

## **Emerging Concepts and Issues in PM**

In the past, project management and collaboration were done through emails and sharing platforms. Today, the recent advancements in technology have contributed in providing the right project management tools that can help your projects succeed. Previous generations of project managers and teams could just dream of these worthwhile tools and wished that they were available during their time. These project management tools have created smoother operation in the performance of the project tasks. They have also increased the members' efficiency and have created a better overall collaborative experience.;

### **Ways Technology can Improve Project Execution**

#### **1. Instant communication.**

Project management platforms like Trello and Clarizen make it possible to communicate with team members and clients instantly, which will allow for faster decision-making and project execution. When communication isn't instant and through a dedicated system, people end up being stalled in their work while they wait for a response. Communication can often get lost in an email or voicemail inbox as well, which also cuts into productive time.

Instant communication through a planning or tracking tool is one of the most important aspects of technology in project management, and has, in fact, become essential for team members that aren't on site.

#### **2. Team member tracking.**

Project management platforms allow the project manager and others on the team to know what each team member is working on (or not working on) at all times, which can be helpful for getting team members back on track or knowing which tasks have been completed without having to ask. Quick adjustments are even faster when you have an instant read on who's doing what and can look at the big picture through the platform.

### **3. Collaboration enhancement.**

Technology that facilitates collaboration will make the team more effective in the long run as team members get used to sharing thoughts and ideas at a distance as well as working together to complete tasks, even when they aren't in the same place at the same time. Those who don't telecommute, but may be more introverted, also find it more comfortable to collaborate via a technology tool than face-to-face at times.

### **4. Data management.**

Data collected while completing a project can be analyzed and measured to foster future improvements in your process. A number of tools are made to collect project data and analyze it, even giving ways to improve the current project based on metrics so far. Data analysis can be complex and leave you wondering how to make sense of it all, but many data management tools are easy to use and break down the data in simple ways.

### **5. Workflow automation.**

Workflow automation is all about reducing the need for repetitive tasks so your team can devote more of their time to advancing the project. Workflow automation tools have proliferated to dozens or hundreds at this point, so look at the particular experience you need to free up your team members to complete vital tasks.

Florida Tech's project management degree program explores the role of technology in project management, making students aware of cutting-edge tools they can use in their own project leadership roles and setting a framework for project management.

## **What Are Some Project Management Tool Features?**

Project management tools are usually defined by the different features offered. They include, but are not limited to:

- **Planning/scheduling** - Project management tools allow you to plan and delegate work all in one place with tasks, subtasks, folders, templates, workflows, and calendars.

- **Collaboration** - Email is no longer the only form of communication. Use project management tools to assign tasks, add comments, organize dashboards, and for proofing & approvals.
- **Documentation** - Avoid missing files with file management features: editing, versioning, & storage of all files.
- **Evaluation** - Track and assess productivity and growth through resource management & reporting

### **Project Management Tools**

The following tools and features have greatly helped revitalize the project management performance:

- **Data storage and Backup.** Gone are the days that businesses use filing cabinets as an essential organizational tool as they have become obsolete with the arrival of project management technologies. Storing data on the cloud or on a hard drive has made it possible to back up all the data and securely keep records on file even when the computer encounters problems.
- **Accessibility and Communication.** In the past, having team members in the same area can be considered accessible. However, technology has changed this setting in the past years. Team members in various projects need not be located in the same area or company. In fact, they are located in different parts of the world. Technology has improved accessibility and promoted instant communication. Many team members work at home and even if they are located in the opposite side of the world, they can be accessible almost any time of the day or night.
- **Project Management Platforms Keep the Team up with Deadlines.** It cannot be argued that the project management platforms have helped project teams keep up with the deadlines. Keeping deadlines can be extremely difficult at times but with the support of technology and software, collaborators can easily complete their tasks on a schedule that is convenient to everybody.

- **Budget Tracker.** Excel spreadsheets have long served its purpose of keeping track of business expenses. Even until now, some organizations still make use of the Excel spreadsheets to keep track of their expenses as well as their revenues. However, new project management software have now simplified the budgeting challenges that Excel has not resolved, such as the complicated formulas in the multiple varieties of expenses.
- **Time Tracking.** In the past, it was hard to calculate the time that was spent on a specific task. Today's project management programs have features that make it easy for the team members to calculate or track the time spent on each project tasks.

Technology's revitalizing role in project management cannot be argued. Project management programs have various features that have contributed to a more efficient project completion. As time goes on, there will be more enhancements that will greatly change the way project managers and members handle the tasks and various aspects of their project. Technology will always be a great help as it continues to support the project teams in managing the various tasks, roles and responsibilities that are assigned to them.