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Web Services » Business & Finance » Online Project Management Review » LiquidPlanner

# LiquidPlanner

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### Pros

LiquidPlanner has an innovative priority-based scheduling engine that provides faster, more-accurate results. It supports numerous projects within one workspace, so you never overbook resources and you can get a bird's-eye view of your projects together. It is a great PM tool for modern teams that may be dispersed or [work remotely](#).

### Cons

This [online](#) project management service does not include many out-of-the-box integrations. If you need a solution that will integrate with CRM, ERP or accounting [software](#), you will need to create those integrations using LiquidPlanner's APIs, or select a different PM service.

### The Verdict: 8.95/10

LiquidPlanner can easily manage the thousands of details related to your projects so that your team can spend more time producing results rather than getting tied up in the processes. You do not have to be trained in traditional PM methodologies to use this software, but it does support waterfall and agile methods. It provides excellent [collaboration](#) tools that include mobile tools for iOS and Android devices.

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Review	Specifications	Images	Side By Side Comparison	Learning Center
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LiquidPlanner's priority-based [online project planning](#) and management service is flexible, intuitive and so useful that your team will stay logged in all day and use it in ways that you may have never imagined. It not only manages projects and tasks, but it also provides collaboration tools that your team can use throughout the workday to discuss tasks and progress. Team members can avoid wasted time by being inundated with a long list of discussions that have nothing to do with them by applying filters that will display just the comments they need to see. In addition, if they are logged into Outlook, they can send emails directly to LiquidPlanner inboxes. Project managers can save countless hours of scheduling using the priority-based scheduler, which can prioritize tasks across numerous projects at once. Even if you are managing 10,000 tasks, changes are implemented automatically and immediately.

LiquidPlanner's project management tools continue to evolve. During the past year, the company had two major releases – one in December and another in June. The December release included more than 50 improvements such as redesigned projects tabs, single page editing, better navigation and more functional filter tools. In the June release, the company added timeline and baseline views. Using the timeline view, you can click on past dates to see historical schedule bars for projects and related tasks. The baseline view provides comparative data that includes task progress and change metrics. It will also run baseline reports, and it can compare projects' current states with previous states to find slippages. Other features added within the past year include improved email integration, updated iOS apps, checklists, homepage conversation threads and email notification filtering.

The pricing schedule for LiquidPlanner is based on the number of users, not the number of projects.

Subscriptions can be paid monthly, but the company offers lower rates if you prepay for a year in advance. It also offers additional discounts if you need a subscription for more than 20 users.

Nonprofits are also eligible for discounts. To support mobile users, the company offers apps for the iPad, iPhone and Android mobile phones. LiquidPlanner is an online solution; the company does not offer on-premise or installed versions. However, it does provide application programming interfaces (APIs) if you need to create your own custom integrations.

[Simple Project Management](http://www.smartsheet.com) www.smartsheet.com  
Yes. It's easy. Nothing to install. Try it Free!



Project Management Tools: **8.8/10** AdChoices Compare

Clarizen	Genius Project	ATask	Project Insight	ProjectManager	Daptiv PPM	Tenrox	Celoxis	LiquidPlanner	EPM Live
10	10	9.4	10	8.8	10	10	8.8	8.8	8.8

LiquidPlanner can sufficiently manage all basic project management tasks. However, it does a few things differently than other PM solutions. For example, it uses traditional workspaces along with "packages" to help you organize your workload priorities. Packages can be a project, groups of projects or simply an ASAP package that holds all top-priority projects. You can prioritize packages and projects using a drag-and-drop tool that easily moves items up or down the timeline. To manage issues, it relies on you to create an issues folder using the tasks tools to create a way to track these issues. This works adequately – it is just a different way of labeling what are traditionally called "issues." LiquidPlanner's philosophy is that, for the most part, issues end up becoming tasks eventually anyway, so it may as well keep them organized as such to skip an avoidable future step of converting issues to tasks.



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Each workspace can support an unlimited number of clients and projects. A workspace can save up to 50GB overall, and individual files up to 100MB. If you need more document storage space, LiquidPlanner communicates and directly integrates with Box online file storage. With Box integration, you can manage files up to 2GB each, and obtain nearly unlimited overall storage. This is a valuable integration tool if you need to work with large files no matter where you and your team members are.

