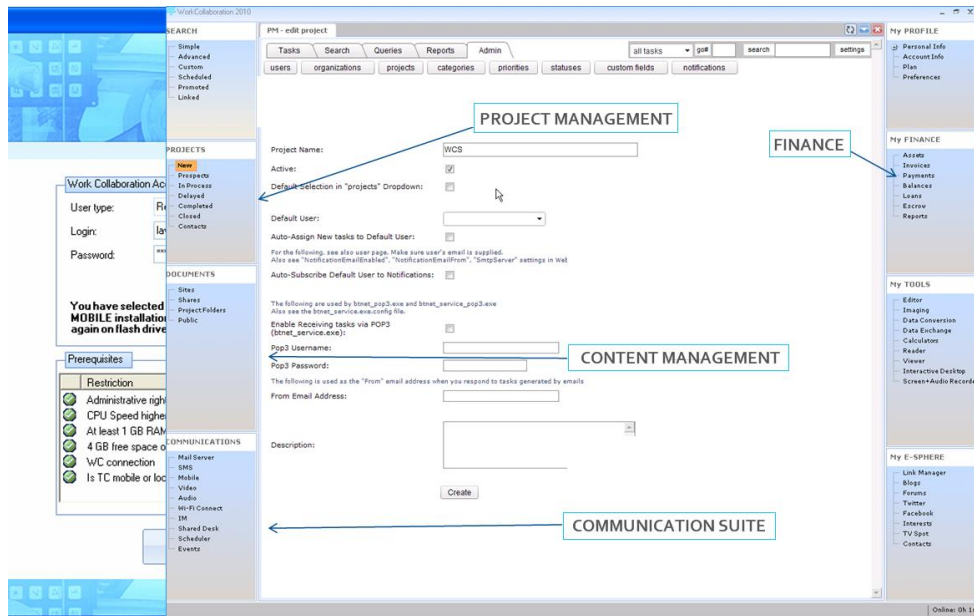




Today's business enterprise is challenged by rising costs, increasing competition, and ever-changing customer requirements. If your business Enterprise solution is not up to par, you face with dizzying levels of complexity, duplication of effort, and in the worse cases, poor quality and customer service.

WARNING SIGNS THAT YOUR SYSTEM IS KILLING YOUR BUSINESS

Most companies look to their IT Enterprise system to enhance the organization's overall performance. In many cases, the original drivers that led to a software selection were to streamline and simplify business processes for a sustainable competitive advantage.



So why do so many IT systems fall short of these goals?

In case after case, implementations miss the mark, and instead of delivering promised cost reductions, business agility and performance improvements, IT systems create complexity, duplication of effort, and in the worst cases, poor quality and customer service and a dangerous lack of visibility into the business.

Likewise, legacy IT systems don't keep pace with change. The business owners face continually changing business processes, data, and requirements which make it nearly impossible for a typical, inflexible IT system to keep pace with what the business really needs. Customers are reducing the number of suppliers with which they do business. They are choosing the best and strongest. Will your IT Enterprise prohibit you from being deemed the best?

The Warning Signs

Check these ten warning signs to see if your IT is killing your business.

1. Your system can't integrate mission-critical business data.

Your data is "locked up" within your outdated IT system and is difficult to access. You can't easily analyze it for decision making. Worse yet, quality management, engineering and design, EDI, customer orders and release accounting all reside in "silos" of information that exist independently of each other.

A silo environment increases complexity, and ensures duplication of efforts with different versions of the truth, which compromises the quality, reliability and accessibility of vital information.

2. Changes to the system are costly and time-consuming.

The software vendor provides releases every 24 months and rarely provides the new features you need on a timely basis. Any change coming from the vendor seems to cost you six figures and many months to complete.

Nor can you find skilled resources to help with these updates at an affordable rate, so you are stuck using an outdated system and face the costs.

3. Your disaster recovery plan involves tapes or CDs.

If your servers or data center burned, you would have to buy new equipment, configure it and then reload your data from tapes. Recovery Time Objective (RTO) is the time it takes to get back up and running after a disaster, and you're in a precarious position when it comes to this metric.

The Recovery Point Objective - or how much data you would lose in the case of a failure - is significantly lacking with backup tape or CD methods.

