

Integrating Microsoft Project® with the Enterprise

Making better use of what you have already got!

The AMS REALTIME Enterprise Solution provides excellent integration with Microsoft Project®, to deliver real time enterprise visibility of all project work. Together, the AMS REALTIME Enterprise Solution and Microsoft Project® allow you to manage projects and resources across your organization, division or department.

The AMS REALTIME Enterprise Solution extends and enhances Microsoft Project® by providing

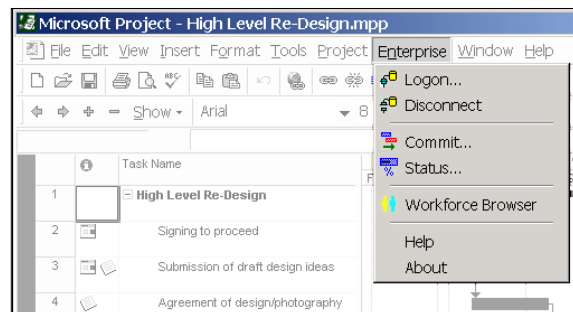
- A central repository for project plans
- Role-based security.
- Central resource definitions and availability information, shared by all Microsoft Project® users.
- Project portfolio and program management capabilities.
- High-level decision support and reporting facilities for staff and executives at all levels in the organisation.
- Detailed report writing capability
- Integrated timesheets (via AMS REALTIME Solo and Web Solo) to automatically (upon request of the project manager) update the status of plans. Individuals receive one timesheet to book time across multiple Microsoft Project® plans, as well as on operational/non-project work. Sophisticated features for time booking are provided, including 'estimates-to-complete', annotation, expenses, graphical calendars and personal task displays, as well as approval mechanisms for managers.
- An interface for updating the status of activities in your Microsoft Project® plans
- A facility for status information to be accepted, or rejected if it is incorrect.
- Resource management capabilities (via AMS REALTIME Resources), including resource requesting and allocation to support matrix management organizations.
- Integration with leading third party databases and ERP systems such as Oracle Applications.

This functionality is provided to Microsoft Project® users via an additional Enterprise menu. This means that MSP users do not need to learn a new tool to integrate their data with the enterprise solution.

Supported Platforms

The solution supports Microsoft Project 98® and Microsoft Project 2000/2002® and is available on Microsoft Windows XP, 2000, NT and 98 with Windows NT and Windows 2000 Servers. Data can additionally be synchronized to Oracle, Microsoft SQL Server as well as other ODBC compliant databases.

The AMS REALTIME Enterprise Solution is ODBC compliant and Microsoft Office is often used in conjunction with it to provide data analysis and reporting as well as other capabilities. Users can also access the AMS REALTIME Solution via the web for time recording, and data administration.



Centralized Resource Management

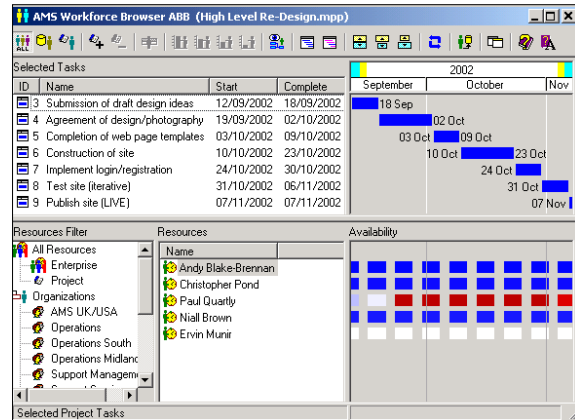
One of the toughest challenges facing organisations that use Microsoft Project® is to get an accurate picture of where resources are being used and what is the capacity to take on new work. The AMS REALTIME Enterprise Solution addresses this with the unique AMS REALTIME Workforce Browser. This enables Microsoft Project® users to query and select resources from a centrally maintained database. The AMS REALTIME Workforce Browser provides a consistent set of resource definitions that can be used on all projects and provides flexibility to support different approaches to managing resources, such as matrix management, dedicated project teams, or a mixture of approaches. AMS REALTIME Resources provides additional detailed resource and time management functionality.

Typical scenario

Microsoft Project® is integrated with the AMS REALTIME Enterprise Solution as part of an organisation wide solution.

Here is just one scenario:

- A project manager using Microsoft Project® plans a project and assigns generic skill requests to the activities in the project via the AMS REALTIME Workforce Browser.
- The project manager commits the plan to the central repository (AMS REALTIME Enterprise Server) using the Commit option on the Enterprise Menu
- A resource manager (via AMS REALTIME Resources) find the requests and searches for resources with the requested skill available in the requested time-frame.
- The resource manager allocates individuals to satisfy the skills requests, based on project priorities and other resource commitments
- The project manager updates their plan with the named resources provided to them by the resource manager via the Status option on the Enterprise Menu
- The project team members assigned by the resource manager, record their effort on all the project tasks on their timesheet, and update the 'estimate-to-complete', where necessary, for unfinished tasks. They also book time to operational or non-project tasks when necessary. All time bookings and estimate-to-complete changes are entered via AMS REALTIME Solo or Web Solo.
- The timesheet data is reviewed and approved by managers via AMS REALTIME Resources.
- The project manager then statuses their plan with progress information (again via the Status option on the Enterprise Menu) and views the impact of the work performed to date and any estimate-to-complete changes.
- The project manager then deals with the impact on their plan and attempts to bring the project back on schedule and within budget. Having done this, they will then re-commit the updated plan to the central repository so that resource managers and project team members have an up-to-date picture.
- And so on until the project is completed...



The unique AMS REALTIME Workforce Browser provides Microsoft Project® users with direct access to the company resource directory, ensuring consistent definitions and enterprise-wide visibility of capacity.

This simple scenario highlights just one example of how Microsoft Project® can be integrated with a centralized timesheet and resource management system using the capabilities of the AMS REALTIME Enterprise Solution.

Who will benefit from the AMS REALTIME-Microsoft Project® solution?

The AMS REALTIME Enterprise Solution integrated with Microsoft Project® is designed to meet the needs of organizations who are already comfortable with Microsoft Project®, and who want to extend its capability and use it as an enterprise or departmental wide tool. This powerful combination of products provides resource management, time recording and automatic project plan tracking facilities. These features will benefit your organization ensuring that all projects are managed more effectively, and your resources are in the right place at the right time. The AMS REALTIME Enterprise Solution provides capabilities to meet the needs of staff and managers throughout the organization.

Global, enterprise implementations

Advanced Management Solutions can support enterprise customer implementations on a global level or local level through its offices in the US and UK and a network of partners around the world. We recognize the importance of consulting services in delivering a solution for enterprise project management.

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