One feature LiquidPlanner provides is extremely helpful to project managers who not only need to monitor performance and progress for themselves, but also for their higher-ups or shareholders. This tool is called Project Analytics. Briefly stated, it can provide nearly unlimited reporting options. It can filter, sort and report using thousands of data points to create reports and insights for clients, teams and managers. LiquidPlanner can save report filters for future use. These reports can compare past and forward-looking data, and focus on specific time ranges. You can use the report builder to customize reports and export them as CSV files. The company is also currently working to add the ability to export reports as PDF files.

### Resource Management: **8.8/10** Compare



LiquidPlanner provides superior scheduling and time tracking. This project management tool takes the burden of tedious scheduling off the project manager and automatically creates schedules based on projects' priority levels. It can schedule across multiple projects and manage team members who work on more than one project. LiquidPlanner also utilizes what it calls virtual resources that you use to create project scenarios from generic resources before actual resources are assigned to a schedule.

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LiquidPlanner also manages timesheets. Time entries can be related to specific projects or to generic tasks, with labels such as "marketing" and "answered customer question" to help you monitor non-project tasks. Of course, it can manage billable and non-billable time. Although it does not include direct integration, it can create IIF files and export files to QuickBooks to help you with payroll and invoicing.

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In terms of resource allocation, it can filter personnel by user, multiple users, teams or a combination of teams and individuals. However, it does not filter resources by skill level or experience. This is a shortcoming for large teams, but project managers who oversee smaller team are aware of their team members' talents and abilities and do not need to rely on this type of sort tool. Team members can be assigned to the access level of co-owner, manager, full member or restricted member. You can also assign specific permissions, such as which projects users can access and what they can alter or view within those projects.

## Collaboration: 10/10

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LiquidPlanner provides elegant, modern tools to help managers, team members and clients to interact. Users can share files, comments, notes and attachments. It also includes an area called the Details Page that shows the description, comments, notes, links and attached documents for each plan item in one view. Here members can add comments to threaded discussions, submit links, add dependencies and more. LiquidPlanner also includes a workspace comment stream, which is similar to a Twitter or Facebook type interface for leaving comments and interacting with team members. You can even enter comments as "all" or just "for me" if you would like to leave comments to yourself but restrict them from view. These tools are for paid users, but LiquidPlanner does provide project portals with limited access for non-paid users.



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Increasingly, clients are demanding ways to monitor projects' progress. They are no longer content to wait for weekly reports and are used to instant access to everything, including their projects' statuses. Using LiquidPlanner, you can create project portals for clients and externals. Portal access can allow interested parties to view statuses, submit and view tasks, and use collaboration tools such as streaming comments and notes. Portal guests cannot log or estimate time, however. This is a great option for managing costs while still providing access to stakeholders.

## Ease of Use: 10/10

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LiquidPlanner enjoys a high adoption rate due to a simple-to-navigate interface and numerous convenience features. It supports drag-and-drop tools, numerous drilldown options, quick right-click menus, search tools and dropdown picklists. It also supports bulk editing, and if you make a mistake, you can retrieve deleted items from the trash for up to 30 days. It also supports shortcuts such as the ability to submit tasks via email and from mobile phones. If a team member needs help, the company provides free telephone and email support, as well as paid support options for complex issues.

## Integration & Professional Services: 7.5/10

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For the most part, in terms of integration, LiquidPlanner is most compatible with tools that remote teams use, such as Google Calendar and online storage services, rather than enterprise-level software such as Microsoft Dynamics, NetSuite, Salesforce and Sage accounting software. Nevertheless, LiquidPlanner works with most email clients and can sync calendars with Google, Outlook and Apple. It can also import XML files from Microsoft Project and export timesheet data to QuickBooks. If you really need a specific integration, the company provides RESTful web service and APIs to help you create integrations.



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This online project management service provides mobile apps for users. Apps are free to download from the Apple App Store and Google Play. The mobile apps are specifically designed for the iPad, iPhone and Android mobile phones. Mobile apps are helpful because they often run faster than if you tried to log in to the full product online via a web-enabled device. The mobile app can handle popular tasks such as leaving comments on streams, viewing tasks, tracking time and viewing attachments.

## Summary:

If your team is ready to break away from an assortment of Excel sheets, Google Docs and email conversations that seem like more of a burden to use than tools that actually help, you will appreciate LiquidPlanner. Anyone can use LiquidPlanner to increase communication efficiency and to decrease project completion time to satisfy clients' needs and free up team members to work on additional projects. This priority-based online project management solution also provides everything project managers need to generate advanced reports for management and stakeholders to compare to projections, which exposes project budgets and resource accountability. It is a fitting solution for small teams, and especially remote teams, that do not need integration with enterprise-level solutions or on-premise hosting.

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