



Four project management challenges and how you can solve them

This paper is for contractors seeking to improve information sharing and cooperation across the entire project team including:

- Architects
- Designers
- Engineers
- Procurement teams
- Subcontractors

We will examine how technology can drive efficiency and keep all team members informed with timely, convenient access to contract and project-related documents.

Project managers face many challenges throughout the construction process—especially if they are using manual processes. The construction phase can be fast paced and complicated. The number of stakeholders multiplies as a variety of subcontractors enter the picture. Project plans and specifications are changing. And all too often, each stakeholder has very little interaction between other companies on the job. This is where outdated information can cause project delays, budget overruns, and profit drain.

As a result, project team members often don't have access to critical documents in the field and office staff can't get updated information or status reports. Team members quickly become confused and clients frustrated by your inability to complete projects in a timely manner.

Today's labor shortage makes it more important than ever to find and keep high performing reliable partners throughout the construction process—and ensure they have the tools needed to be productive. In fact, 70% of contractors in a recent survey cited labor issues as their biggest challenge. That study also found that labor issues led to increased project costs and delivery times.¹

That's why more and more companies are integrating technology into project management. Using mobile devices and cloud-based solutions, you can pave the way to better collaboration among all team members. Plus anytime, anywhere access to project details provides the visibility needed to keep everyone organized, informed, and productive.

¹ http://www.builderonline.com/building/trades-subcontractors/builder-exclusive-a-2015-look-at-labor-shortages_o2

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Challenge 1: Communication/Keeping everyone informed

Today's construction environment relies heavily on many types of documents. However, it's not always easy to keep track of the latest versions—much less know if all your subcontractors have been provided with the latest updates.

Online collaboration software gives your entire project team convenient access to all types of contract and project-related documents anytime, anywhere. Using a web browser, everyone stays informed and has the details needed to carry out critical project tasks.

Challenge 2: Accountability

Many contractors rely on inefficient manual processes to manage construction projects. It's critical for your company's success to make sure you stay on top of schedules, material orders, change requests and approvals. But when things get busy, who's responsible for these and other key tasks in the process?

Cloud-based collaboration tools collect and secure all information in one centralized hub so documents can't get lost and tasks can't be forgotten. Workflows are automated to keep projects moving through to completion. Audit trails provide a traceable record of every action performed, reducing confusion.

Challenge 3: Visibility

There are many moving parts in project delivery from tracking jobs and costs to maintaining project data. Managing the sheer number of documents and tasks can be time-consuming and overwhelming.

Collaboration software takes care of the administrative duties so you can focus on what matters—providing better service to your clients and keeping costs low.

Some solutions offer dashboards so project managers can see details at a glance including a project's contract, budget, commitments, and costs. These graphical tools also allow the project manager to access supporting data and documents from the dashboard.

Challenge 4: Keep projects on time and on budget

Today contractors are facing higher expectations than ever before. There are increasing green considerations and demand for energy efficiency, rising labor and material costs, and many other issues that require a new approach to project management. To be successful, contractors must adopt a more flexible, collaborative system that allows everyone on a project to access documents and transactions from the office or jobsite.

All too often, design reviews drag on without being resolved. This ripples through the entire process causing missed deadlines, failed inspections, and worse—litigation. Contractors are on the hook to track down where things went wrong.

Project collaboration software can help you put an end to the paper chase so you can focus on project results. Plus you can:

- Maintain control over document issuance and responsibilities.
- Standardize documentation formats.
- Electronically route project documents for approval and track status.
- Integrate with accounting and other project management systems to eliminate double entry.



Find, view, and track project files anytime, anywhere

Keep everyone informed with access to the latest information including:

- Drawings and specifications
- Daily logs
- Punch lists
- RFI's
- Submittals



Getting timely approval is one of the keys to keeping a project on schedule. Using cloud-based collaboration tools, you can electronically route documents for approval and track their status anytime, anywhere.

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Summary

Cloud-based solutions are helping to improve collaboration and bridge the communication gap for all project team members. With secure online access to a centralized hub, owners, architects, engineers, subcontractors, and more can get access to up-to-date project details to keep projects moving on time and on budget.

About Accordant

At Accordant, we know software! We also know the industries we serve—inside and out. But that’s just the start. Our job is to understand your business and help pave the way to your success.

From choosing the right solution to process refinement through implementation, we help your company create harmony between your people, your technology and your business. With these critical components working in tandem, you will see immediate improvements in your business and how you work with your customers.

Using industry-leading best practices developed over thousands of implementations, our discovery process is the most intense of its kind. No competitor even comes close. We dig deep to fully understand your business—before we even begin to implement a solution. As we learn who you are, what you do, how you do it, we can deliver what you need. No more, no less. And we make it easy on you and your team from start to finish.

Our clients will tell you: We provide the local support you need to help your company clarify your business processes, increase your efficiency and more effectively manage key aspects of your operation.

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