



City Colleges of Chicago's PMO Uses Daptiv PPM to Stay on Top of Critical Project Issues, Risks, and Tasks

“Our technical resources were tied up and they really needed to focus on other systems; it became clear that what the PMO needed was a comprehensive on-demand solution. We didn't want another system to manage and keep up.”

Virginia Berkenkotter, District Director, Program Management Office

AT A GLANCE

KEY FACTS

- The City College of Chicago's PMO had been using MS Project, but with Daptiv PPM's on-demand solution they were able to quickly and easily generate reports as well as track project tasks, issues and other updates.
- Daptiv's on-demand model offers many benefits, including reduced technical resources, quick access, and scheduled product enhancements.
- What they hired consultants to do, they can now do themselves: The PMO group can now keep track of detailed project budgets with Daptiv PPM.

The City Colleges of Chicago, founded in 1911, is a network of seven colleges that deliver learning opportunities and educational services for diverse student populations in Chicago. The seven colleges are managed by the District Office, which has impact on all of the colleges through policy, procedure and system implementations.

DISTRICT NEED

The City Colleges of Chicago's PMO had been using Microsoft Project to manage their projects, but they began looking into other software solutions that would better suit their project flow and reporting needs. “Our technical resources were tied up and they really needed to focus on other systems; it became clear that what the PMO needed was a comprehensive on-demand solution,” says Virginia Berkenkotter, District Director, Program Management Office. “We didn't want another system to manage and keep up.”

ON-DEMAND SOLUTION

Daptiv PPM was chosen to help manage PMO projects. An example of a type of

project that would be managed in Daptiv PPM is the Data Warehousing Project. The scope of this project is to design, develop, code and build the layers required to implement a data warehouse. Monitoring issues and risks became critical to the project, as well as tracking hourly updates and date changes. Another project example is of a PMO-driven Peoplesoft ERP upgrade.

“What's critical to us is monitoring project issues and risks, which we track in Daptiv Dynamic Applications,” says Berkenkotter. “We also run canned reports on a regular basis to capture an overall project status that pulls up completed tasks, issues, risks and financial data.”

A process that the PMO is currently testing is a web-based project request form that details workflow approval. “We see potential in leveraging more of Daptiv PPM's functionality, and it's nice to work with Daptiv's Support team and reach out to other customers in higher Education to see what's possible and how we can grow using the software,” says Berkenkotter.



“What’s critical to us is monitoring project issues and risks, which we track in Daptiv Dynamic Applications. We also run canned reports on a regular basis to capture overall project status that pulls up completed tasks, issues, risks and financial data.”

Virginia Berkenkotter,
District Director, Program
Management Office

VALUE

“What we like about Daptiv PPM is the ability to manage our projects more effectively since our work is now centralized,” says Berkenkotter. “All project information is entered in Daptiv PPM and reports can be generated easily whereas before that type of task was more cumbersome and would take hours to complete.”

REDUCED CONTRACTOR EXPENSES

The PMO is also now able to do something that they couldn’t do before. “We needed to keep track of detailed project budgets and we hired a consultant to manage this work, but now we can track and update financial data ourselves within Daptiv PPM,” says Berkenkotter.

Daptiv’s on-demand model also illuminates the burden of software updates. “We also like the on-demand model and Daptiv’s product releases, it’s a great concept and we like the improvements that come along on a regular basis.” Daptiv’s Greenhouse also adds value and connects the City Colleges’ PMO to the community of Daptiv customers. “The Greenhouse is an amazing forum,” says Berkenkotter. “I’ve seen some great customer posts and we like the idea of seeing what customer-inspired product improvements are in progress and being planned, which makes Daptiv unique to other software vendors out there.”



ABOUT DAPTIV

Founded in 1997, Daptiv is the leading provider of on-demand Project Portfolio Management (PPM) solutions. Daptiv has helped thousands of companies improve their strategic planning and business execution by offering adaptable PPM solutions and expert professional services. Daptiv’s customers include world-class organizations such as Beam, Chase, Coach, Harvard University, Honeywell, International Hotels Group, and Virgin Australia. For more information about Daptiv’s PPM solutions, please visit www.daptiv.com.