



**Project Management  
with dotProject**

## **Project Management**

Simply defined, Project Management is about the structuring of a series of tasks and the schedule associated with those tasks, to achieve an outcome.

The difference between Project Management Software and, for example, Help Desk Software, is that help desk functions are about interrupt driven, unplanned, unexpected tasks.

Project Management software tools are designed for managing a defined workload, with a defined resource base who are co-operating to deliver a project.

## **dotProject**

dotProject is a FOSS (Free Open Source Software) web-based Project Management application, designed to provide project layout, control and reporting functions. It is used to manage the day to day activities of project progression.

dotProject is used in a huge range of applications and environments, from small offices, single people trying to manage their own workload, companies, government departments, not for profit organisations, schools and so on.

Due to the "online" nature of the application, dotProject is especially suited to, but not limited to, those organisations with Project Workers in remote locations or those organisations where the transparency and sharing of project data is essential.

E.g. Those with clients who require a close degree of monitoring project progress.

Within dotProject, internal company projects sit comfortably side by side with projects for external clients, providing monitoring and comparison of the volume of both chargeable and non-chargeable work performed by specific employees and suppliers.

Full integration with MS Outlook, iCal and PDA scheduling software is currently under development.

## Roles Within dotProject

The **Project Manager/Administrator** configures the company or companies, defines the type of project and the roles of Project Workers and Guest Users. The Project Manager then schedules tasks (including any task dependencies) and assigns them to Project Workers.

Ongoing responsibilities, assisted by dotProject, include the monitoring of project progress, fine tuning of the schedule of tasks and liaison with clients, suppliers and Project Workers.

**Project Workers** log time against each of their assigned tasks, associate a cost center with the work and provide an indication of the percentage complete.

By incorporating holidays, absence and internal projects, dotProject can replace or compliment existing timesheet logging systems.

**Guest Users/Clients** and anyone else given access to the project web site can retrieve immediate visual snapshots of project progress and report on the finer detail.

Project related calendars and personal "Todo" lists are presented to each user of the system to assist in Time Management.

## Security/Permissions

Exactly which companies, projects and task details are available to who, is all completely configurable by the Project Manager/Administrator.

## Additional Development

The default functionality in the supplied modules of dotProject is already quite comprehensive.

However, because data is stored in a MYSQL database and the application is coded in PHP, anyone with knowledge of PHP and an understanding of the application can quickly provide customised reports and additional functionality.

## Technical Requirements

The software is available from <http://dotproject.net/>

dotProject requires a functioning web server with integrated PHP and MySQL support, and, of course, a web browser.

Suggested web server implementations include:

LAMP: Linux+Apache+MySQL+PHP

WAMP: Windows+Apache+MySQL+PHP

Minimum PHP 4, MYSQL 4.1

GD Library installed

XML Support enabled

Register\_Globals OFF

JpGraph is included but some additional TrueType fonts may be required.

## Support

Christchurch based dotProject Consultant **Reg Blackwood** provides services in installation, implementation, training, customisation, hosting, additional development as well as Project Management and general support to dotProject users in Christchurch.

Due to it's Open Source status, dotProject is also supported by a community of developers and users worldwide.

For further information, please contact

**Reg Blackwood**

**03 355 3658**

**027 351 8119**

**[regblackwood@hotmail.com](mailto:regblackwood@hotmail.com)**