

# PROJECT & PRODUCT PLANNING



## Deploying Applications with a Flexible IT Platform

### A Boardwalktech Case Study

## PROBLEM STATEMENT

Manufacturers face significant constraints when trying to meet internal application demands. Precious IT resources are thin and yet business users need applications to run the business. While IT wants to minimize applications in the company, business users need to get their job done, so they build processes in spreadsheets.

In the past, fixing this application gap meant extending an existing ERP solution, getting a new point solution, or building a custom application. All of these options are painful:

## CHALLENGES

- ✓ Core transactional systems are not easily modified to address new applications—customizations are long, expensive, and difficult to change
- ✓ Deploying “a module we already own” is also a problem for the same reasons just given
- ✓ A new point solution means users have to learn yet another way to work with an application because it, too, will have to be customized for your requirements

A multi-billion-dollar electronics manufacturer needed to scale existing spreadsheet-based applications for resource staffing, project management, and product road mapping. It was looking for a new way to meet application demands from the business

## THE SOLUTION

The Boardwalk Digital Ledger (Boardwalk) provided an environment for this customer's IT group to rapidly deploy applications that match the business requirements exactly. Using our Digital Ledger, this customer was able to deploy an engineering staffing application and product road mapping application— both key applications to support decisions about how precious resources are used today and in the future

Since deploying Boardwalk, this customer has seen significant business benefits:

- ✓ Engineering managers are able to work offline in a powerful "what-if" environment to make adjustments to their resource allocation plans.
- ✓ Management is able to see on-demand the utilization of resources across all active projects and associated deliverables ensuring milestones are proactively managed
- ✓ New product planning is handled within the same application environment (a spreadsheet) making adoption and reach easier.
- ✓ In-house resources were able to independently develop a "next-generation" version of staffing in a short period of time using Boardwalk

By working closely with Boardwalktech, this customer has a powerful application database platform that utilizes existing IT assets, spreadsheets, and SQL Server, and can be leveraged to solve additional business application needs as they arise.

## BENEFITS

- ✓ Internal IT resources are able to rapidly configure and deploy new collaborative applications for business users
- ✓ Existing IT assets, spreadsheets and SQL Server, are more fully utilized to support the needs of the business
- ✓ Business users are able to quickly learn and use new applications since they originate from existing spreadsheet-based applications
- ✓ Cell-level data versioning means users at all levels gain better insight into the who, what, and why of changes over time
- ✓ User productivity and process visibility increases since cutting & pasting and email are eliminated
- ✓ A single, flexible database platform can now be used for multiple applications
- ✓ Application data can be automatically shared at the cell level between multiple data environments eliminating manual process errors