10 TopTenREVIEWS

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Web Services » Business & Finance » Online Project Management Review » EPM Live

EPM Live   Print/Email

$21.00

Pros
EPM Live directly integrates with Microsoft SharePoint and Office to create a complete project management solution that uses technologies ↗ you are already familiar with. Upland Software ↗ provides numerous free apps to add additional integrations, and provides generous professional support options.

Cons
This project management solution is intended to work with SharePoint; if this is not the collaboration ↗ tool you would like to use, you may want to select a different solution. In addition, the lowest price requires a 36-month contract.

The Verdict: 8.63/10
EPM Live is fully customizable to support all types of ventures, including professional services, new product development and IT management ↗. Additionally, all team members, regardless of skill level, can use EPM Lives' project management tools at the level they are comfortable with. If you are interested in advanced use of the software, training is available.

EPM Live by upland

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Genius project	2	Genius Project
AtTask	3	AtTask
PROJECT Insight	4	Project Insight
PROJECT MANAGER	5	ProjectManager

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EPM Live is a SharePoint-based project management service designed to work with numerous Microsoft products. Though it can handle teams of any type, it is best suited for teams that are looking to add advanced project management tools and capabilities to SharePoint and Outlook. EPM Live's project management tools can handle complex budgeting, costing and project prioritization, and are suitable for those who manage multiple projects and large teams. It can handle formal project management methodologies as well as customized processes. The company also provides solutions specifically designed for application portfolio management, IT governance, new product development, portfolio management and professional services.

Since we last reviewed EPM Live, Upland Software acquired both it and Tenrox. However, the parent company will continue to market EPL Live and Tenrox separately since they appeal to their own unique markets. Upland Software also provides PowerSteering for program and portfolio management, FileBound for workflow and document management and Timesheet.com. The company's product line is extensive for this industry, and it continues to evolve its products to meet market demands.

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

Clarizen Genius Project AtTask Project Insight ProjectManager Daptiv PPM Tenrox Celoxis LiquidPlanner EPM Live

clarizen	Genius project	AtTask	PROJECTinsight	PROJECT MANAGER.com	daptiv	Tenrox	CELOXIS	LiquidPlanner	EPMLive
10	10	9.4	10	8.8	10	10	8.8	8.8	8.8

The PM tools provided by EPM Live can support traditional project management ideologies as well as custom processes. The tools provided depend on which version of EPM Live you use. Versions available include online, dedicated and on-premise. Online versions range from a low-priced Express version to an Enterprise edition. Upland Software also offers numerous paid additions such as custom forms, Visio web access, audience targeting, user analytics and advanced business intelligence tools. The Dedicated version provides a dedicated server to host the service for 25 users or more. The on-premise version does not include as many features, but it does give you the opportunity to control your own security.

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The project management tools available depend on the version you purchase. Basic PM tools include document management, integration with Microsoft Office, Gantt charts, alerts and notifications, resource management and task lists. The Professional version also includes administration tools such as schedule management, resource assignment, community creation, workflow rules, report creation and API access. The Enterprise version additionally includes resource-capacity planning, cost planning and what-if modeling. For an additional fee, you can set up single sign-ons, tags and likes, as well as business connectivity services.

Resource Management: 10/10   Compare ⌄

Resource management tools include everything from advanced capacity planning to complex time management and document management with full versioning. Using EPM Live, project managers can assign resources, view resource workloads across projects, interact with Microsoft Project planning tools, and create reports and dashboards. The Enterprise and Dedicated versions include advanced capacity planning, complex search tools and a resource analyzer. EPM Live can also manage physical, generic and external resources. Only paid users can log in, but team-member pricing is only $14 each per month.

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Both versions can manage complex time categories, including billable/non-billable time, overtime, attendance, non-project work and time off. EPM has timesheet tools, status reports and work logs. It can integrate with other line of business (LOB) applications such as Microsoft Dynamics GP, QuickBooks and Microsoft Project Server, and it can track time against work items from other PM solutions.

Other types of resource management include document management. EPM Live can manage document versions and approvals. Managers can create complex workflows for documents and manage access permissions. All documents can be fully indexed and are searchable.

Collaboration: 7.5/10   Compare ⌄

Collaboration tools, for the most part, are designed for project managers to relay information to team members. Managers can keep team members in the loop via RSS feeds, project wikis, shared calendars, announcements, alerts, notifications and shared contact lists. Team members can contribute to conversations by posting comments to items, contributing to project wikis and adding comments to discussion boards. EPM can integrate with Outlook to allow users to read, reply and post information to EPM Live through Outlook. Managers can create custom dashboards with specific permissions levels to be accessed by clients, or they can keep their clients informed by exporting and sharing reports with them.

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Ease of Use: 7.5/10   Compare ⌄

EMP Live relies extensively on integrating with Microsoft products. Smaller teams or mobile teams that have been using free solutions will find EPM Live a bit complex. However, teams that already use Outlook and SharePoint will enjoy the added power of EPM Live in conjunction with the tools they already use. To help create projects quickly, EPM Live includes prebuilt apps and templates. Templates can also be created and saved. Apps include full project frameworks for product development, software development, idea management and more. All of these are great time-savers that have

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been tested by other users.

Integration & Professional Services: 8.8/10

EPM Live works with SharePoint and can sync with Outlook. It can share project data with Excel, Access and Microsoft Project. Custom integrations can be created using Microsoft's BCS, Microsoft Visual Studio 2010 and SharePoint Designer 2010. EMP Live also provides numerous free apps that add other integrations, including compatibility with Salesforce, Excel and Yammer.

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In terms of mobile tools, EPM Live can be accessed from any web-enabled device, including iPhones, iPads and Android phones. Mobile team members can access tasks, issues, discussions, action items and updates using their mobile devices. Mobile project managers can view and edit project information using most mobile devices.

Professional services include assistance with process development, implementation support, project management support, best practices and deployment assistance, maturity assessments and business strategy workshops. Deployment services include quick start, success and custom packages as well as custom strategy workshops. Free and paid support options are available, which include 24/7 telephone support, accelerated response times, quarterly health checks and EPM Live boot camps.

Summary:

EPM Live is an excellent choice for executives and project managers who have outgrown the PM tools SharePoint provides. EPM provides advanced risk-assessment tools, capacity planners, what-if simulators, prioritization filters and financial tools. EPM Live licenses can be deployed in any manner required by your company's IT compliance requirements.

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