

CORAS

A Business Case Study Analysis within the DoD

Executive Decision Management Platform (EDMP)

CORAS' single integrated solution saved this DoD client over 600 manhours per month, connected disparate data from multiple platforms and eradicated data calls to provide decision management with a singular, real time source of truth.

Client: An Agency within the Department of Defense was tasked with providing financial, scheduling, and risk management support for projects throughout the DoD. The group struggled to efficiently organize and maintain the data across dozens of project reports, scheduling and risk management items. Group leaders decided that it was time for a change.

Their Mission: To take a more comprehensive, automated, data-centric approach to produce timely, accurate, and consistent reports across all projects. Leaders also wanted to be able to forecast and provide visualizations that could be filtered, sliced, summarized, and viewed collaboratively with up-to-date information that distilled all data into one source of truth.

Overcoming Obstacles

Multiple Platforms: Staff were managing project schedules in Microsoft Project, while documents were stored in SharePoint and spend plans were managed manually in Excel spreadsheets. Each spend plan used a different manual process or method, and collaboration took place over email and shared documents.

The Problem: Project financials, schedule, and risk management data were not standardized or integrated into centralized stores/systems of record. Decision-makers could not perform “apples to apples” comparisons, develop forecasts, or accurately measure financial, schedule and risk statuses, especially when doing so across several projects.

Objective: A holistic solution to better allocate resources effectively, track portfolio and financial health more accurately, process changes, and reduce the number of overruns.

Finding the Right Solution

Comparisons: A custom-developed solution versus a Commercial Off-the-Shelf (COTS) product.

Decision Points: After comparing and evaluating capabilities, the deciding factors were cost, the level of configurability, vendor dynamics, and speed of deployment.

Decision – CORAS: Group leaders chose the CORAS Enterprise Decision Management Platform (EDMP). With much of the required functionality coming standard “out of the box,” CORAS’ COTS product flexibility and configurability, combined with the company’s willingness to work closely with the group to accommodate its processes, sealed the deal.

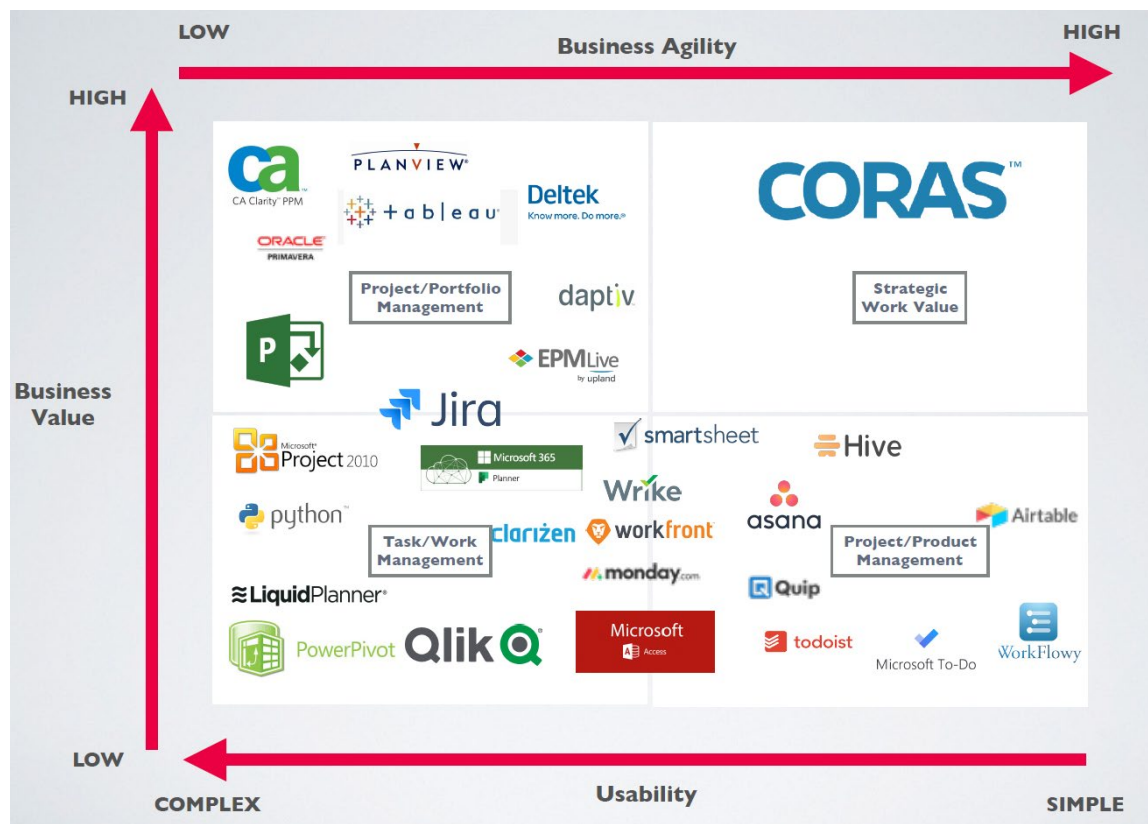
Solution: The CORAS team configured templates to ensure consistency for all existing processes and tools, such as Microsoft Project Plans and Excel spreadsheets. The CORAS platform then ingested all data in the government agency’s secure environment using FedRAMP-approved processes. With the data ingested, it populated the platform, along with multiple maps and nodes that analysts could use to discover data, build reports and lists, and aggregate information across the organization. New data would be immediately absorbed into the platform, ensuring that decision-makers had a current, clear view across all projects. Because cost, schedule, performance, and resources are standardized across all projects, there are no doubts about data fidelity. *Ex: the group can pinpoint exactly how much is being spent on a specific resource across all projects.*

CORAS EDMP for the DoD

Software Identified by the DoD as the Platform that Solves Their Complex Business Problems:

The CORAS solution for our DoD client includes a series of nodes, broken down into programs and projects, each with several subordinate levels. With these capabilities, analysts can find exactly what they are looking for. *Ex: if an analyst clicks the Program Executive Office button, the system will show that analyst everything that has been rolled up underneath it. If the analyst wants to see financial data across all subordinate nodes or everything related to a specific project, it will pull up the relevant information.*

With the CORAS platform now installed within the DoD, users can report on any level of project schedule or cost performance, from the top-level enterprise through the portfolio level to the individual project level. They can apply KPIs consistently across programs and projects for more accurate reporting of project health and progress, manage resources more responsibly, mitigate unforeseen risks, product more accurate forecasts, perform audit-level reporting, and most importantly, rely on the system as a single source of truth.



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