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# 5 Signs

## Your Project Management and Reporting Solution Isn't Up to the Task



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# 72%



# 57%



# \$ 43%



Getting a handle on project portfolio management (PPM) is becoming a top priority for organizations. As many shift from waterfall to agile methodologies, keeping tabs on what's happening in this dynamic environment has grown increasingly complex, requiring more time and resources just to stay on top of project status.

In fact, while **57% of organizations** expect their Project Management Office (PMO) to grow, the scope of work it provides will expand 72%, far outpacing the resources available to meet the demand.

This growing burden is taking a toll on project managers and the organizations they work for. **Nearly one in five project managers** has considered leaving the profession with experienced PMs most at risk. Meanwhile, **fewer than a third** of organizations reliably complete their projects on time and only 43% stay on budget.

So, why is it that organizations seem to be struggling more and more, even as the stakes get higher?

If your company is like so many others, it's likely that the solutions you're using to manage projects are actually contributing to the problems, instead of empowering you to tackle them head on. Inefficient and manual processes, inability to respond quickly to new situations or shifting goals, and failure to effectively align resources to strategic priorities cost the organization financially and competitively, in terms of lost opportunities. Not to mention PPM deficiencies can create a tremendous amount of stress and make it feel like it's impossible to get your head above water.

**If this sounds like you, here are five signs your current PPM solution might be the problem.**







# Lack of portfolio visibility

Nearly **two out of three project managers** are handling as many as five projects at once, while one in four have six or more on their plate at any one time. And with most project teams comprised of six to 10 people or more, there are a lot of moving parts.

But with most PMs using tools like Excel spreadsheets to manage their portfolio of projects, it's impossible to know the status of each one without spending hours consolidating data across a variety of productivity tools. PMs often find themselves scouring through emails, Slack messages, and sticky notes to compile reports, making **project documentation the single biggest complaint** among project managers. And because they don't know who's working on what – or whether there's capacity to take on new work – resource utilization and planning is a nightmare with teams feeling overwhelmed and overworked.

Without accurate visibility, PMs also struggle to respond to questions from management or key stakeholders about project status and details. It takes too long to compile a response, and often it's a best guess anyway because they don't have real-time information.

## Solution:

Purpose-built project management platforms provide much clearer, accurate visibility into project and portfolio status, which gives PMs the ability to make confident decisions and respond quickly when issues arise or priority changes. PPM tools also make it much easier to get a real-time snapshot of current status across the portfolio, without spending hours compiling data and building PowerPoint slides. With the right solution, stakeholders themselves can log in to the platform and see for themselves with visual/graphic clarity where projects stand and get a better understanding of current resource utilization and capacity, putting PMs and managers/stakeholders all on the same page.





## Inability to anticipate the impact of portfolio changes.

If it seems like there's always more work to do than resources to do it with, you're not alone. Managing the ever-increasing demand for new initiatives amid limitations imposed by inflexible budgets and capacity makes overpromising and underdelivering a constant challenge for project teams. And it puts project managers on the hotseat.

Without an effective way to see how new projects or change requests will impact the budget or expected completion date, it's difficult to understand the trade-offs that have to be made. PMs have no way to confidently assess various scenarios and respond to stakeholders with viable alternatives. As a result, the entire team becomes disengaged due to the constant changes and disconnects between business goals and their day-to-day work. In fact, **project managers don't seem to care much** if projects fail because so much of it feels completely out of their hands.

### Solution:

Deploying an adaptive project portfolio management solution not only helps PMs see where projects stand in real time at any given moment, it also allows them to predict how changes will affect project timelines and budgets across the portfolio. By giving PMs the ability to conduct "what if" scenario planning and see an impact forecast, adaptive PPM tools allow project managers to provide realistic alternatives to managers and stakeholders and reduce the risk of delivery failure and staff burnout.





# Difficulty monitoring project execution and quality

In the drive to do more with the same (or fewer) resources, project execution and quality can easily fall by the wayside. PMs and individual team members feel so overwhelmed by the demand for continuous delivery that some cut corners, sacrificing operations and profitability. The mantra becomes: you can have it done fast or you can have it done right, but you can't have both.

