

PODS is the powerful new project information manager. It is designed to support contemporary software and systems development and support activities with their short cycle times, dynamic requirements and new technologies. PODS provides exceptional levels of visibility, support to the primary management and technical functions - and significantly reduces administrative costs.

V I S I B I L I T Y

Visibility is critical for senior managers. PODS provides instant access to unambiguous graphic status indicators backed by rapid drill down to the detail to provide a consistent real time view of all project work. PODS helps you identify stress points and bottlenecks and eliminates unpleasant surprises.

C O N T R O L

Professional development and support depends on effective technical and management control. PODS makes these controls the key to quality and refocuses management from activity to delivery and the achievement of business goals.

V A L U E

Improved visibility leads to informed decision making. Effective control makes effective decisions. Effective decisions direct resource where it is needed and frees resource where it is not. PODS tunes your development and support activities to your business needs.

K N O W L E D G E

PODS builds into an invaluable knowledge base of your models, templates, exemplars and lessons learned - essential for the learning organization.

PODS

Real time management and visibility of:

- ✍ **Planned and Actual Project Schedule**
- ✍ **Reported Progress**
- ✍ **Suppliers and Sub-projects**
- ✍ **Milestones - Status and Changes**
- ✍ **Earned Value**
- ✍ **Reviews and Quality**
- ✍ **Risk Management activity**
- ✍ **Change Management activity**
- ✍ **Documents and their status**
- ✍ **Actions & Issues**
- ✍ **Defect Tracking**
- ✍ **Resources and Assignments**
- ✍ **Test Logging**
- ✍ **Quality Assurance**
- ✍ **Performance Improvement**

...using PODS' or your own processes and procedures

"The gap between the best software engineering practice and the average practice is very wide - perhaps wider than any other engineering discipline. A tool that disseminates best practice would be important"

- Fred Brooks

P O D S C A P A B I L I T Y

PODS is designed around the fundamental processes for professional management and technical control. These processes, engineered for ease of use and wide applicability, provide the drivers for controlled, goal oriented development and support. The fundamental processes are backed by additional features to make life easier for team leaders and team members. Ready access to information, clear accountability and reduced administrative overheads make PODS the cost effective solution to improved project control. PODS features include:

Project Schedule Status	PODS Project Schedule Indicator (PSI) clearly distinguishes progress from activity and unambiguously shows planned, actual and anticipated progress.
Milestone Management	Plan, schedule and publish major management reviews for teams to present status and progress information.
Technical Reviews	PODS provides the key interface between technical activity and management controls to make quality the driver for projects and the cornerstone for progress reporting.
Practical Change Control	In contemporary development and support environments rapid change is a fact of life. Effective management of changes to project scope, requirements and schedules protects development work and product integrity.
Risk Management	This critical project management skill is made easy with straightforward risk recording, assessment and analysis. The PODS register consolidates risks, calculates and displays priorities and displays the status of mitigation and management activity.
Dependency Management	PODS unique dependency management enable the status of suppliers and sub projects to be assessed with no loss of information right to the end of the supply chain removing reliance on frustrating 'reports of reports'
Defect Tracking	Ensures no problems are overlooked, instantly shows progress in resolution and shows how much effort is being directed to rework
Action and Issue Management	Easy to use action tracking allocates actions shows their status to closure and keeps control of allocated resources.
Resource Management	Provides an organizational skills inventory, project resource requests and individual commitments and assignments.
Document Library	Securely stores, controls and makes available important documents. Consistent structure and status indicators make navigation through project and organizational information assets easier
Progress Reporting	Simple and Effective - PODS' unique indicators summarize and report key points and issues immediately

P O D S C H A R A C T E R I S T I C S

G R A P H I C A L

PODS uses an intuitive graphical approach to summarize and present management and technical information. Carefully designed displays allow you to read situations at a glance and to drill down to detailed information if necessary. PODS graphical language coupled to key process information makes it possible to identify project hot spots and bottlenecks and to anticipate potential problems early by identifying common patterns or trends.

