster.



This made everyone online continuously. And so cloud computing became a trend over a period of time. Because these two aspects of cloud computing created huge opportunities. With all the devices connected 24/7 with no time barriers for data transfer, using servers to store and process data over the internet using the cloud and eliminating relying factors on your physical hardware has become seamless.

# How is the cloud transforming the construction industry?

There are several construction-specific benefits to cloud computing, some of the most popular are:





# 1. Seamless Data Processing

If you want to process data, the cloud is an ideal solution. It is the best way to get the most useful insights for your construction business. To simply put across, when drones fly over a construction sector they take thousands of pictures with thorough GPS coordinates and metadata. If you wish to use these images, simply attach them to an orthograph, which is beyond the capabilities of your computer.

# 2. Establish Connection

Earlier for checking the status of your project, visiting in person was on-trend, increasing the task completion deadline. But now with the cloud, things have changed. SaaS platforms offer you a real-time view of your job site from anywhere in the world.

# 3. Achieve Consistency Between Users

In the case of multiple teams operating on the same digital file, it's normal to commit mistakes. But when it comes to the cloud, the files generally exist in the same central location, data is automatically synced between all devices. This allows construction professionals to access the most up-to-date version of files.

# 4. Leverage Remote Programs

In the past, construction businesses were reliant on software that was often installed on office computers, disconnecting from the on-site team. With the advancement of tailored cloud software like ProjectPro, you get the flexibility to access all types of files and applications from the on-site location as well as the office.

By eliminating the constraint of entry for employees and providing the freedom to use the programs wherever they're comfortable, cloud computing brings the office to your doorstep.

# 5. Data Backup at your Fingertips

The loss of data can be due to several reasons, be it power surges, natural disasters, or hardware failures. Such affected companies are at higher risk of bankruptcy within the same year as the data loss.



And while several companies have embraced backup plans, it helps to have the best contingencies in place. By utilizing the cloud to store crucial data, business owners can relax knowing that essential files are safe even if hardware fails.

## 6. Lower Costs with Higher Mobility

The flexibility of cloud computing enables construction companies to choose the processing, storage, and smart features that best fit their budget. Moreover, construction firms can invest in their digital infrastructure rather than spend huge amounts on computers and backup drives that depreciate the moment you purchase.

The most efficient part is that as technology grows, new software versions and updates are delivered smoothly over the internet in real-time, allowing your firm to benefit from them quickly.

Cloud-based solutions also assist in increasing your need for mobility and helping you with accessing the latest technologies and processes. Using cloud technology like ProjectPro to manage purchasing, projects, inventory and payroll removes material waste and saves your precious time.





## 7. Get Secure Data Storage & Analytics

Gone are those days when storing data on a computer at your office or manual files, which were subject to damage or theft. With a cloud-based system, you get secure, long-term, typically limitless data storage in the cloud. These systems enable firms to seamlessly manage, organize and shield project data, without stressing about storage space and maintenance.

Cloud-based storage makes data management quite easy to manage, allowing you to search and retrieve data on-demand — and it's mostly automatic. Having all project data stored in a single location simplifies analysis and reporting functions while enhancing accuracy.

Moreover, cloud-based systems provide faster processing than on-premise systems, saving project managers time and allowing them to share results throughout teams and locations with great speed and efficiency.

## 8. Manage Project Documentation With Cloud

For every construction professional, documenting their project is very essential because of several reasons and the least of which is protecting your company from regulatory fines or legal conflicts. Having well-organized and documented project data ensures that you meet contractual obligations and stay compliant with workers and job site laws and regulations, which are becoming strict by the minute.

Also, audits and investigations are speeding up and becoming less stressful if it's quick to access the important data. Cloud-connected construction camera systems can be used to instantly capture and store visual proof from your jobsite, making it accessible on-demand.

Moreover, when you're thorough with documentation, justifying delays caused by weather or pandemic-related problems such as site closures, supply chain problems that cause materials to arrive late or not at all, and much more becomes easier.

