

Real Software launches iPMO, a 100% web based project management solution, it will offer on ASP

- In return of a license fee anywhere accessible on a PC with a browser -

Kontich, June 23th 2000. Today Real Software announces the launch of iPMO (Internet Program Management Office) in Europe, a fully Internet-based project management solution. iPMO encompasses all aspects of a project life cycle, and is aimed at international companies managing large projects. With iPMO project leaders can now compose teams of people with different skills, located all over the world.

The iPMO methodology is based on the industrial know-how, procedures, and the wide range of experiences of the Real Software Group. All this knowledge was combined with advanced concepts and the best technologies, like Oracle 8i. Real Software reacts on the increased demand of independent, web-based applications, and offers iPMO through ASP (Application Service Provider), in return of a yearly license fee. Working this way offers the customers many advantages: there is no installation or upgrade of software required, the application is accessible through the Internet, etc. Licenses for iPMO users are sold on the web as well as through local sales representatives.

Powerful tool for complete project management

iPMO is the new, powerful multi-project management solution of the Real Software Group that is accessible from virtually anywhere on the Internet by means of a browser. iPMO encompasses all aspects of a project life cycle, independent of the size of the project, and works with six important functionalities: Scope, WBS (Work Breakdown Structures), Resources, Budget, Schedule, and Risk assessment.

iPMO goes beyond its competitor's solutions, that only focus on one or a few aspects of project management. There are excellent solutions for project planning or financial management, but none of them covers all project phases. iPMO does, and it's the only total project management solution that has a module for Risk assessment. Through this unique module the project leader can calculate all kinds of risks that determine the successful finalisation of the project: available material or personnel, weather conditions, etc.

The Standish Group's Chaos Report revealed the importance of risk planning: world-wide IT and software projects involve an amount of 275 billion \$ for the year 2000; only 18% of these projects are a considered a success, so huge investments are lost. Real Software fills the need of a reliable project management application with the launch of iPMO.

Sector-independent solution with unique functionalities

Thanks to the custom 'Work Breakdown Structures', iPMO can be used for any project in any sector, from building a house to developing new software. With the WBS functionality the project leader can split up his project in separate tasks. By assigning specific tasks to each collaborator within the project, the project manager prevents getting more than two weeks behind schedule, for example when an employee leaves the company. In that way the tasks can quickly be taken over by someone else. iPMO offers approximately 100 standard WBS's for different kinds of projects, that will drive the resource allocation, estimates and schedules. A unique WBS is the key to success of any project. The WBS with its time schedules are automatically transformed into a complete project planning that can manually be adapted

Other advantages of iPMO, beside reliable project assistance, are “change management tools” which allow users to track project changes, staff requests, and appraise task performances. This control can take place nearly automatically by means of the Virtual Project Manager™, with powerful artificial intelligence wizards that can make project recommendations and take over routine tasks of the project manager. Virtual Project Manager™ can be set up to perform a few tasks or up to 90% of the typical project management tasks for any given project. In case of problems or abnormal situations the project manager automatically receives a message, so they can guide the project in the correct direction.

Real Software has developed iPMO in a very user-friendly way. Step by step the wizards guide the users through the set-up, process allowing for most projects to be set up in less then one day.

100% web-based project management through ASP

Popular business applications are more and more developed for Internet use, and offered on ASP (Application Service Provider). The company ‘rents’ the application that is installed on a central server. The different users can log on to the application on the Internet anywhere in the world.

Real Software will offer iPMO on ASP in return of a yearly license, which will generate recurrent revenues. Real Software manages the entire infrastructure and the databases, but companies can also lease or purchase a similar infrastructure.

This way of working offers companies important advantages: no servers or software have to be installed – which facilitates the version management –, the communication improves, and project data is accessible anywhere in the world. Companies can fully concentrate on their core activities, and the return-on-investment is significant. Thanks to the Internet project leaders can compose teams of people located all over the world. iPMO also takes full advantage of the other communication opportunities of the Internet: discussion groups, netmeetings, chat, etc. This facilitates the organisation and follow-up of international projects.

iPMO is the result of the wealth of business experience and the innovating ideas of Real Software and of Real Enterprise Solutions in the United States. The launch of this unique project management application consolidates the position of Real Software as a leading IT company, and proves the Real Software Group can supply innovating solutions with an added value based on the latest technologies.

(End press release)

For additional information:

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Real Software was established in 1986. In 1999, the company recorded consolidated operating revenues of 250.7 million EUR and an operating profit of 34.9 million EUR. The group currently employs a staff of more than 2800. Real Software offers a comprehensive range of software services ranging from the development and implementation of its own products, over tailor-made solutions and consulting (including implementation and sale) for third-party products. The company exports Belgian technology to countries such as the Netherlands, France, Germany, Ireland, Switzerland, the United States and the Far East. Real Software customers include companies such as Du Pont de Nemours, GIB, Océ, Johnson & Johnson, Merck Sharp & Dohme, Biogen, Renault, the Paris Metro, TF1, EDF – Electricité de France, SNCF, the Dutch Post Office, Nedcar, Philips, Shopi, Goodyear, KBC Bank and Fortis Bank.