



# Overcome the challenges of remote collaboration and project management

Unifying work, project management, and Microsoft Teams



# Project management and collaboration have changed

Remote work has made collaboration challenging for many businesses. When adopting new tools, processes, and collaboration techniques, both workers and business leaders have faced tremendous churn navigating new working models and onboarding remote employees who may never set foot in the office.

Remote work is likely here to stay, and businesses must make the transition as smooth as possible. This means limiting the number of tools that employees have to train in and re-examining processes that may have only worked in-person. New digital-first models of getting work done must be put front and center as the focus of enhancing the employee experience, especially with regards to collaboration.

Employees need the right tools to stay close and connected to their work and coworkers. However, employees also face an over-abundance of available tools, which means businesses should seek to consolidate them.

Businesses must take a flexible approach to accommodate for each employee's personal preferences for working. What works for one employee might not work for others, so finding flexible tools is imperative.

These past few years have ushered in considerable change to how we work, and the future is likely to continue that acceleration. Businesses that invest in a strong and flexible remote work solution today will be better prepared for potential future disruptions.

75%

of leaders do not strongly agree that workloads are manageable<sup>1</sup>

44%

increase in the usage of collaboration tools from 2019-2021<sup>1</sup>

40%

of respondents do not leverage cloud technologies for project management<sup>1</sup>

72%

of respondents said they cannot measure productivity and performance at a team level<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.pmsolutions.com/articles/Project\\_Management\\_2022\\_Research\\_Report.pdf](https://www.pmsolutions.com/articles/Project_Management_2022_Research_Report.pdf)

# Business leaders and workers are struggling

Without the right foundation of tools, technologies, and processes, progress and innovation are hindered.

For most organizations, **it is a major challenge to gain visibility between and across project teams.** With the siloing of teams and individual contributors, it can be difficult to get an accurate and holistic account of where each project is at. This may be due to the lack of a centralized PM data foundation or the myriad of PM tools that workers use daily. There is hope, however, as business leaders are looking to consolidate visibility and data through the cloud.

**Business leaders need a way to understand project health** and their workstream progression at a scale that covers the

entire organization. Interactive, real-time, and data-driven dashboards can provide powerful insights across projects, yet most organizations struggle to find a solution that makes things less complex than before. If project teams cannot provide reliable data, then business leaders cannot make informed and reliable decisions.

Regular workers who participate in PM processes **can positively contribute to project health.** Rather than gatekeeping PM activities, organizations should empower all workers with PM tools, skills, and cloud-based visibility and collaboration.

**Both traditional PMs and citizen PMs need a way to work together and contribute,** each helping create a full picture of project and portfolio health and status. The right tools that enable **non-PM workers** to contribute make the difference.

In addition, **cross-functional teams must be able to collaborate** on project management in order to allocate resources and plan accordingly. Disconnected teams still need to understand each other's workstreams to make decisions, and optimize work expenditures and capital across the business.

53%

of organizations believe they have inadequate resource management capabilities<sup>1</sup>

42%

of organizations feel they do not have enough project managers<sup>1</sup>

51%

of PMOs want to improve core project management processes<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>[https://www.pmsolutions.com/articles/Project\\_Management\\_2022\\_Research\\_Report.pdf](https://www.pmsolutions.com/articles/Project_Management_2022_Research_Report.pdf)

# Leverage a unified project data layer built on a secure, extensible cloud platform.

Making decisions doesn't have to be a gut feeling, it can come from reliable insights.

**Data is the lifeblood of modern businesses,** however, for many organizations, data can be difficult to trust if it's perceived as incomplete. Often, critical project management data is hidden away in some Excel file buried in a PM's email. Business leaders cannot rely on such data sources simply due to minimal uniformity and reliability.

To build trustworthy and comprehensive information, **businesses must find a way to eliminate silos** and securely connect disparate data using powerful automations and modernized processes. These steps are critical to ensuring reliable real-time data and visibility at every stage. Information must flow seamlessly between PM's, their tools, and stakeholders to create the best possible outcomes.

With the right automations, processes, data sources, and platforms, organizations can then start to **build a foundation of secure, actionable data** that captures key metrics across every project or initiative in the business.

With a unified data layer, organizations can overcome the typical limited visibility they've become accustomed to. From a single point, **all project information can be viewed, analyzed, and organized into consumable information.**

By creating a foundation of secure, trustworthy data, paired with low code extensibility, organizations will achieve vastly improved outcomes and values.





# Multiple PM and collaboration tools are causing fatigue

Too many disparate tools, technologies, and limited integrations means workers must jump between apps in a disruptive manner.

Even before the transition to remote work, employees often had to jump between multiple applications and tools to get work done. This has only accelerated now that remote collaboration is the norm. From video-conferencing to screen-sharing to voice calls and live document editing, organizations often use a multitude of disconnected apps.

The ability for employees to leverage a single comprehensive platform to manage projects and collaborate remotely is critical. However, most organizations simply rely on basic integrations.

