

Cloud-based Innovation Management in SharePoint Online, Project Online and SAP.



Innovation management across the complete project life cycle with Microsoft SharePoint Online, Microsoft Project Online and SAP offers high flexibility and user acceptance

Business Needs

Innovation management is an essential process for most companies dealing with product and/or organizational development. The innovation process supports capturing and rating ideas as well as deploying the respective projects. This leads to a close integration of innovation management and the management of project and product portfolios.

Organizations usually generate a lot of ideas and have to decide which innovations are aligned with their strategy and have the potential to be successful in terms of customer demands. Initially, ideas are collected and assessed. After selecting the most promising proposals for further realization, these proposals need to be converted into projects. As a starting point, ideas can be narrowed down in a rough list of work packages while a detailed project plan for the realization of the idea is defined in a later stage.

During the whole innovation life cycle, a strong project management ensures the success of the undertaking. A strong tool support is needed to handle the current project state. This state covers resource capacity planning, scheduling, progress management and reporting.

Competitive environments often lead to tight project budgets. Consequently, project cost and budget need to be managed in a comprehensive project management solution. While the information workers are used to work with Microsoft products, especially Microsoft SharePoint and Microsoft Project, the finance and controlling departments work mainly with SAP FI/CO with close integration to SAP PS. Small- and medium-sized businesses often hesitate to invest in large IT infrastructures due to lock-in effects, license and high maintenance cost.

“Cloud based software services will play an important role in the IT landscape. Businesses will expand on demand; borders between cloud and on premise infrastructure will disappear.”

Markus Waldinger
Manager at Campana & Schott



Solution:

Cloud-based Innovation Management in Project Online and SAP

Platform:

Windows 8, PC, WP8, etc.

Partner Name:

Campana & Schott

Country or Region:

Germany

Industry:

Consulting

Solution Overview

The Innovation process supports managing ideas and deploying the respective projects. Our solution meets business needs as well as complex IT requirements.

Partner Profile

Campana & Schott is an international consulting group for Project Management and Social Collaboration.

With our successful combination of management and technology consulting, we provide professional Project Management and optimize Social Collaboration utilizing innovative information technology.

Software and Services

- Microsoft Office System
- Microsoft SharePoint Online 2013
- Microsoft Project Online 2013
- Microsoft Windows Server
- TM
- Microsoft Azure/Azure Connect
- SAP PS
- CS Connect

Solution

Innovation management is now fully integrated in the latest version of Project Server. Ideation (idea generation) is a new process step supported by Microsoft SharePoint Online and Project Online. It enables users to collect and rate project or product ideas independent of their role within the organization. Product ideas selected for realization have to be approved by a responsible department; afterwards, a project plan is created in Project Online. In addition, the project definition is directly transferred to SAP PS.

The automatic data transfer between Microsoft Project Online and SAP is managed via the standard integration product CS Connect. To reduce the footprint of the overall solution on the corporate IT, CS Connect is deployed on Azure Cloud services, Azure Connect and Azure SQL database. The interaction of on-premise products like the SAP system is realized based on Windows Azure Connect. This approach ensures that no new application has to be deployed on-premise, while high data security demands are addressed through encrypted connections to secure the data flow between on-premise and cloud applications. CS Connect retrieves the project information via an OData feed from the ideation list and transforms the data to match the data structure in SAP.

Meanwhile, project managers start to create detailed schedules, plan resources and cost in Project Online. Project Online is the tool of choice for this tasks and this user group – it allows for a highly flexible and intuitive way of planning the whole project life cycle. Relevant information is synchronized to SAP PS to enable the finance department to handle project controlling as usual. This tool setup therefor allows all involved user groups to use their respective software of choice – information that is required in the different systems is transferred using CS Connect.

Benefits

This solution offers high flexibility through the complete innovation life cycle from creating ideas, over evaluation of project proposals, to project management and project controlling. The integration of SharePoint Online, Project Online and SAP PS leads to high acceptance by allowing every project team member as well as the finance department to work with software tools they are familiar with. By maintaining a single data source and automatically synchronizing information to other systems, savings are increased and reliability is improved. The combination of on-premise software like SAP and cloud-based solutions like Microsoft SharePoint and Project Online as well as cloud-ready applications like CS Connect are the foundation for a highly flexible, scalable solution with reasonable costs on per use or per user basis.

No investment into data centers or maintenance is necessary since no additional systems are added to the corporate IT landscape.

Windows Azure proofed its value and applicability for demanding architecture designs.

Campana & Schott

Campana & Schott is an international management and technology consultancy whose core business includes all aspects of collaboration among people within organizations and/or projects.

For over 20 years, we have been assisting large corporations and medium-sized enterprises master the changing work environment and complex change processes hostically and with great passion.

Further informations:
www.campana-schott.com

