



# Leading the way with Project Online

How companies are setting a new standard  
for project delivery





# Introduction

No matter what industry they're in or what type of project they're working on, project managers face many of the same challenges. Breaks in communication, misalignment within teams, and lack of visibility across projects—all these issues can result in painful and unnecessary project breakdowns. But your tools should be making your job easier.

With Microsoft Project Online, you get a solution that covers collaborative work, project, portfolio, and resource

management in the cloud. Fully integrated and flexible, it allows your team to communicate and align with ease.

In this e-book, see how organizations like yours have overcome operational challenges and improved their project management by implementing Microsoft Project Online.



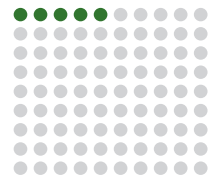
# devolo

With **Microsoft Project Online**, German-based manufacturing company devolo was able to take a step into the future.

## Challenges

devolo focuses on consumer and professional powerline solutions and communications. With such a strong concentration on product development and innovation, it was imperative that their teams—particularly project managers and engineers—were able to work efficiently and effectively across the organization. For devolo, this meant finding a project management solution that could be a single source for information and resources, provide increased transparency across teams, and limit maintenance to the IT team.

**Company size:**  
50-999 employees



**Location:**  
Germany



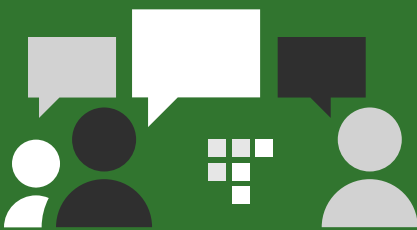
**Industry:**  
Manufacturing





## Anytime, anywhere access

Enable your teams to view, edit, submit, and collaborate on project, portfolio, and everyday work from their favorite devices and web browsers—so they can stay connected and be productive anywhere.



## Collaborative social feeds

Utilize dedicated Yammer newsfeeds in SharePoint to communicate with colleagues in real-time on project details.

For 13 years, devolo had operated on Project Server 2003 with remarkable success. But maintaining the server was a time-consuming task for the project management department. They needed a solution that could streamline their organizational communication even further and transfer the maintenance responsibilities to the right team, all while staggering the migration so that projects wouldn't be interrupted midstream by the adoption of new software.

**Microsoft Project Online was the top contender because it could interoperate with projects still being managed by Project Server 2003.**

### Solution

The benefits were there from the start. devolo worked with Bechtle AG, a member of the Microsoft partner network, to help with the migration. While adopting the new Project Online software, devolo was able to stagger the migration and continue running pre-existing projects on the old system. This meant a quick and seamless migration, with zero downtime.

The move to the cloud has also kept the system current with the latest tools, features, and updates. This means that the IT team—and project managers—don't have to worry about time-consuming upgrades, freeing them up to work on more value-added activities.

“Things are getting easier, for me especially. Before, the server was within the responsibility of project management. Now everything is passed to IT, and they know what to do.”

— Stephan Nöthen, Project Manager, Special Projects



Bechtle AG and devolo are working on some additional customization that will improve communication across departments—and, with it, project planning. This new interface will provide added insight into employee holidays, ultimately helping to simplify resource planning.

Project Online also integrates with Microsoft SQL Server Reporting Services. Using this integration capability, Bechtle AG and devolo are developing a feature that consolidates data from the financial, project management, and product databases. The effects are expected to be two-fold: teams will have a single source for all documentation, improving visibility between departments. And reporting will become easier and more customized. "Our project managers have to report on KPIs and product development status to management, so if we merge existing data that is related to each project, we can create views and reports much more

easily than our current method, which involves manually building Excel spreadsheets," says Nöthen. "This would not be possible if we were still running an on-premises solution."

