

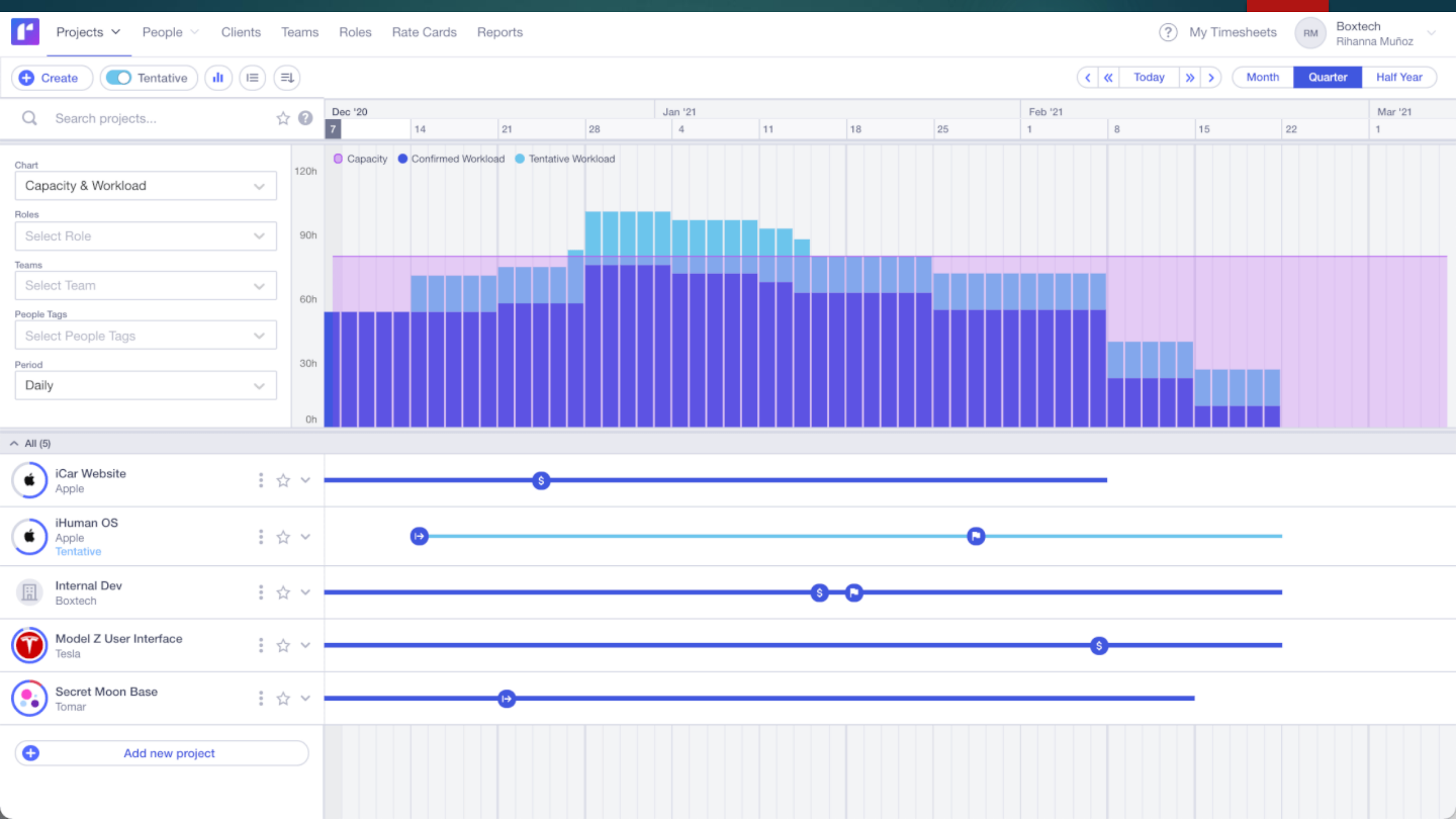
The Project Planning Tools


- ▶ Project planning is one of the most important but time-consuming tasks in the entire project management lifecycle. It is the activity that will lead the initial conversations over your project, set expectations for all stakeholders, and help you keep track of activities.
- ▶ Without proper PM software that helps you keep multiple projects organized and favors project insight, you're in for a taste of hell on Earth. I'm talking about an excessive amount of time spent chasing people for progress updates, fights with clients over what dates and budgets you agreed on, multiple spreadsheets with potentially different formats, and more.
- ▶ The project management tools on this list will help you avoid those situations and serve as a collaboration tool so that you, the client, and your team are aware of what is expected at all times.

Selection Criteria

- ▶ There are a few categories that I focus on when analyzing and researching these project management tools for you. In this article, I focused on the following.
 1. **User Interface (UI):** Does the interface look uncluttered and simple enough to use? I focus on an interface that looks attractive, as you will be using this tool almost every day.
 2. **Usability:** I look for the factors that make it easy to learn and master. For example, good user support in the form of documentation or tutorial videos. The easier and more intuitive this project management tool is, the easier it will be to navigate and teach others how to use it.
 3. **Integrations:** I pick software that has integrations that can extend its functionality. These integrations will make your life simpler if you manage to connect other tools you are using.
 4. **Pricing:** I go deep into the pricing structure and look at the different tiers or pricing plans available and how much is the initial price. Also, I try to find information on free trials and free versions so you can try it yourself.







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