

ENTERPRISE PROJECT MANAGEMENT FROM ARTEMIS



*"We never know how high we are
Till we are called to rise
And then, if we are true to plan
Our statures touch the skies."*

- Emily Dickinson

Artemis Management Systems has created a project management suite that contains four modules to address four key areas of project management. Each module provides a view of project data maintained and managed in a central project repository. Each module is designed to support different types of users, performing different roles within the project.

The Artemis product suite maintains an open interface environment to support integration with other enterprise tools. Artemis has integrations with Microsoft Project and Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems available for project cost accounting.

Artemis also offers KnowledgePLAN, a tool that focuses on project estimation. While it is not currently integrated with the Artemis repository, Artemis has plans to integrate within the next year. KnowledgePLAN exchanges data with other project planning tools, including MS Project. It provides guidance in structuring a project,

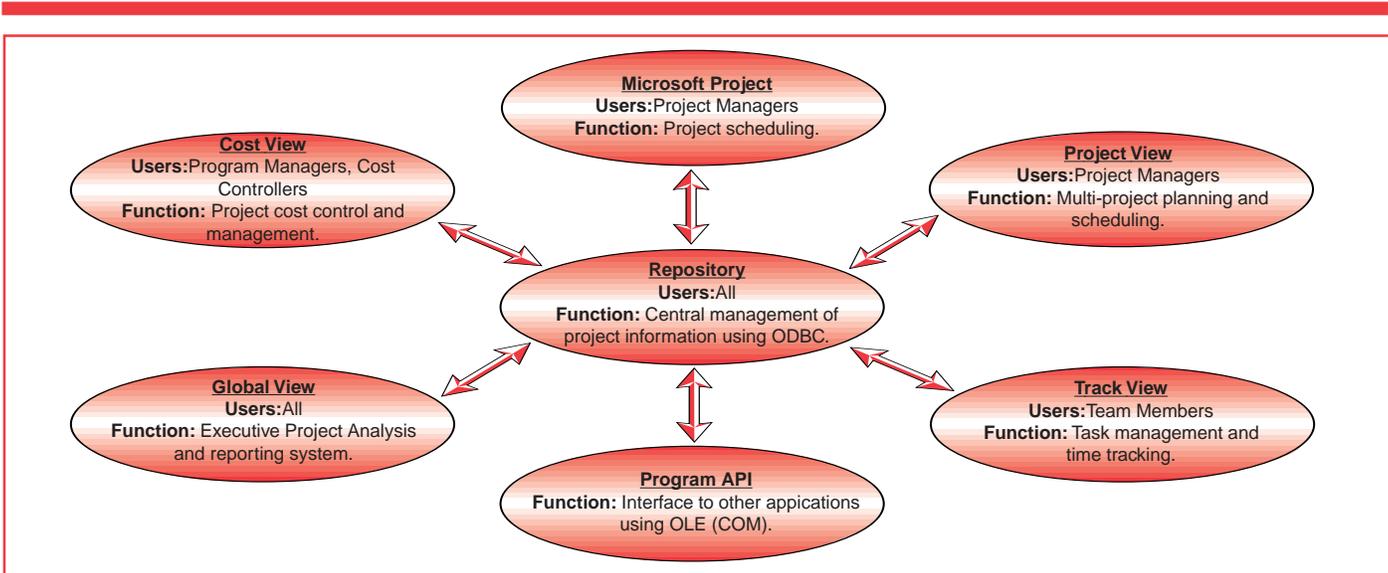
and produces estimated time and resource needs based on historical industry data. Historical data can be augmented with heuristic project performance experience. Artemis maintains a professional service and training organization to assist companies in implementing their tool suite and appropriate project management processes. They have developed an implementation process referred to as Project Management Methodology (PM2).

PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The following provides an overview of the Artemis View 4 Enterprise Project Management tool suite. Each tool supports a specific user role within the organization. The tools are integrated cleanly with the central repository, enabling multiple users to view up-to-date project information simultaneously.

The system is client/server based and utilizes commercially available SQL databases for its repository. Artemis supports Oracle, Microsoft SQL Server and Sybase relational databases running on Windows NT, Sun Solaris or HP-UX operating systems.

