

PROJECT MANAGEMENT OPTION Product Preview

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The planned Project Management suite of applications for the MediaPulse platform is being developed to assist media operations in controlling the multitude of tasks involved in media production, postproduction, and distribution.

Process Management

A variety of processes may be required to complete standard projects, such as, live event planning, television and feature production, special effects production, computer graphics production, DVD authoring and manufacturing, and other related functions. Certain processes may need to be performed sequentially, with one step dependant on the completion of another, while other processes can be performed concurrently.

The Project Management applications will account for these varying types of processes. The proposed solution will be able to identify and manage critical path information, activities, and dates; be flexible enough to allow both high-level and detailed presentation of information; and be easy to use.

Three hierarchical levels of project control will be available: project, activity, and task.

Projects

The broadest level of control will be project. Each project will automatically be assigned a unique number. You can further define the project by type of project; timeframes; specific customer; related bids and jobs; and any media assets needed to complete the project. As the project progresses, a Status field will record the current stage of completion. Additionally, bids will be able to be created directly from projects and vice versa.

You will be able to search for existing projects according to a wide variety of criteria. This will allow you to quickly retrieve and review necessary details related to each project along with any required media assets and job and work order records associated with the project.

Activities and Tasks

For each project, you will be able to assign one or more activities, which define the deliverables to be provided, a collection of effort, or a milestone. Activities will be able to be associated with other activities to establish dependencies, promoting the completion of one activity before beginning the next. If a job has been assigned to a project, activities can then be linked to work orders tied to that job.

The screenshot shows a software window titled "Project Maintenance: +1:". It has a menu bar with "Summary", "Activities", "Jobs", "Media Assets", and "Notes". Below the menu is a "Project Activity Template" section with a text input field and a "Load" button. The main area is a table titled "Activities and Tasks" with columns: ID, Description, Type, Begin Date, End Date, Status, and Est. Effort. Below the table is a "Details" section with several input fields: Asset No., Title No., Episode, Type, Format, Standard, Barcode, Asset Location, and Asset Status. At the bottom are "Save & Close", "Cancel", and "Actions" buttons.

Proposed Project Maintenance Application

The final and most detailed level of project control will be the task, which relates to the specific services to be performed. One or more tasks can be linked to each activity. Tasks can be associated with and create records throughout the system based on a variety of factors, such as, start and due date of the task or task status. A task can be linked to the resources required to complete it, schedule bookings can be automatically created for those resources, and a work order can be created and revised from a task.

The system can also send notifications (alerts, e-mails) when tasks change, such as, if a task's status is updated or the due date is moved.

Templates

For common or repetitive projects, templates may be established. A project template may be set up with all the data attributes needed to define an overall project record, including any activities and associated tasks.

Project templates will be able to be created from existing projects or constructed manually.

MediaPulse

The powerful architecture of MediaPulse provides extraordinary performance and flexibility and the Project Management suite will benefit from this robust platform. The exclusive Layout Editor application can be used to completely customize every screen throughout the system, allowing you to easily tailor them to suit your needs. MediaPulse's advanced API-based architecture allows for easy integration with other platforms including PDAs and external systems. A multifaceted reporting tool allows for the creation of new reports or the modification of existing reports on the fly, eliminating the inconvenience of needing to use external reporting software. The system is completely internationalized including error messages and prompts.

Fully Integrated

The Project Management application suite will be fully integrated with the existing MediaPulse processes of bidding, workflow, resource planning, and media asset management. This will eliminate redundant data entry and duplicated steps, facilitating a seamless, end-to-end project and related business workflow management solution.

Availability

The Project Management option is currently projected to be available in the second phase release of MediaPulse, which is scheduled for the second quarter of 2009. (Release dates and availability are subject to change.)

Note: The features and capabilities described in this document are preliminary and do not constitute a guarantee with regard to what features or capabilities will be available in the released software product. All specifications are subject to change at Xytech Systems' sole discretion.

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