

White Paper 06

Project Execution
Unleashing Significant Savings and Efficiency
through Mobile Data Capture On-the-Go

New significant opportunities for efficiency and savings for Project Execution are now available thanks to mobile technology and the fact that most professionals at all levels of the organization have their own smartphone. 2016 is the year where business processes turn mobile. The challenge for Project driven organization is to adopt a successful mobile strategy to move the management of the data to digital. In this paper we examine in detail the savings potentials for those processes that require distributed remote contributors from various organizations. We focus in particular on simple applications that could make life on projects significantly easier. The Return on Investment can reach easily 5 to 10 times the cost, and more. Why wait?

The Opportunity is NOW

Remote work on projects has always been difficult to track and follow. It involves contributors on remote sites that may be weakly connected. Those contributors often cannot access conveniently the Project Office's systems, either because they are from a different organization, or because of pure IT issues. This generally leads to the implementation of paper-based systems and associated high administrative costs. In addition, because such manual systems are cumbersome and slow, significant opportunity costs are also lost.

Operational people on the ground are focused on getting things done, not on filling up paperwork. As a result of the time and effort involved by the current solutions, actions do not get recorded and this can become a nightmare for Project Control, Commissioning, Engineering, Procurement or Finance teams. What operational people need to fill-in needs to be extremely simple, fast and convenient to carry on site.

Mobile solutions can deliver ROIs of 5 to 20 compared to traditional processes for remote contributors. Why wait?

All these pain points are instantly solved by mobile solutions that provide simple intuitive mobile phone interfaces, allow seamless synchronization with the office, and simply work on the contributor's own phone.

Additional features are also instantly available by using smartphones. Data can be enriched by adding pictures, GPS locations, bar codes or tag readings and other data readily available from the phone itself, with minimal actions for the users.

Assumptions

In this paper we assume the deployment of a mobile system based on the contributor's own phone (no

hardware investment, tracking and deployment issue). The system is intuitive to use like modern mobile applications and usable within minutes without further training. Data is instantly synchronized with the master database (or at least when connectivity is re-established at least once a day when contributors come back to the site office or within mobile networks' reach), which allows dashboards at the office to be continuously updated. Certificates signed by the contributor on his own phone can be produced and sent instantly to third parties.

We assume that this mobile system replaces a paper-based process with documents sent by emails or other ways between site and office.

Benefits evaluation framework

The practical benefits of systems aimed at recording data from remote locations can be measured on the following dimensions:

- Accuracy of data, enrichment of data and allowing data accuracy checks (e.g. GPS location, pictures),
- Consistency of data at project-level across locations, contractors, organizations
- Time lapse reduction (workflows, approvals) enabling reactivity and limiting possible claims/disputes with suppliers and clients,
- Reduction of onsite support and meetings through better view of the situation (live dashboards etc.),
- Minimization of external or third party man-hours
- Time savings for the project team (administrative support and reviewers/ approvers).

Benefits can be either:

- Direct (direct cost savings through correct and instantaneous decision)
- Indirect (reactivity and avoidance of mistakes, non-authorized commitment, standby, overbilling, additional time & resource spent, etc.)
- or through the avoidance of significant commercial risks or dispute.

In this paper we have assumed that we only replace the existing process with a mobile application, without significant process reengineering.

ROI estimates for 6 applications show demonstrable savings:

1. Logistics / on-site commitments
2. Vendor inspections/flash reports
3. On-hire/off-hire of equipment
4. Project Action Tracking
5. Punch List and Defect Management
6. Travel Requests/Database

Application 1: Logistics/ On-site work commitments

Logistics and work commitments are typically issued on a worksite or mobilization site to an agent or a contractor under an existing framework agreement. The commitments need to be approved and tracked, and a proof given to the contractor to support its billing.

Benefit dimension	Direct savings	Indirect savings	Risk reduction
Data accuracy and quality	0	+	++
Data consistency across sites	0	+	+
Time lapse reduction	0	++	+++
Onsite support reduction	+	0	N/A
3 rd party minimization	++	+	+
Project team time savings	++	++	++

Application 2: Vendor inspections/ inspection hold points flash reports

Vendor inspections and quality inspections routinely involve third party inspectors sent on remote sites (often on other continents).

