

real-time view of your projects and the availability of specific resources for the coming week or month. Imagine having the ability to shift resource allocations and seeing the impact to an employee's future utilization and project estimate at completion budgets change on the fly. Software tools support this powerful functionality.

Better visibility into future resource demand and capacity goes beyond just making project and staffing decisions. It can bring more confidence to your hiring decisions. It is much easier to take on the risk of more staff if you have clear, reliable information supporting your increased demand, and have the ability to run multiple scenarios based on anticipated future work.

Choosing the right solutions

Ideally the software you choose

should be an integrated solution with your firm's enterprise software that would cover how you enter time and expense, employee skill sets, employee billing rates, and other variables, all in one real-time display.

Some software solutions for project-focused firms can offer stability, scalability, and compatibility with outside applications and third-party tools. Previously, complex coding was needed for new system installation and additional software or ActiveX controls, plug-ins, and applets were required for systems to function properly. However, when no software is required for end-user workstations, access is simple and upgrades are easily installed.

Some systems are easily configured to meet the unique requirements of project-based organizations. Firms with

regional offices operating in different time zones seek web-based accessibility to financial and project data from anywhere in the world as a key component to staying updated. This can all be supported.

If your current resource management processes do not include a web-based software solution integrated with your business management system, consider deleting your Excel files, relegating your whiteboards for motivational messages, and not sorting your resources in your head. Instead, focus your attention on what resource management software could offer your bottom line. ■

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we are constantly looking for ways to improve and accelerate the expertise that supports our design projects.

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