

Project Management Tool



Originally developed by NASA to manage all the projects in one of its \$500+ million research and development programs, the Program Management Tool (PMT) acts as the nerve system of complex organizations. Many organizations face complex, hierarchical program and management structures, each with its own budget, requirements, milestones, and goals. The job of defining, managing, and tracking program goals, schedules, and resources becomes increasingly complex as organizations become more distributed and use different reporting systems. NASA's PMT addresses these challenges by transferring data seamlessly between managers using different data views, helping to eliminate data discrepancies and providing a way to make decision-impacting information consistent and timely.

This invention is available for licensing from NASA's space program to benefit U.S. industry.

Technology Details

Project Management Tool is a system for managing a project that includes multiple tasks and a plurality of workers. Input information includes characterizations based upon a human model, a team model and a product model. Periodic reports, such as a monthly report, a task plan report, a budget report and a risk management report, are generated and made available for display or further analysis. An extensible database allows searching for information based upon context and upon content. Seven different types of project risks are addressed, including non-availability of required skill mix of workers. The system can be configured to exchange data and results with corresponding portions of similar project analyses, and to provide user-specific access to specified information. Built on industry standards like XML, this advanced application integrates heterogeneous information and composes analyses and reports from distributed sources. The result? True, relevant connections between multiple sources across the organization—saving time and resources, and significantly improving efficiency.

Commercial Applications

- Project, programs, and strategic management
- Research and development
- Risk management
- Budget and analysis
- Portfolio management

Patent

This technology is protected by U.S. Patent Nos. 8,224,472 and 7,596,416 (Reference No. ARC-14950-1 and ARC-14950-2)

Benefits

- Comprehensive
- Web-enabled
- Automated
- Sends information from program operations to decision-making authorities
- Reduces labor-intensive data gathering and reporting
- Helps program managers respond proactively to changes