One API calls another, and then data is shared, yet, this still leaves a fragmented employee experience as they still have to jump between applications.

Remote collaboration is difficult enough, and the band-aid solution of adding more tools and apps hasn't made employees' lives easier. Simplification and consolidation are key steps to streamline remote work and project management, and business leaders are turning to the cloud to create a consistent and unified experience.

In addition, onboarding new remote employees means having to train them on the tools and processes their organization depends on. Having a large number of tools and processes means more time having to train employees and onboard them to your unique technology stack. Imagine the benefits if businesses could rely on a single unified platform and seamless experience for remote collaboration, communication, document sharing, project management, and more.

# Introducing Teams4PM by Innovative-e

Provide your organization with a full range of project management capabilities and work intelligently, together.

Innovative-e takes your most important and complex projects and makes sense of them through consistent and predictable access to information, real-time reporting, and data-driven insights. Enabling collaboration and encouraging knowledge-sharing promotes an inclusive and unified environment that accomplishes more.

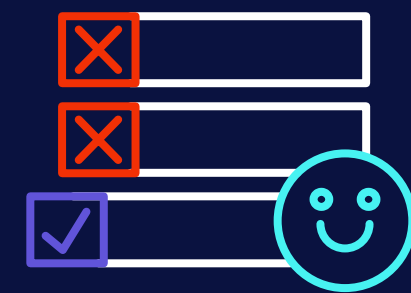
Whether it's your most strategic and complex projects or smaller, less formal work, Teams4PM helps make sense of all with consistent experiences, unified data, and derivative insights. You can more accurately and intelligently allocate your people

and resources to efficiently maximize your return on effort. Access the information your organization needs to move your most crucial projects to the center, where they can carve a path to a better future.

Teams4PM helps organizations take their uncategorized work and project management data and centralize it on a secure and reliable cloud platform. Functions such as tagging and reporting for project management roles help structure data across the organization. The outcome is a reduction in inefficiencies and time wasted searching for business-critical information.

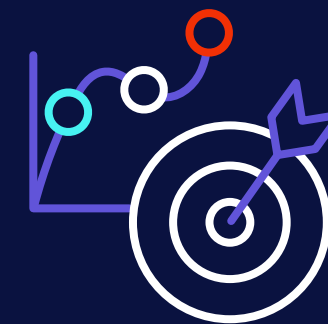


# How Teams4PM evolves Microsoft Teams



## Unified collaboration, work, and project management

- Anchors Microsoft Teams as the central and unified platform for collaboration, project management, and project analysis
- Governance through automated project provisioning with pre-defined project tabs
- Consistent experiences across desktop, tablet, web, and mobile
- Reduce distance between work and project management



## Reliable, comprehensive, and trustworthy data

- Real-time and secure data flows between Teams, apps like Project for the Web, Project Online, and more
- Seamlessly track project changes across the entire portfolio of projects
- Quickly determine project health via dashboards and centrally make edits to project metadata, issues, and risks



## Make smarter business decisions faster and with confidence

- Increase visibility across projects in real-time
- Enable PMs and citizen PMs to contribute to project health, providing leadership with critical context

# How SNHU unified data and PM platforms to support reinventing higher education

## Background

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit educational institution founded in 1932. With a distributed workforce of more than 4,000 full-time and part-time employees across the US, in addition to more than 6,000 adjunct faculty, the university serves more than 160,000 learners worldwide, including full-time and part-time students. SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs taught either online or in person.

## Solution

When Operations and IT leaders at SNHU decided to create a PM platform built around Microsoft Teams, Power Platform, and Project Online, their objective was to design and deploy a comprehensive IT infrastructure to support the entire university consistently and efficiently. The new system needed to provide standardized tools that streamline PM processes and enable departments and teams to have increased visibility into each other's projects and priorities.

SNHU successfully migrated its university-

wide PM activities exclusively to Microsoft 365, making full use of Teams, Power Platform, and Project Online. As part of this effort, Innovative-e deployed its Teams4PM project management product to bring the PM experience completely into Teams, which was widely adopted across the university. Now, everything is “just a fingertip” away, providing easy, quick access to new project management capabilities.

“The big takeaway is the ability to connect all the data points into one single platform and allow for that robust conversation and understanding and transparency of effort to happen.”

**Kurt Mithoefer** | Assistant Vice President of Planning and Value Creation | SNHU





# Why Innovative-e and Microsoft Teams

Transform work and project management into a competitive advantage with a modern, cloud-based collaboration toolset that engages every employee in your core objectives. Empower everyone with improved project management capabilities by making them universally available. Provide your organization with the valuable knowledge and insights from work and project management to make informed decisions that advance your business.

Innovative-e empowers workers throughout an organization with control, insight, and collaborative tools for work and project management directly inside Microsoft Teams. By bringing work and project management closer to employees, organizations can drive insights and value in real-time in a seamless and consistent manner. Focus your most valuable resources on your most challenging problems while also gaining more control, more context, and better project data. Our mission is to provide continuously amazing work experiences that improves lives.