**Because there are often so many people involved – and management wants to make sure they're all performing as expected – it's hard to strike the right balance between team autonomy and governance.** Teams don't want supervisors looking over their shoulders, but project managers need to keep tabs on progress and keep projects moving forward.

It gets even harder to track execution vs. strategy and ensure quality outcomes when multiple divisions are involved, each with their own goals and interdependencies. **Over half of PMs don't have access** to real-time project KPIs, and even when teams do share the same goals, if they're using different tools to monitor progress, execution and quality, it's hard to align on adherence to milestones when that data is siloed.

## Solution:

Standardizing PPM onto a single, comprehensive platform that allows easy access for anyone—even those with no project management expertise—to see where projects stand strategy vs. actual helps keep everyone on the same page and working toward the same milestones and goals. By tracking progress and quality automatically, no one has to watch over the team's shoulders to keep tasks on track, giving individuals the autonomy they need to do their best work while keeping the entire team on track.

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## Current processes and systems are unscalable.

No matter how comfortable you are with Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint, etc., the reality is that the ad hoc processes you've developed to manage PPM are unscalable. With more projects, more teams and more priorities, the time and effort it takes to force these tools to do something they're not designed for wastes precious time. **More than 1 in 3 PMs say they spend a full day or more manually compiling project status information alone—time they could be using for more strategic objectives.**

These static processes and tools can't support the flexibility needed to enable new business models, and that can lead to lack of communication and misunderstandings about urgency and priorities, which gives rise to conflict and resentment between departments. And most legacy PPM solutions are too complex to engage the wide range of team members and stakeholders who need to be included to keep project status up-to-date.

### Solution:

Implement an adaptive and scalable PPM solution that can flex to the size, scope and complexity of your projects, but still remain accessible and easy-to-use for those without deep PM expertise. Using a tool that makes project visibility and the ability to update status easy for everyone takes that burden off the PM, which means updates and problem resolution can happen in real-time instead of waiting for the PM to return from vacation.





# "Firefighting" has become a full-time job.

When teams don't have a single source of truth for where projects stand, PMs and task owners spend too much time in panic mode, reacting to last minute, unexpected surprises. Instead of working strategically toward stated goals, the entire team spends most of their time putting out fires.

**This fuels greater uncertainty as issues crop up late in the game, adding complexity, and consuming budget and resources that could be better spent elsewhere to deliver business value.** It's also a recipe for burnout—if your team feels like they can't ever move forward because they're always putting out fires, this takes a toll on their mental health, performance and, ultimately, their overall job satisfaction, putting your organization at risk of losing great talent.



## Solution:

Using an effective PPM platform keeps everyone in the know about project status and allows PMs to provide if/then forecasts to stakeholders who request changes in strategy or priority. Now they can communicate clearly what adaptations and sacrifices may have to be made in order to meet new requirements. It also allows PMs to see early when projects may be veering off the rails so that they can correct course before it derails altogether. Using software that enables project teams and project managers be proactive eliminates time wasted on putting out fires and creates more time for work on strategic issues.





# Proggio: The Adaptive PPM Solution

At Proggio, we know all too well about the pain points of conventional PPM because we lived them ourselves. After struggling with Excel and trying several PPM tools on the market that just didn't give us the visibility and clarity we wanted, we decided to build one ourselves.

Proggio is a truly adaptive PPM solution that gives you the real-time clarity, visibility and simplicity you need to navigate complex PPM tasks in a fast-paced dynamic environment. With our interactive and dynamic visuals, Proggio gives team members, PMs and stakeholders easy-to-understand real-time project status and the ability to clearly see -strategy vs. execution for every project in the portfolio.

It offers the seamless, comprehensive data you need at-a-glance with the ability to identify risks and opportunities and act on them quickly with confidence, thanks to a clear understanding of how changes in resources, timelines and priorities will force adaptations.



Ready to get a clearer picture of your project portfolio and adapt better to the inevitable changes as they come your way?

**Check out Proggio today!**