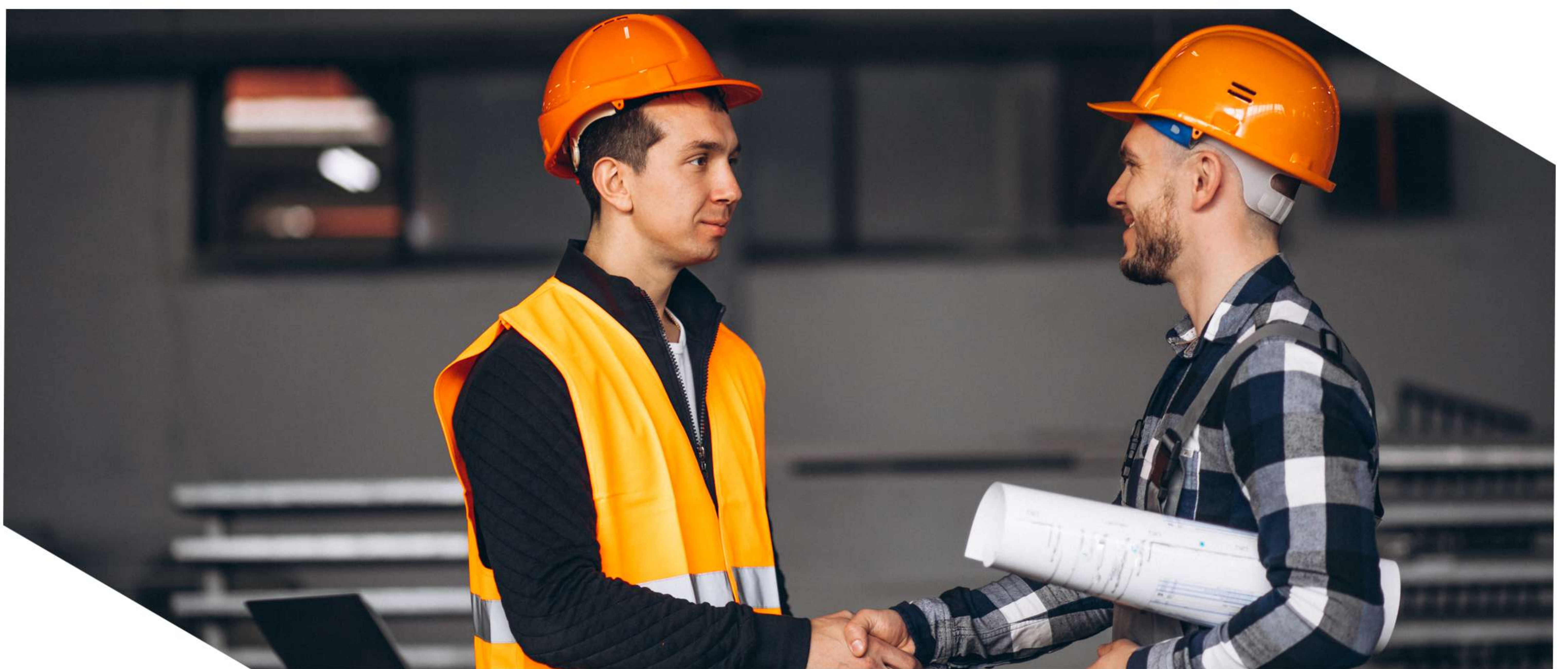
## 9. Maintain a Seamless Communication & Collaboration

Cloud-based applications are becoming popular for establishing a seamless communication among departments. Be it messaging, video conferencing, or live chat, everything helps construction project management to stay connected with their teams, speeding up the decision-making process and resolve problems quickly.



These systems also offer faster processing than on-premise systems, saving project managers valuable time and allowing you to share results throughout the teams with pace and ease. All the involved parties can quickly and securely access this data from their respective location at any time via laptops, tablets, desktops, and mobile devices. All you need is an internet connection, it is as simple as that.

