

How visual communication can boost project delivery/success rate ¹

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What paves the way for a project's success?

The first thing that comes up in every project manager's mind is effective project planning.

This is undoubtedly true; the more detailed the plan is, the more accurate the deliverables will be. To make a project plan, the manager has to create the work breakdown structure (WBS). It consists of the tasks, subtasks, required skills, resources, deliverables, etc. In simple terms, it is a detailed roadmap of the project.

The next question is, who will be completing those tasks?

It's the resources who will have to take up every task and complete it within the stipulated time. And thus, they need to be correctly allocated to each task based on their skills and availability. Managers require unmatched visibility into project demand in terms of quantity and competencies to align the resources with the right task.

This is just the first step. After the project initiates, it is imperative to keep a note of the progress, resource performance, and financials at every stage. It will allow managers to take remedial measures in time to avoid a cascading failure.

To stay atop all these metrics, communicating via visual media is critical. It will provide real-time updates and keep everyone, including stakeholders, team members, etc., on the same page.

This article highlights how modern solutions like resource management software provide visual [communication](#) to boost project delivery success.

The multidimensional scheduler allows competent allocation

With the help of a multidimensional task scheduler, managers can get 360-degree visibility of all resources. They can visualize their skills, experience, capacity, availability, utilization, etc., which helps facilitate competent [resource allocation](#).

Gantt chart helps in viewing the current and future bookings. Managers can modify, assign new tasks, or mobilize their schedules using simple drag and drop functionality.

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The complete visibility of utilization and existing workload also enables managers to avoid over/under allocation of tasks.

Real-time BI reports minimize reaction time

Business intelligence reports help in making data-driven decisions. The resource management solution provides customized data and provides leeway to configure graphs based on your requirements. For instance, if you want to observe the utilization rates, you can configure the dashboard and even color-code the graph based on your preferences. Besides, role-based access eliminates information overload, and one can make quick, informed decisions based on precise data.

Similarly, various KPI reports represent the project's and resource's progress and assist the managers and stakeholders in forming a course correct plan. Also, since all the reports are based in real-time, it minimizes unnecessary reporting delays and allows managers to stay proactive to control the project's fate.

Color-coded dashboards & graphs provide an overview of resource performance

A modern resource management solution provides various graphs, reports, dashboards, etc., that are color-coded to make them more comprehensible. For instance, in the utilization report, different rates can be custom color-coded based on utilization percentage. Like, 100% utilization is coded as green, 90% as blue, 80% as yellow, and so on, up to 0% as red.

Similarly, you can have graphical representation, pie charts, etc., to customize the data at your convenience. During stakeholder review meetings, project managers can convey the project's progress with accurate details and comprehensive infographics. The senior management can review these reports, analyze them, and formulate an action protocol.

The Kanban boards are the center to understand task interdependencies

For a project, understanding the workflow, task interdependencies are incredibly crucial. Otherwise, the project's quality and timeline may suffer. To make this workflow more engaging and organized, visual kanban boards come in handy. Kanban boards provide the visual representation of the different tasks, subtasks, and their interdependencies.

These charts clearly depict the tasks and their status. The manager can easily change the status of each activity using a simple drag and drop facility. When you have multiple activities, a visual representation gives a clear picture of the progress for each task. Thus, senior management can identify the most critical task and track their performance.

The centralized view allows seamless collaboration between team members

The resource management tool maintains a single version of the truth. It provides a birds' eye of enterprise-wide resources and projects and allows seamless integration of other apps and software. Thus, managers can keep a single repository and minimize data redundancy.

Moreover, the real-time updates and centralized view keep everyone on the same page. For instance, the tool can consolidate data from different sources and generate forecast vs. actual reports. Thus, managers can share the information and even export the reports to excel to collaborate and communicate with stakeholders and take feedback, opinions, etc. They can also share the same with the team to keep everyone informed of the progress.

A communicative resource requisition workflow for better project management

With the help of an effective resource management solution, the resource requisition process also becomes effortless. The [project managers](#) can send resource requests stating every detail to the resource manager. The resource manager will be able to see the requirements and then propose resources. Moreover, managers can prioritize projects based on criticality and suggest resources.

Besides using the solution, resource managers can publish open positions, and interested candidates can revert. Then, based on the best fit and availability, they are proposed to the concerned project managers, who may either accept or reject the resources. Then, the resource manager looks into the resource pool and suggests other suitable resources, and this activity continues till both managers are on the same page. Furthermore, as the entire process is documented and auditable, it eliminates conflicts.

Conclusion- Takeaway tips to streamline the management process

A project will be successful when the managers have a streamlined project and resource management process in place. Here are a few tips that can help standardize the process:

- Develop a proper project plan and create a WBS stating the tasks, subtasks, interdependencies, etc.
- Identify the resource requirements and send resource requests to the resource managers beforehand.
- Analyze the resources sent by the resource manager and either approve or disapprove the resources.
- Schedule approved resources for the different tasks based on their criticality.

- View dashboards, charts, graphs, etc., to track resource utilization.
 - Take necessary steps to optimize the resource schedules if necessary.
 - Communicate regularly with the stakeholders and clients and share updates with them.
 - Collaborate with the team members on a single platform and exchange necessary information, document, opinions, feedbacks, etc.
 - Assess reports on a timely basis and form an action plan ahead of the curve to control the project's progress.
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About the Author



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