

Business Context

As a result of a major discovery, a small, Houston-based natural gas company found themselves in the fast-track to become a much larger energy company. In order to manage this growth, the company's CIO, initiated a slate of some twenty projects to automate manual processes. Because of the timing, most of these projects involved selecting and implementing software packages rather than developing them from scratch.

The CIO engaged Rod Sipe, former E&Y partner and EnCore Consulting co-founder, to assist in establishing a Program Management Office (PMO) to manage these projects.

How to best manage twenty plus critical business projects?

Application of cordin8

Enter cordin8. cordin8 technologies , llc worked with Rod and his client to embed their project management methodology into cordin8. A PMO Dashboard was setup that organized the projects into a single place.

Project managers, then, documented the project charters in their project notebook—one for each project. During the week, they logged and updated issues. Then, on Friday, each project manager used the project status report form in the notebook. The form pulled information from other areas in the notebook, e.g., issues and budget information. The project manager added his or her comments about the status of the report. When they were satisfied with it, they saved and routed it to the PMO Dashboard. The PMO ran reports from the PMO Dashboard to review issues and latest status of all projects in preparation for their Monday afternoon meeting with the CIO to review the status of all projects.

Several projects involved selecting software packages for the company. In these projects, the teams used the cordin8 group evaluation tool to setup scorecards for evaluators. Once the team identified the requirements for the software product, selected business people used a scorecard setup in cordin8 to rate a each vendor's software product against the requirements. They also documented gaps and other comments alongside the rating. Once all of the evaluators had scored all of the products, the team leader ran a report to view the results which were based upon weighted averages of the individual evaluations.

Results

Establishing the Program Management Office (PMO) and using cordin8 to facilitate their project management processes enabled the energy company to be in control of their project environment. It provided an easy way for project managers to use standard project management forms and automated workflows to reduce administrative costs. For the PMO, it provided a simple method to aggregate reporting and to have visibility into all projects.

In their words

“Our project team found cordin8 to be a very comprehensive approach to managing project data in a central repository. In addition to managing routine project status reports, we utilized the score card feature to evaluate a software application using the weighted average approach. All of the team participants populated the data and the system rolled up the data and gave us instant reports that we could share with management. This was also a very effective tool that supported our software application decision and recommendations. Instant access to current project data effectively supports management's need for immediate status data on each project.”
–*Manager, Energy Company*

“cordin8 simplified life for the new Program Management Office (PMO). Instead of receiving 25 individual emails with an attached document for the status report each week, I logged into cordin8. In one place, I could see which teams had reported and which ones hadn't. I could then review a single report of the status of open issues for all projects in preparation for a Monday afternoon review meeting with the CIO.”
–*Rod Sipe, partner, EnCore Consulting*