In this case the main advantage will be a timely awareness of the project team of any significant issue, avoiding extremely significant indirect costs. Proof of delivery and pictures from the inspection will also be available immediately.

Benefit dimension	Direct savings	Indirect savings	Risk reduction
Data accuracy and quality	0	+	+++
Data consistency across sites	+++	+	+
Time lapse reduction	++	+	+++
Onsite support reduction	++	0	N/A
3 rd party minimization	+++	0	0
Project team time savings	++	+	++

Application 3: On-hire/ off hire and periodic inspection of equipment

On-hire and off-hire of expensive equipment is an activity that can have significant consequences in case of dispute. Periodic inspection is also important, with possible significant indirect costs in case of equipment failure. In this case, the dashboards also serve to have an accurate view at all times of all the equipment on-hire, avoiding cases where equipment remain on-hire beyond their absolute need.

Benefit dimension	Direct savings	Indirect savings	Risk reduction
Data accuracy and quality	0	0	++
Data consistency across sites	0	++	+
Time lapse reduction	+	++	+++
Onsite support reduction	++	0	N/A
3 rd party minimization	++	0	+
Project team time savings	++	+	+

Application 4: Project Action tracking

This application allows to capture in a consistent manner (from the office and/or remotely) all the actions for the project team; assign and follow-up those actions, and close them from a mobile device (with a proof of completion when actions are linked to site issues). Reminders are generated automatically on the phones of the action owners when the due date comes close. The dashboard serves to the Project Manager to track whether actions are diligently implemented, and what is the overall status.

Benefit dimension	Direct savings	Indirect savings	Risk reduction
Data accuracy and quality	+	+	++
Data consistency across sites	++	+	+
Time lapse reduction	N/A	N/A	N/A
Onsite support reduction	N/A	N/A	N/A
3 rd party minimization	N/A	N/A	N/A
Project team time savings	++	++	+++

Application 5: Punch list and defect management (Fabrication, commissioning etc.)

This application is to track in a consistent manner, across sites, punchlist items. This includes a full workflow for raising an issue, confirming it, sending it to the responsible party for action, and checking that it is closed.

Benefit dimension	Direct savings	Indirect savings	Risk reduction
Data accuracy and quality	0	+	++
Data consistency across sites	++	+	+
Time lapse reduction	++	++	++
Onsite support reduction	++	0	N/A
3 rd party minimization	++	+	++
Project team time savings	++	+	+

Application 6: Travel Request Approvals/ Travel Database

This application is to track all the travel requests on the project irrespective of the employer, get approval and proceed to the travel department.

Benefit dimension	Direct savings	Indirect savings	Risk reduction
Data accuracy and quality	++	0	+
Data consistency across sites	+	+	0
Time lapse reduction	+	++	++
Onsite support reduction	N/A	N/A	N/A
3 rd party minimization	N/A	N/A	N/A
Project team time savings	++	+	++

Conclusion

Mobile applications can now easily be implemented to replace non efficient paper-based processes, especially for remote contributors to projects, adding significant value in terms of data consistency, analysis, accuracy, reliability, and timeliness.

Looking forward the Mobile applications shall be looked for the projects-driven organization as an important contributor to reduce significantly the cost of non-quality.

As technology is ready through use of smartphones, cloud based platform and connectivity available on many locations, 2016 is the time to move to mobile!

Implementing modern mobile applications with back-office databases will enable more productivity and significant process optimization with substantial additional efficiency gains.

Moving beyond: re-engineering processes around new capabilities

Further benefits can be released from the implementation of shared mobile applications. The optimized paper-based processes can certainly be reengineered to release significant additional value once mobile applications usage is embedded in the organization.

Our Solution

Our MobiProjects solution responds to the requirements to enhance efficiency in Projects:

- **Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)** concept (works on any device),
- **Implement Your Processes** – including workflows and approvals - thanks to the platform's flexibility,
- **Off-Line work and seamless synchronization** for remote sites with poor connectivity,
- **Support by experienced Project Professionals,**
- **Quick and easy:** implementation and deployment in days, new users operational in minutes.

The solution is cost-effective and flexible to adapt to your needs, billed yearly with an unlimited number of users for your project.

Based on the benefits exposed in this paper, this solution can deliver ROI of 5 to 20 times the cost, and more for each application implemented. Why wait?

Request a demo - And find more information on MobiProjects.com!