For instance, sharing video footage and live a image of a jobsite, you can make use of cloud-based platform and share content with vendors, subcontractors, building owners and investors easily. This enable you to keep everyone in the loop about a project's progress. Robust privacy controls ensure that sensitive data is safe, and features such as comparison and image mark-up collaboration become seamless.



## 10.Hire the Best Talents with Cloud Computing

Do you know that according to the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) survey 2020, 72% of contractors predict that labor shortage will be their primary challenge in 2021 and 2022? As the construction companies continue to grow old, with several other competitors from the recent generation set to retire, it's difficult for firms to have an excellent recruitment plan to attract the next generation of workers.

In the present scenario, several high schools and colleges offer construction preparation and education programs, motivating the younger generation to adopt skilled trades. This is why shifting your firm from paper-based, manual workflows to cloud-based technology can help attract tech-savvy students to be a part of their construction workforce.

Hiring employees who are eager to put their tech skills to use will foster technology innovation and growth in your company, providing you an edge over competitors.



# Bottom Line

As the construction industry embraces digital transformation, cloud computing will become a keystone, allowing more efficient back-office processes and making it seamless for project managers to keep their costs under control and projects on track. The sooner firms embrace and utilize cloud-based solutions, the better qualified they'll be to undergo the difficulties that lie ahead for the construction industry.

Now we can understand that cloud computing and its transformative features have an upper hold in the construction industry, just like it is in other irrelevant sectors. Its ultimate aim is to modernize, optimize and enhance collaboration for all in the industry. Moreover, it offers some crucial improvements to the management and operations process, enabling construction project managers to learn and understand more about their team and the project they have.

When your struggle with managing hardware and software maintenance is handled by the cloud, you can be stay ensured that your IT system works at high availability and that your data is scalable, reliable, and accessible. You work with construction subcontractors all the time because they're professionals at various tasks such as plumbing or electrical or cement work. And with cloud computing, you're actually subcontracting your data processing, storage, and applications to more significant means.

This clearly means you'll work with the most up-to-date versions, and accurate information and your software tools are updated and functioning efficiently within your existing IT infrastructure. Ultimately, contractors can enhance their overall productivity and efficiency by moving to cloud computing. It is an opportunity to verify current processes and identify methods of simplifying your construction business.

If you aren't using cloud solutions for your construction company yet, remember, it's never too late to start! ProjectPro is an all-in-one construction accounting software powered by Microsoft Dynamics Business Central that helps with accounting, CRM, ERP, and project management. It is designed to assist construction professionals, contractors, and project managers with their day-to-day tasks.

It helps to streamline processes and strengthen workflows for companies by automating their tasks. ProjectPro is equipped with advanced features and ensures complete data security, making things easier for your construction business. ProjectPro addresses the common challenges faced by construction experts such as inventory, job purchasing, tracking timesheets, and much more. And so it is becoming the most preferred choice among our client base.

To learn how ProjectPro works, you can schedule a demo now with us and our guided team of experts will help you explore the advanced features. In this way, you can relate these features to your existing business needs and move ahead with streamlining your workflows.