4. Beefy PCs or "Fat Clients" are needed to run the system.

Sure PCs are getting cheaper, but running less memory and disk is always less expensive. If you need to install and maintain fat clients [*** a networked computer with most resources installed locally, rather than distributed over a network], you run into IT management difficulties, security risks and high maintenance and licensing costs.

5. Maintenance fees are high.

With rising IT solution maintenance fees, you're not in control of IT expenditures.

Some of the biggest vendors consistently raise maintenance fees, which increases your total cost of ownership over time. As you review your IT spending, consider multiple support contracts for the same applications, made worse by information silos. Technical differences among a range of applications also require the hiring of experts to implement and maintain the various applications.

6. You can't access the data easily if you are traveling.

It's obvious that business doesn't stop when you are traveling. Smart phones help you stay in touch, but it is tough to really do much from such a tiny device. Wireless connectivity is everywhere, yet you're limited because you can't stay in touch with business operations.

7. Upgrades are disruptive to the business.

We already noted that software upgrades from software vendors usually come out every 12-24 months on average. They often require updates to the operating system, database management system, disk space, hardware, etc.

Upgrades take time to plan and to execute. You're in trouble if the business has to be "down" for a period of time to do the conversion. [^{**} we provide a special set of instructions to prepare and do transparent upgrades]

8. Trading partners can't easily interact with the system.

In today's manufacturing sector, the value stream is increasingly interconnected. More just-in-time replenishment is being done, and suppliers need easy access to your orders and inventory levels. Can they quickly and easily get the information they need?

9. New employees need time to learn the system.

Many older IT systems are difficult to learn and workers are easily frustrated when they are instructed to "Press F1 to inquire" or "Press Enter to accept".

If you have staff turnover, you are losing money while the new people learn the short cuts to get up and running.

10. Globalization is too difficult.

Many legacy systems require you to run a different version to support China, Eastern Europe and other countries. Changes to the translation are difficult if possible at all. Rollups of localized, unique financial data are done via spreadsheets which is cumbersome. This is not acceptable in today's global marketplace. [^{*****} available at the end of 2011 for free to all subscribed businesses]

The Next Step

Chances are, some or all of the issues described above ring true for your business. So what's your next step? Fortunately, a new breed of Software as a Service or SaaS WCS resolves these challenges so manufacturers can thrive by doing what they do best and not writing and maintaining software.

WCS is SaaS technology offering robust functionalities without the need for expensive servers, operating systems, database software, backup equipment, and the IT specialists to manage all of that. Yourself-hosted WCS is always up to date, and available to customers via a monthly subscription fee. That means no hassle, business disruption or costs with version upgrades.

The WCS system integrates and streamlines all aspects of a company, including project management, production, scheduling, imaging, task traceability, performance tracking, content control, human resources, tooling, and more. With no upfront investments in servers or IT infrastructure, WCS integrated universal system can help drive out costs and improve quality in your organization.

WCS is organized into multiple modules that can be implemented individually or as an enterprise solution. It can operate standalone and/or connect with other systems.

The Difference

WCS is inter-tier software that a company installs and online solution at the same time. It is accessible by authorized users through the Internet with a standard web browser or locally via thin client. No servers, software, databases, backups, or other infrastructure are required. The fact that it is service based and requires no infrastructure to implement makes it ideal for managing multiple projects, and for linking customers, suppliers, and employees into a centralized database of real-time information no matter where they are around the world. Further, WCS delivers fully integrated localization capabilities to manage business requirements faced by corporations operating in the global economy. And finally, the system meets key targets for data continuity and disaster recovery. This means your company can be up and running within minutes [**** if proper backup was implemented prior to disaster]. This approach delivers a level of responsiveness, redundancy and safety for manufacturers that is virtually impossible for them to match internally.

The Bottom Line

The bottom line is that instead of old fashioned systems slowly killing your operation, companies can thrive with a new breed of WCS delivered as a SaaS solution. WCS creates a single, unified management system. It controls and streamlines operations. WCS helps your business to increase productivity, improve quality, reduce cost and increase revenue. Work Collaboration System is a critical tool for growth and profitability.