I M M E D I A T E

PODS captures project activity and translates this activity into summary and status reports for use by everyone. Everyone has real time access to summary and detailed information describing what is *actually* happening *now*. By providing accurate information in real time PODS frees up team members from unproductive status reviews and frees up team leaders and project managers from the chore of “progress reporting” to concentrate on what they do best - deliver results.

P R O C E S S D R I V E N

PODS is build upon a foundation of management and technical processes. These processes used by world class development organizations provide the tools to manage and communicate about projects. Coupled with PODS graphical interface PODS provides your organization with a vocabulary for everyone from team members to senior managers and customers to communicate concisely and accurately about the objectives to be achieved, work being performed and progress to date.

T A I L O R A B L E

Designed to fit your organization, tailoring PODS to meet your unique needs and ways of working is simple and rapid. Ease of use means no prolonged or expensive training. Recognition of your existing best practice minimizes the disruption that often accompanies new tool introductions or process improvement initiatives.

S C A L E A B L E

PODS is designed to be used by all sizes of projects and organization. Rapid tailoring and ease of use and minimal administrative overheads means that PODS instantly provides an effective infrastructure for small one or two man teams working for a few weeks and scales up to provide industrial strength software production capabilities for major organization infrastructure programmes and supply chains with hundreds of staff and duration measured in years

U S I N G P O D S

The essence of PODS is communication through visibility. By presenting information essentials as a graphical hierarchy PODS meets the needs of all involved in complex technical projects for the right information at the right time.

Senior Managers

Senior Managers commission projects to meet ever changing business needs. They need to continually reassess project need and performance. PODS provides a consistent, accurate and accountable view of project need and performance giving senior managers the ability to genuinely manage time, cost and quality, predict project outcomes and to deploy and re-deploy resources across projects to best meet business need.

Team Leaders

The primary objective of project managers and team leaders is to achieve current project objectives. Effective day to day visibility and management of project activities, management of resources and risks and ensuring the effectiveness of team members are ensured *and shown to be ensured* with PODS. PODS provides project managers and team leaders - whatever their experience - with the fundamental tools that enables their teams to deliver.

Team Members

Teams with clear objectives and equipped to do the job are motivated to deliver. PODS gives team members a clear view of their objectives and equips them to perform effectively. PODS ability to provide visibility and ability to manage the details of the fundamental technical processes leaves team members to do what they do best - satisfy business need by creating and delivering high quality products.

One tool for everyone - PODS gives you automatic recording and reporting, real time update of key activities, simple navigation, and the consistent and easy to interpret display of summary information

P O D S O R I G I N S

PODS has been developed after many years of close observation of software and systems projects in diverse environments with wide ranging technologies and organizations of varying size and capability.

Despite the diversity there are common problems and common solutions. World class organizations have found and understood ways of working that the others have not.

The issue is rarely people. Projects are usually staffed with smart motivated individuals committed to delivering good quality solutions. Their managers also want success. Technologies are not an issue either. People can make the best of the technologies they have access to.

Where there are problems they are usually easy to recognize - they are usually founded on poor communication. Senior managers do not know what their projects are doing. Team members do not know what is required of them and team leaders are caught in the middle.

When senior managers can see what is going on, when team members can know, at any time, what is completed and what is needed next, and team leaders are equipped to exercise control based on good information professional performance is assured.

World class organizations have learned this and have taken pains to put in place good controls and make these visible. This ensures good communications where good means consistent, timely, accurate and sufficient.

PODS has evolved to make this a reality by:

1. identifying the fundamental management and technical processes
2. making these processes simple, consistent and easy to use
3. making the use of these processes visible.

from top to bottom for all your projects.

With PODS enabling good communications everyone can concentrate on what they do best - no more acting on inadequate information or searching for unobtainable information.

If you need to provide a cost effective solution to :

- ✍ give senior management increased visibility and confidence of technical activities
- ✍ improve the effectiveness of these activities by improving your existing best practices
- ✍ introduce industry standard best practice to your organization
- ✍ support the increased professionalism of your team leaders and team members
- ✍ gain visibility of suppliers and sub-projects

and you need it NOW - you need PODS

For more information about PODS and the PODS protocol, to arrange a demonstration or evaluation, for product licensing and design licensing details contact us at:

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