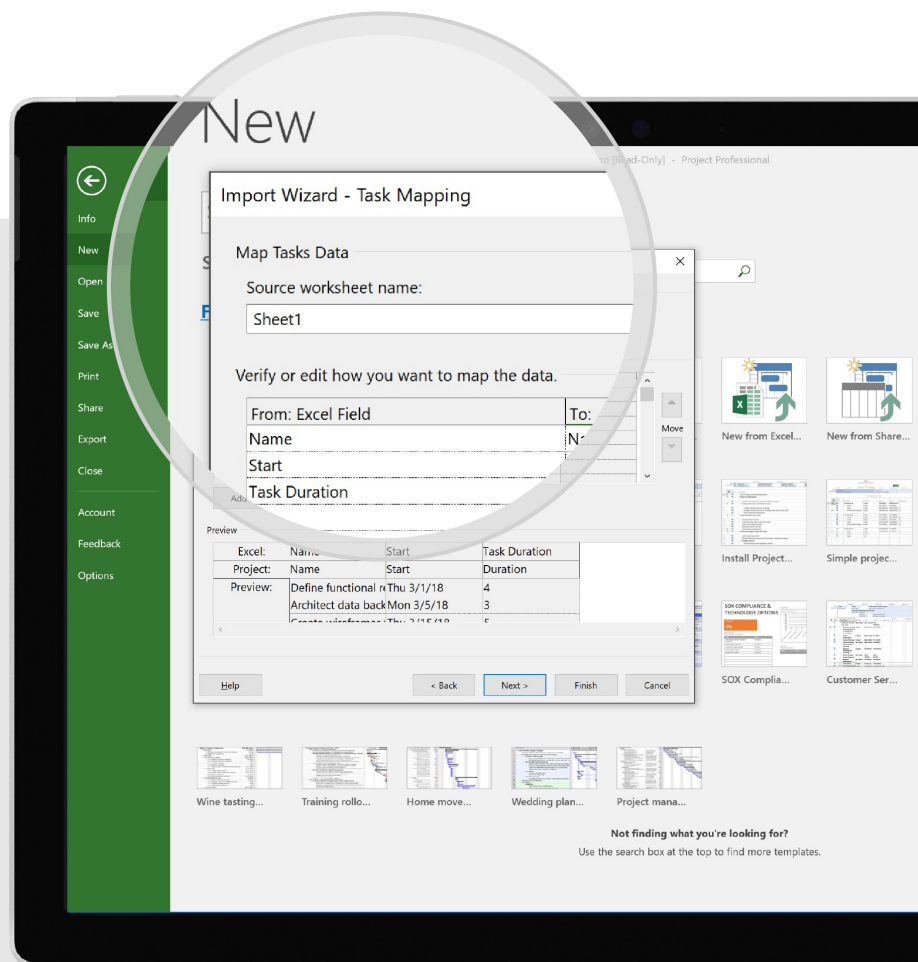
**devolo currently manages approximately 20 projects through Project Online. That's expected to reach more than 60 active projects within 12 months.**

## Always up-to-date

As an online service, Microsoft Project & Portfolio Management is always current with the latest tools, features, and updates—so your IT team won't have to worry about costly and time-consuming upgrades.

## Custom programmability

Your IT team can tap into robust application architecture and create custom functionality with a readily available software development kit (SDK).





# CAPITA

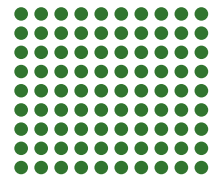
**Microsoft Project Online** allowed the UK-based firm Capita to get its different divisions on the same page.

## Challenges

Based on their tremendous success in global outsourcing and professional services, Capita saw a need to expand beyond their on-premises project management solution for all divisions of their Capita ITS P3O office (portfolio, program, and projects). This required a precision project management tool that would allow them to provide innovative solutions for a broad range of clients, spanning industries and ranging from private-sector to government agencies. They needed to improve visibility across teams and departments with a central source for documentation, and provide a more secure solution for collaborating with external clients.

### Company size:

Corporate,  
10,000+ employees



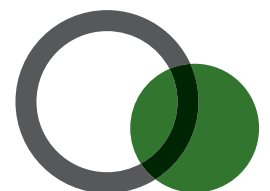
### Location:

United Kingdom



### Industry:

Partner Professional  
Services





## Security

Built-in security from Office 365 means physical, logical, and data layers of security features and operational best practices. Plus, you get enterprise-grade user and admin controls to further secure your environment.



## Familiar interface

Delivered through Office 365, Microsoft Project & Portfolio Management includes Office capabilities that your teams already be familiar with—reducing training time and, ultimately, cost.

“The answer was almost knocking on my door, telling me that it would be 50 percent cheaper for us....to move everything onto Microsoft Project Online. The list of benefits in terms of fulfilling our collaborative mission was enormous.”

— Kim Etheridge, Head of P3O Centre of Excellence

With so much on the line, Capita had to be sure that a move wouldn't affect the day-to-day business with migration downtime or prompt costly and time-consuming trainings and testing.

