

EPM implementations: Best Practices for Implementing Microsoft Project Server

EPM – Enterprise Project Management

Written By:

Duncan Lamb
Comframe Software
VP of EP2M

Successfully implementing an EPM initiative with Microsoft Project Server can take your organization, and your PMO, to another level of efficiency. But it is fraught with risks and requires careful planning and diligence. Reviewing lessons learned from other implementations is invaluable. Some best practices for deploying EPM with Project Server follow...

14 Keys to Success

1. People, Processes and Tools - make sure PMs are trained and a PM methodology endorsed by the organization exists before introducing Project Server. Otherwise, the risk of a failed initiative goes up exponentially.
2. Determine the need for EPM based on the business needs, and author a solid business case around increasing the rate of project successes, increasing resource utilization, or other hard measures. Having historical values for these prior to the project is a must.
3. Get buy-in and sponsorship from senior business and technology executives to help ensure success
4. Strongly consider hiring outside consultants - experience that comes from seeing many implementations is invaluable to your efforts
5. Approach an EPM implementation as what it is - a culture change, and a difference in the way people will work and make decisions on a day-to-day basis. Plan for it, talk about it, and manage change with that in mind.
6. Communicate regularly to all participants to keep people in the organization aware of progress
7. Have robust, role based training on organization project management processes, not on using Project Server. Remember, Project Server is only a tool that automates the process, it does not replace it. Provide a different training focus for Executives, Project Managers, and Team Members.
8. Plan up-front to have regular training sessions available for new employees, or as a refresher for existing employees.
9. Send at least one system administrator to 2732 training for Administering Project Server
10. Do the diligence on technology planning for Project Server. E.g., you don't want to find that multiple forests in active directory will hobble the AD sync too late.
11. Plan to adopt EPM in a phased approach, starting with a limited set of high-value features to a pilot group, and expanding department wide. A "Big Bang" approach will not work with EPM
12. Share "lessons learned" among groups to avoid duplicating mistakes on the next iteration
13. Regularly measure the results of EPM adoption in terms of added business value for the organization
14. Keep abreast of latest developments in EPM, such as articles, case studies, new product features, and vendor partnerships