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Clarity PPM with Microsoft Project Training, Coaching and Mentoring Program

MSP WITH CLARITY PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Using a scheduling tool such as Microsoft Project (MSP) in an enterprise environment is significantly more complex than in a stand-alone environment. Few project managers are equipped with the knowledge and experience to properly use Microsoft Project where it is integrated with an enterprise class tool such as Clarity. This knowledge gap can be mitigated with proper expert training and mentoring of the project managers in the building and maintaining of project plans. DC Education has developed a training approach encompassed in the training guide: Controlling Projects and Maintaining Project Plans with Microsoft Project.

The Microsoft Project with Clarity mentor/coaching Program that we use is built on a foundation that comprises both PMBOK and the structure inherent in the functional areas of Clarity and Microsoft Project. The PMBOK knowledge areas provide a framework within which Project Managers and other project stakeholders learn, understand and apply Clarity with MSP, and conversely MSP with Clarity. Project Managers learn to use the functional areas of Clarity with MSP to initiate projects, and then to control and maintain project plans. Project stakeholders (business area partners, project executives, project-support activities, and others) learn to use the decision-support capabilities of Clarity to communicate, and orchestrate and allocate resources to projects.



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We have developed a three-phase MSP with Clarity project manager mentoring process: Planning, Executing and Controlling.

Planning – Covering creating and communicating the Project Schedule to Stakeholders, Project Administration and Executives, and the evolving Project Team.

Executing and Controlling - Covering integrating people and other resources to carry out the plan for completion of the project and regularly measure and monitor progress to identify variances from the project management plan so that corrective action can be taken when necessary to meet project objects.

PROGRAM VALUE PROPOSITION

For the CA Technologies Clarity PPM customer who has invested but has yet to fully realize the power of this Project Portfolio Management and Enterprise Project Management application, the Microsoft Project with Clarity Mentor/Coaching Program is the training and knowledge transfer solution that ensures Program and Project Managers are doing the right things and doing those things right. Unlike training course-only knowledge transfer solutions, the MSP with Clarity Mentor/Coaching Program combines classroom training lead by experienced professional project managers followed by a series of one-on-one mentor/coaching sessions



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facilitated by experienced mentor coaches in which PM principles along with MSP with Clarity techniques and tips are applied to real-world projects.

Clarity is a project manager centric Project Portfolio Management and Enterprise Project Management application. The investment in Clarity is significant and the enterprise expectations for benefits from the application are high. Most of the base information that will be contained in Clarity will be driven by the project managers and the quality of that information will then determine the quality and usefulness of new system – i.e Portfolios are comprised of Projects and Project are comprised of individual tasks, and Tasks are comprised of task assignments and estimates over a planned schedule. If the quality of the detailed project information is high, then this supports high quality Portfolio and Resource information as well as high quality project costing and project budgeting.

Just as there needs to be Clarity training for the organization, Project Managers need to be trained in the efficient and effective use of MSP with Clarity. While the project managers will be trained in the use of the Clarity UI (e.g. Project Management module, Resource Management module, Collaboration, etc), a significant amount of their planning time will be within MSP. Project Managers initiate their projects in the Clarity UI and then further develop the project in MSP, make the changes, and then save the project to the Clarity project database. There is a continue interaction



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between the MSP and Clarity, and the nuances of this integration need to be understood by each Project Manager.

Project Managers need to be experienced with the use of Microsoft Project as a stand-alone project management application, but few are knowledgeable and experienced with MSP when it is used in conjunction with Clarity. There are many differences when connected with Clarity:

- For Microsoft Project to integrate with Clarity, an MSP Schedule Connect component is required
- MSP needs to be configured in the Tools > Option menu to Clarity Requirements
- The effects of the MSP Task Type settings (Fixed Units, Fixed Work, or Fixed Duration) need to be thoroughly understood to assess the impact of choosing each task type on the MSP schedule.
- Complete understanding of the MSP Work Contour settings as they are mapped to the Clarity Loading Patterns their impact on the MSP schedule.
- Knowledge of the impact of MSP Assignment Units on task scheduling

DC Education's Microsoft Project with Clarity PPM Training, Mentor, and Coaching Program makes knowledge transfer compelling, comfortable, and



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competent. Experienced Project Manager mentor/coaches share anecdotes, strategies, tips, and tools that demystify the integration of Microsoft Project with Clarity PPM and provide resources for taking the learning professional to a deeper level of understanding. Every manager who develops talent and facilitates excellence will find this program highly effective.

PROGRAM AVAILABILITY

The Microsoft Project with Clarity PPM Program is available in two offerings:

DC Education Professional Staffing: DC Education trains and certifies project managers you wish to staff on your projects – Project Managers staffed through DC Education will walk in the door knowledgeable in both Clarity PPM and in MSP with Clarity PPM.

DC Education Clarity PPM Practice: DC Education will provide through an SOW an expert to provide full-time training and mentoring to your existing staff of project managers in the MSP with Clarity technique. This training and mentoring is accomplished in five week modules, each module including up to 15 project managers.