

Fifteen Reasons Organizations Select CA PPM

At A Glance

Today's workforce has grown accustomed to using personal technologies that make communication easy and simplify their lives. But many enterprise tools haven't kept pace. Most current project and portfolio management solutions fail to provide simple ways of performing everyday tasks. They don't facilitate contextual communication that would help to solve problems, and they lack key functionality: the ability to narrow the focus to relevant data, to drill down for additional information and to efficiently forecast financials and model outcomes.

CA PPM brings more value to your business by providing 15 key features that remain unaddressed by other products on the market today.

Solution Overview

1. A modern, social user experience

CA Product & Portfolio Management (CA PPM) has been reconstructed to make everyday tasks fast, easy and intuitive while adding in-app collaboration and communication features that help facilitate work across multiple disciplines throughout the project lifecycle. CA PPM provides decision makers with a single source of information for all types of projects, regardless of who's managing them, what departments they're in or what teams are involved—one solution to manage every type of project.

2. Project blueprinting

Why inundate users with information that isn't relevant to them or the tasks they're working on? Too much noise clouds visibility and inhibits effective problem solving. CA PPM "blueprinting" is a partitioning feature that provides team-specific pages populated with the custom fields each one requires. Members drag and drop their visuals, documents and custom attributes onto a standard page, and changes are pushed to members' screens automatically.

3. Familiar financials

The ability to easily access, view and modify project data is key to ensuring budgets are well spent. Today, many financial managers export data into Microsoft Excel® to better visualize and fine-tune it. CA PPM's financial planning pages have been redesigned to mimic Excel spreadsheets in both functionality and visual representation. This new, familiar style provides deep visibility into projects with no additional learning required.

4. Centralized project links and documents

Team members frequently visit websites like Microsoft SharePoint®, Google Docs, Power BI and Agile. And they use project-specific documents like quick-start templates, team breakdowns and work breakdowns. Many team members work on multiple projects, each with its own website and documentation. CA PPM provides a collection of links and documents in one location for centralized access to everything teams need. This allows members to hit the ground running.

5. Task board

Managing tasks—keeping track of which have been assigned, which have been completed, who accepted them and the status of each—can be tedious. CA PPM includes a configurable task board that uses consumer-style graphics. A card is created for each task and positioned according to its current lifecycle status: planned, in-progress or completed. As status changes, tasks are dragged from one category to the next. Each card includes a to-do list of activities required to accomplish the main task.

6. Roadmapping

Traditional investment planning becomes cumbersome when users are required to articulate too many project details up front. CA PPM's roadmap feature serves as a communication vehicle that allows users to earmark funding and work cycles without having to detail discrete capabilities. Users view, pivot and sort investment information for a clear picture of proposed projects, including how they complement existing projects and impact current investment allocations. Stakeholders use this information to agree on a common set of objectives.

7. Team task and staffing collaboration

Effective staffing involves factors like skill sets, timing and availability. Because the best people are in high demand, CA PPM has a social collaboration tool for users to negotiate and collaborate in context to secure the best talent at the optimal time. Managers that require a scheduler use popular desktop tools like Open Workbench, Gantt and Microsoft Project®, easily accessed through a drop-down menu. An @mention feature at the task level allows for collaboration between team members as well.

8. Intuitive staffing

Information about how workers are allocated should be at your fingertips. CA PPM provides one consolidated view of each employee's project queue and their allocation percentage. Managers explore staffing options with familiar, spreadsheet-like functionality and a telescoping feature that replaces outdated filtering tools to more effectively narrow focus and identify the best candidates with necessary skill sets and availability.

9. Real-time analytics

Financial managers struggle to perform simple tasks that ensure the financial health of the project and the portfolio. They need end-to-end financials with visuals to analyze data without the need for reconfigurations or multiple reports. With CA PPM, financial managers get real-time visibility deep into projects, drill down into transaction details, perform thorough cost-plan analyses and manage data like never before—all from within the solution.

10. Time management

Delays in leveraging opportunities or resolving challenges impact bottom-line performance and can mean the difference between success and failure. CA PPM helps minimize time to delivery and improve predictability by closely focusing on time management. Effective planning at the portfolio level ensures projects are scheduled appropriately. Effective planning at the project level ensures schedules are realistic. Attentive management during project execution ensures schedules are met.

11. Business intelligence integration

Combining data warehouse solutions with interactive BI tools provides anytime, anywhere access to information. CA PPM's powerful data warehouse combines with BI tools like JasperSoft, Power BI, Tableau and Qlik to allow the easy extraction of project, resource and financial information. Self-service portfolio analytics reduce the need for data experts with personalized dashboards, powerful data visualization capabilities and a 360-degree view of the business—all available on a mobile device.

12. Trending metrics

Organizations predict project success or failure by monitoring operations over time. But because most solutions only provide real-time status reports, organizations must build and execute multiple custom jobs to gain a clear picture of trends. CA PPM tracks changes over time, enabling companies to use past trends as a predictor of future performance. PPM tracks and stores this information so organizations can understand how projects are progressing at any given moment—without the need for customization to capture data.

13. Living status reports

Because most tools don't support real-time interaction and transparency, understanding the status of a project in real time is complex. So rather than solving problems, managers spend time chasing information stored in chats, emails, voicemails and notebooks. With CA PPM's living status reports, managers answer key project questions about everything from scheduling to work and funding status without having to export data into Microsoft PowerPoint® or Excel.

14. Project tile view

Managers need easy access to the high-level project details they regularly monitor. With CA PPM, tiles on the project dashboard are used to graphically illustrate individual projects. They are configurable and can be set up to contain the project details most relevant to the user. Clicking on a tile provides access to the financial details associated with the project, including Planned, Planned to Actuals, Plan to Forecast and Actuals financial views.

15. CA PPM and CA Agile Central integration

To rapidly respond to changing market conditions, enterprises need real-time visibility into where each project stands in business terms. CA PPM and CA Agile Central integrate to provide holistic visibility across the entire project spectrum, from ideation to delivery, and with it, the ability to make data-driven, high-impact business and funding decisions. The combined solution facilitates planning, forecasting and staffing activities and helps organizations solve problems with ease.

To learn more about CA Project & Portfolio Management, please visit ca.com/PPM.

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