The solution was right in front of them.

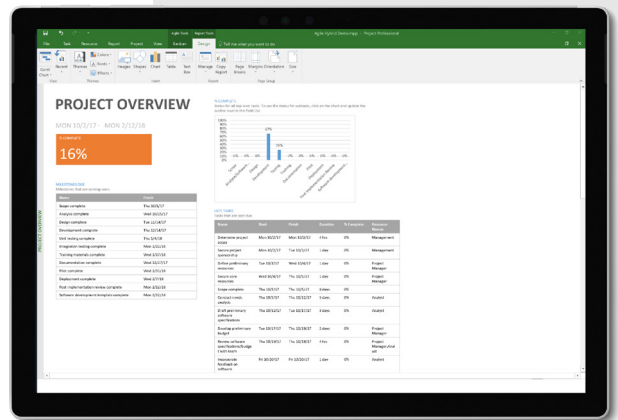
### Solution

The Capita ITS P3O office had a successful history of using Microsoft Project throughout its vast portfolio. When it came time to expand their usage, it was clear that Microsoft Project Online provided the resolution to all their challenges. By utilizing the interoperability with the Office 365 environment already in place, Capita didn't require any additional training, testing, or hardware. This meant that they were able to experience significant savings in both time and money.

From a client perspective, the migration added unforeseen benefits as well. With the licensing options available in Project Online, Capita could give external clients access to specific data, plans, or other resources. Security is also a constant concern for the firm, which works closely with external clients. Previously, they had to allow clients past the firm's firewall to access files in the Capita IT environment. Project Online and the security features in Office 365 help them eliminate security risks while giving customers access to resources.

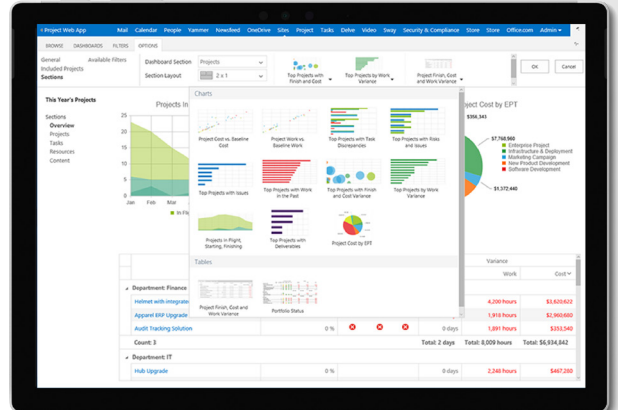
The Project Online environment that was built by the Capita team provides each project manager with a project site. They can use these sites to manage all aspects of the project from risks and issues to constraints and project plans. Plus, project reporting can be as simple or as complex as desired. They can either roll all collateral up to a single comprehensive report, or draw on the interoperability of Microsoft Excel Online and Power BI to create custom reports.

Project Online provides the entire project team with improved collaboration and visibility, creating a shared responsibility and vision for any given project. It removes the need for micro-management and ultimately provides the project managers with more time for value-added efforts.



## Project reports

Use one of the built-in, customizable reports—like Burndown and Resource Overview—to gain insights, communicate information to stakeholders, and achieve results.



## Powerful BI

Gain valuable insights into projects, programs, and portfolios using flexible, self-service business intelligence tools through Microsoft Power BI and Excel Services.\*

“We’re no longer an administrative function that manages people, making sure that they finish tasks on time. Now, everyone relies on Project Online to help them stay on target. We have more time to spend on value-added efforts around assurance, keeping delivery on track and managing risk.”

— Kim Etheridge, Head of P3O Centre of Excellence

\* Some features are included as a part of Microsoft Project Online Premium.





## Real-time communications

Integrated communication tools like Skype for Business enable project team members to collaborate using voice, video, or chat from within Project, so there's no need to switch between apps.

## Greater visibility

Project integrates with Microsoft Office 365 tools like SharePoint and OneDrive for Business, so you can allow your teams to share project calendars and task updates, send task notifications via email, and store project files where other team members are able to access them.

Implementation of the solution went smoothly, with employee acceptance high from the beginning. "We find that people feel more comfortable using Microsoft Project Online," says Etheridge. "They consider it less like they're using a tool and more like it's just an extension of their daily work. Employees are certainly talking about it, which helps us with compliance. They're keener to use it than they have been to adopt new tools in the past."

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