

RedWidow PMS: Project Management Solution

Product Description

Project management, a cornerstone in completing a project successfully, on time and in proximity to budget, is vastly important. For open source projects the focus on cost is rarely a factor -- it's a free product after all -- but the time and quality constraints are sometimes very important. A useful project management tool that can be used across the internet without anymore "special" software than a browser is therefore useful to many people. In my research I have found several projects claiming online project management capabilities. I have yet to be able to install one successfully. Features vary a bit; few offer Gantt charts, fewer still support importation of data from competing products such as Microsoft Project and TaskJuggler.

The intention of this project is to create a better project management tool for the open source user and developer communities at large that will include as much built-in interchangeability as reasonably feasible with other competing products. A rich pluggable interface to most, if not all, major components will allow fellow developers to customize, extend and merge this tool into their existing workflows and environments with greater ease. The end product will likely lean a bit more toward software development than general product development, but there should be no reason it can't do product development as the software side will be some additions beyond the standard layout for a product.

Goals

- Multiple competing project management file formats for both import and export of data. Specifically, Microsoft Project formats (mpx, mpp, mpsdi, mpd and xml;) various XML formats specific to project management such as Open Project Management Exchange Format, Project Management Specification DTD, ProjectXChange XML, Opensched, PyGantt, Project Management XML Schema (PMXML,)

aecXML; dotProject; and TaskJuggler. There could easily be more to support, but this seems like a nice baseline.

- Simultaneous projects in a single installation.
- Simple installation; as much automated as possible.
- Excellent documentation, both for developers and users, written in simple sentences, lots of whitespace, and so forth. Hopefully this will be available in multiple languages upon major release.
- Multiple users with varying scope views and rights to data, application control and the like.
- Unobtrusive upgrade to real-time editing and edit-in-place when supported via Javascript/ECMAScript.
- Action logging. Pluggable; the power of undo, on an application level scale. This feature should be scalable so the administrator can reduce server bandwidth consumption without adversely affecting the application itself.
- Gantt and PERT charting. Pluggable.
- Automatic cost and time adjustment. Pluggable.
- Ability to generate PDF and static XHTML views from anywhere. Pluggable.
- Scheduling automatic report generation. Pluggable.
- Automatically book mark all reports, allow user tagging. Pluggable and tunable.
- Scheduling email reminders. Pluggable to add other services to remind people on.
- Built-in restriction ability based on user, role or any combination thereof. This could be based on times
- Project Definition Document creation and filling helpers.
- Multilanguage support. Not only in software messages, but allowance of multiple languages to be spoken in user entered data. Allowance for multiple language versions of user entered data.
- Skinning ability which is user, role or globally alterable based on rights.
- Simple integration of a forum through a plug-in system.
- Pluggable importation for everything reasonable.
- Pluggable exportation for everything reasonable.
- Live RSS and iCal outputs.
- Human resource listing pages have vCard export.