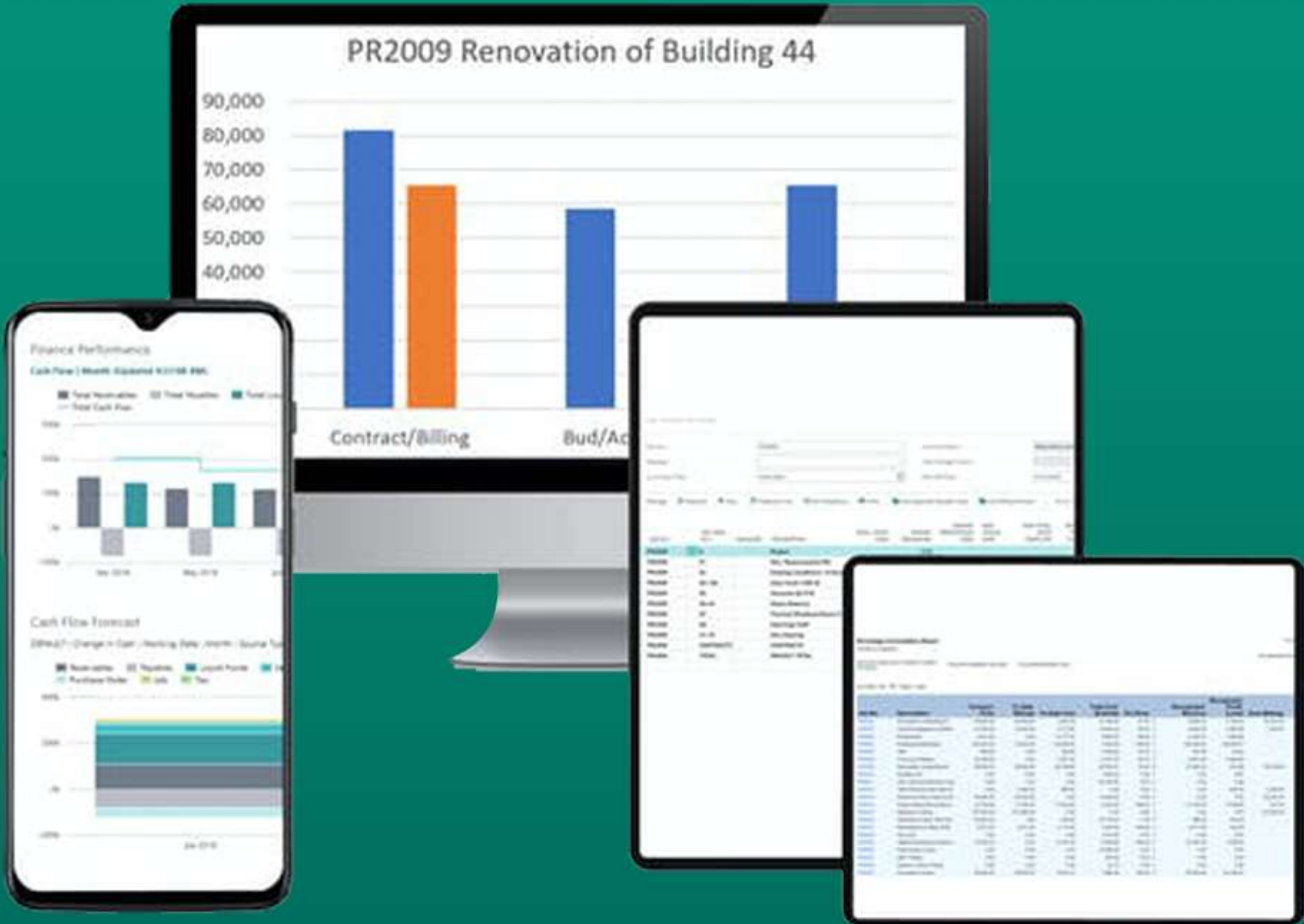
# About ProjectPro

ProjectPro is a division of Netsmartz LLC global group of companies. ProjectPro is specifically designed for construction firms and powered by Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central to make sure you get the most out of your business software.

Stand out of the league by streamlining your business processes, controlling costs, and offering timely and accurate information. ProjectPro holds the potential to integrate your crucial job quoting, project accounting, resource management for labor and equipment, and much more all in a single database.

With integrated data, intelligent transaction processing, and robust analytical and reporting capabilities, you can reduce the time and effort it takes to access meaningful information necessary to make good business decisions.

REQUEST A DEMO



✉ sales@projectpro365.com

🌐 www.projectpro365.com

📞 1-647-696-4534