The client portion of all the tools run under Microsoft Windows 32-bit Operating Systems (Windows 95/98 and Windows NT 4.0). TrackView also supports a Microsoft Internet Explorer interface to enable communication and update of project tasks. GlobalView



supports both Internet Explorer and Netscape browsers.

Features required in a multi-user environment include user access security, restricting access to information in the repository, and information update transaction management. It is also possible to track up to 99 versions (baselines) of a project. The system supports reporting on project information using Crystal Reports as a standard mechanism. Several existing reports serve as starting points for producing reports customized to the organization's needs.

PROJECTVIEW

ProjectView is a sophisticated and comprehensive project planning tool for use by project management professionals. It has been designed to support large projects and programs that typically require multiple nested project environments. Utilizing the central repository, the system supports a multi-user (multi-project manager) environment. This allows each project manager to work on a single "sub-project" in the context of the whole program schedule and resource pool. This whole program context allows a project manager to make scheduling and resource tradeoffs benefiting overall program objectives.

The ProjectView module offers many different views of the project. This provides the project manager with a tool to perform project planning and structuring (WBS), task scheduling, resource usage and cost analysis. While this set of capabilities is similar to those provided by Microsoft Project for a single project, ProjectView supplies many additional capabilities and views.

A Microsoft Project interface module is available from Artemis to allow project managers with simpler needs to utilize MS Project and exchange data with the Artemis repository. This integration allows mapping

of MS Project attributes to their Artemis equivalent; thus information can be exchanged easily between these systems.

By utilizing the SQL based repository, the Artemis tool suite can handle thousands of projects interconnected in various ways without the cumbersome need to replicate and build separate "master project" files. The centralized nature of the repository gives everyone in the organization access to an up-to-date view of the program and/or projects. Each user or group can have defined access authority to the system and individual project plans.

The ProjectView tool has been optimized for presenting information in the context of a multi-project environment. Nice touches that are appropriate in a multi-project environment include the ability to define interdependent milestones, including "traffic light" status display for early warning of problems. While the Artemis tool might be overkill if all one had were single project needs, it could prove beneficial because of the ability to optimize individual projects against a common and shared resource pool. The tool includes embedded graphic oriented charts that summarize project information. Artemis has also included several predefined Crystal Report templates for producing useful management reports.

TRACKVIEW

TrackView is used in the project's execution. After the project has been scheduled and resourced within ProjectView, the individual task assignments necessary to execute the project are made available to the project staff via the TrackView tool. The project staff and management utilize TrackView to record progress on tasks and provide updates to the ProjectView planning module. The TrackView tool provides an easy-to-use interface available with both a native Windows and Internet Explorer browser interface.

TrackView is organized into two functional modules; one for individual project members and one for management. Individual users can look up tasks they have been assigned and report progress (time and effort) against assigned tasks. Users can also record time spent on new unplanned activities, so an accurate picture of resource utilization can be collected and analyzed. A “timesheet” metaphor is used to report activity. The Management module allows project and/or resource managers to approve timesheets and project status update information. The system can be configured to have multiple levels of approvals required before information is approved for posting.

Consistent with their focus on larger projects, Artemis has included features to allow categorizing tasks for analysis and consolidation from multiple perspectives. Additionally, all task information is captured in the repository and can be used for historical analysis or exported to a financial/billing system.

COSTVIEW

CostView is a comprehensive tool to manage the financial aspects of projects within the Artemis system. This tool has been specifically designed to support the needs of financial analysts, project cost controllers, and project/program managers. It supports earned value project management, and reporting and variance analysis. CostView also produces trend line information to help forecast future costs and variance, so that appropriate management action can be taken.

The CostView tool can be utilized to enter and manage the overall financial picture. In addition to individual resource costs, the tool provides a means for handling overtime, overhead and general and administration expenses. Different slices through the repository data can be analyzed to determine staff or department effectiveness, individual project variance, or aggregate program information.

This tool differs from TrackView in that CostView is specifically designed to produce financial information about the project or program or organization. TrackView is more oriented toward task execution reporting and status update. Any sizable organization or organizations that need to support earned value reporting would find the CostView tool useful.

GLOBALVIEW

The Standish Group’s research shows that effective communication with stakeholders is a key contributor to project success. GlobalView provides an accessible set of information about a program or project,

and allows stakeholders to get an updated view of project status and costs.

GlobalView can be configured to give summary information in various ways, and allows the user to drill down to varying levels of detail in order to understand the current status and to make necessary decisions.

