Chapter 5
Project Management and Diagramming Software

Rizaldy Rapsing
King Faisal University, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

ABSTRACT

There are numerous methods in managing project activities. Apart from it all, people involved in the project must carefully consider the project's objectives, timeline, cost, and roles of the participants. The complexity of the project challenges them in estimating, planning, scheduling, budget monitoring, resource management, and documentation. Many use word processors, presentations, or graphic software for some of these activities, but project management and diagramming software are offered now, supporting almost all of these tasks. This chapter aims to make readers aware of the different software that they can use in project management and diagramming. It lists the currently available commercial software, shareware, and freeware; and reviews four project management and two diagramming software.

INTRODUCTION

In reviewing the project management software, a simple project with 3 resources and 3 tasks has been applied to each tool. Later, the other features are briefly mentioned.

The 4 project management software or tools are:

1. 5pm by Quattre Group LLC,
2. Dolibarr by Dolibarrr Team,
3. Endeavour Software Project Management by Ezequiel Cuellar, and
4. GanttProject by The GanttProject Team.

In reviewing the diagramming software, the frequently used diagrams in software engineering are designed in both tools. Some of their features are also discussed.

The 2 diagramming software or tools are:

1. Dia by Dia Developers, and
2. yEd by yWorks GmbH.

DOI: 10.4018/978-1-4666-3679-8.ch005

This chapter intends for students and industry practitioners to be able to experience project management and realize the easy control and effectiveness of using any of these tools.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

Listed in Table 1 are some of the project management software available. They are obtainable as SaaS (software as a service), GPL (General Public License), proprietary, or open source.

To show the simplicity in using the 4 project management software selected, the succeeding sections demonstrate how to start a project using each of those 4 based on the beginning details of the sample project below:

- **Name of Project:** Library
- **Project Duration:** March 27, 2012 – September 26, 2012
- Resources
  - Admin - System Administrator
  - James - Project Leader
  - John - Business Analyst
- **Initial Tasks:** See Table 2

5pm

Website: http://www.5pmweb.com/

Managing projects online comes easy with 5pm, a collaborative software offered as Software as a Service (SaaS). The look and feel of a windows file explorer is noticeable in its 2 major panels. The left panel contains the projects and tasks while the other contains relevant information (see Figure 1 with Label No. 1).

Looking at Label 1 of Figure 1, all projects and their tasks are shown in the left panel while the activities for the currently selected task/project are shown in the right panel. This is convenient since all information about a project or a task can be seen in one page only. As you select a project or a task, its corresponding activities and other information are shown in the right panel. Same thing happens with a file explorer that contains drives and directories in the left and its contents on the right. Moreover, the layout can be customized and tasks can be collapsed.

See the Add drop down button on the upper left? Clicking it allows you to add a project, a task or multiple tasks.

Figure 1 with Label 2 shows the screen to add a project. Resources included in the project are assigned in Project Team and Clients. One important thing to note is the Notify by email field which identifies who should regularly receive mails about the project.

Figure 1 with Label 3 shows an example of adding a task. The Task Team contains the resources assigned to that task. There's still an option for Notify by email and the predecessor through Parent Task.

In Labels 1 and 4, visible on the side are 4 tabs for Projects, Timeline, Reports, and People. This part concentrated largely on Projects but the other 3 are of utmost importance too. Timeline, for instance (see Label 4) shows a Gantt chart that can be filtered by groups, projects, users, and duration. It's an interactive timeline that lets users modify a task by simply dragging or resizing its figure.

The Reports tab lets user generate report by group or project with specified duration. This reports can be directed to the printer or exported to CSV.

Remember the 3 resources: Admin, James and John? They were easily added through the People tab.

Other advanced features of 5pm includes:

- **Time tracking:** Allows you to set and compare the estimated time with the actual time spent in a task;
- **Sharing notes and files:** Enables users to see the logs/notes made by anyone and the files availed for partaking; and