All information maintained in the repository is available for analysis and display. GlobalView includes powerful 3D data visualization tools that can be used to navigate through the information repository. The views and reports generated can be exported to the Web and/or OLE compliant applications.

WHO SHOULD USE ARTEMIS AND WHY?

Artemis has provided project management solutions for over 20 years, and offers a mature and complete answer for large project management needs. Over 1000 customers, including many large, cross-industry companies employ the Artemis system.

Central repository integration gives Artemis some powerful features for handling large projects. This repository approach allows the system to support multi-project, multi-user environments in ways that are just not possible with file based project management tools. In addition to strong support for the multi-user environment, Artemis has leveraged the central repository to manipulate information appropriate to the various tools (Views), while keeping the information consistent, and eliminating re-entry of data.

Each of the Artemis Views tools is comprehensive, and contains information and sophisticated capabilities required for a specific purpose and user role. By separating the capabilities into the four different tools, an organization can focus on specific needs without having to train and deploy the full suite of capabilities. Their recent acquisition of KnowledgePLAN rounds out Artemis’ capabilities with an estimating tool. In addition, Artemis recently introduced Active Alert, a database monitoring application that alerts specific individuals when a project event or trend falls outside the organization’s business rules. Working as a database agent, Active Alert uses e-mail, fax, pager or html messages to inform these individuals about the issue so they can take corrective actions.

Artemis is moving into the Web area in order to facilitate truly distributed teams. The current version of the product supports team communication via the TrackView and GlobalView modules. Project man

agers using ProjectView and CostView require direct network access to support the Windows/ODBC client access to the central repository.

IN SUMMARY

Artemis Management Systems has created a central repository based multi-project, multi-user project management system, with four significant tools for use by different roles. Project managers use the primary module, ProjectView for performing project scheduling and resource assignment. Artemis has also developed integration to MS Project that can be used in place of ProjectView in certain environments. CostView is designed for detailed cost accounting and financial management. The TrackView module enables project team members to receive task assignments and report project status. The fourth module, GlobalView, furnishes an executive management overview of the project status and cost. KnowledgePLAN (recently acquired) provides a project estimating tool with easy to use wizards and a reference database of 8000 projects.

This basic tool suite is augmented with Artemis PM2 implementation approach. Consistent with the focus on large projects and enterprise project management, Artemis has exposed a programming API to allow interfacing to other enterprise business systems. One such integration to an enterprise business system is the Artemis provided integration with the Oracle ERP Project and resource module. Any organization involved in managing large projects, or projects requiring complete project cost accounting, should carefully evaluate the Artemis solution.

USER STORY

A mid-sized Systems Integration firm implemented the Artemis project suite fifteen months ago to help them improve their profitability and resource utilization. This company stresses that thoroughly defining their project process and analyzing their needs before choosing Artemis was "absolutely critical" to their success.

The firm estimates that they invested about 1000 person-hours, and needed a half-time project manager to implement the suite. Their project managers took about three months (including a class) to come up to speed using the "very comprehensive" toolset. The company does not have a program office, so they set up the application to require minimal administration, backup and recovery. This requires about 50% of one person's time. Using this approach has freed up valuable resources to work on billable projects.

Their current implementation provides good visibility into their profitability per person, as well as the necessary information to improve their project personnel utilization. Artemis' multi-project consolidation capability proves very effective for aggregating project information by project manager across six geographically dispersed areas. This information helps improve the company's resource forecasting and utilization.

They have integrated output from the Artemis planning tools into their customer proposal process, and would like to see effort more closely integrated with cost and duration. Today they must extract effort information programmatically, while cost and duration graphic generation are built into the tool. These users also report that more intuitive user interfaces and report writer capabilities would make it easier to take full advantage of the powerful source of project information Artemis provides.

ARTEMIS MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Founded in 1976, Artemis is a leading supplier of enterprise multi-project planning, control, and tracking software solutions. Operating from 40 offices in 27 countries, Artemis provides a network of sales, support, and consulting to companies around the globe. With over 1,000 customers worldwide, Artemis has experience in a diverse range of industries, including telecommunications, engineering, construction, utilities, oil and gas, IT/IS, finance, banking, aerospace, defense, pharmaceuticals, and manufacturing. Their URL is www.artemispm.com.

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