Tools Track Sessions

Coordinator: Rachael Schmidt

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**TT-01 Empower New Features, Tricks and Tips**

Empower is a program performance management tool that integrates cost, schedule, data quality checks, data-driven audit support, and narrative analysis workflow into a single, integrated, browser-based analytical tool. This session will provide a quick overview of Empower, and then a deep dive into two powerful new features that significantly reduce the cycle time and resources required to: 1) support data driven audits and anticipate the audit focus; and 2) generate, collect, and approve the narrative analysis associated with the IPMR Format 5.
DCMA has been working toward a data-driven audit environment for several years. With the release of Empower 3.3 at IPMW 2015, Encore was first-to-market with a commercial solution supporting the attributes and tests then contained in the EVAS. Since that time, not only has the DCMA EVAS continued to evolve, but the data-driven audit initiative has expanded to other government organizations that will soon introduce similar but not identical attribute and test criteria. To support this dynamic environment, Empower 3.4 not only allows the creation of custom test sheets that can be tailored to support the demands of distinct government customers, it also allows those test sheets to change dynamically over time. (For example, metrics that are initially entered and tracked manually can be replaced with automated test metrics as more data becomes available; Empower will apply and display the appropriate metric in each period.) Encore Analytics is committed to providing and maintaining standard test sheets compatible with major government procuring agencies; however, Empower 3.4 provides complete flexibility both to customize the standard test sheets and to develop unique test sheets as required.

The generation, collection, and approval of narrative analysis reports can be one of the most time-consuming, challenging, and stressful tasks associated with meeting performance management deliverables. Easing the burden on technical managers and reducing the cycle time for narrative analysis submissions is a key goal of virtually every organization we touch. In Empower 3.4, narrative input workflow is now directly integrated into the Empower editor for in-place submission, review, and approval or rejection of the narrative. The workflow engine is fully integrated with an email notification system that can be launched manually as required, or be configured to run automatically to match your organization’s business rhythm. Narrative status information can be seamlessly integrated into existing views, providing an integrated environment for a PM / CAM to not only understand the root cause of a variance, but also to effortlessly determine the state of a VAR input (i.e., who has not submitted a VAR, who needs to rewrite a VAR (and why), and which VARs need to be reviewed for approval).

Empower 3.4 includes a number of other significant enhancements, including the ability to create custom views and filters for the schedule Gantt control, a new EOC report, new BCWS and ETC volatility reports, the ability to export reports in a tailored HTML format that can be easily and flawlessly imported Microsoft Excel and Word, and many more.

Gary W. Troop - President Encore Analytics, LLC

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Mr. Troop is the President and CEO of Encore Analytics, a software company that provides browser-based analytical tools for the proactive management of complex projects. He has over thirty years of program management experience in projects of all sizes. He has extensive knowledge in the application of earned value.
management systems (EVMS) from a federal government, construction management, software development, and aerospace & defense contractor perspective. Mr. Troop started his professional career with the United States Air Force in the NAVSTAR GPS Program Office where he helped validate supplier management systems and analyze the resultant performance management data. After leaving the Air Force, Mr. Troop managed a number of software projects and eventually co-founded C/S Solutions in 1994. Under Mr. Troop’s direction, C/S Solutions created the wInsight and Risk+ analytical software tools. Deltek acquired C/S Solutions, Inc. in 2006. In 2011, Mr. Troop co-founded Encore Analytics to bring a new generation of software tools to the project management market space.

Mr. Troop is a graduate of Florida State University (Accounting). In his spare time, he enjoys flying, is an instrument-rated private pilot, and a volunteer pilot with both Mercy Flight and the Veteran’s Airlift Command.

**TT-02 Managing with Integrated Cost and Schedule Date Using Steelray Javelin**

With the wealth of data and project information we have it can be a nightmare to understand exactly where the issues are. So much time is spent digging through mounds of data, looking for discrepancies and inconsistencies. Steelray Javelin takes the pain out of reconciling cost and schedule integration issues, while allowing you to drill-down into program problem areas quickly and easily. If you’re preparing for a joint surveillance know what questions to ask and be prepared to explain project data.

Steelray Javelin focuses on management by exception, presenting to you areas that deviate from normal business practices, while contributing to successful project management.

**Summary**

Steelray Javelin focuses on management by exception, presenting to you areas that deviate from normal business practices, while contributing to successful project management.

**Jason Kinder, Director of Marketing, Steelray Software**

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Jason Kinder is responsible for Business Management and Marketing at Steelray Software. He is known as a thought leader in the EVMS and Program Management marketplace. Jason has over 15 years’ experience in program management specializing in earned value management. He’s spent many of his years at Raytheon working his way up from program controls where he was a billable consultant on various defense projects to leading new program start ups where he was responsible
for mentoring program teams to facilitate successful program planning and execution. Jason has briefed executives and customers all around the world about the status of programs and the value of earned value management and planning and scheduling.

Jason holds a BA from SFA State University in Texas and is a member of NDIA.

**TT-03 Comprehensive IPM Support with EcoSys EPC**

EcoSys is the global standard for enterprise Project Controls software. Our easy-to-use web-based platform, EcoSys EPC, helps organizations worldwide select, plan and manage project portfolios and improve project performance. Integrated Program Management means bringing together project information and stakeholders to deliver on time and on budget. In this session you will learn how EcoSys EPC can enable you to deliver program management that is truly integrated.

**Keith Anderson, PMP, Director, Industry Solutions, kanderson@ecosys.net**

Keith serves as Director of Industry Solutions for EcoSys, a leader in enterprise project controls software. He has responsibility for business development, specifically focused on the Government Contracting industry, as well as working with project managers, consultants and clients to successfully deliver enterprise project management and project cost controls implementations for customers worldwide.

Keith brings with him over 15 years of experience in leading complex implementations, including Integrated Program Management (IPM) and Earned Value Management (EVM) implementations. He’s worked with clients across industries from Government Contractors to EPC firms and Oil & Gas organizations.

Keith has a proven track record of project oversight, P&L management, managing multi-functional global teams in software implementations, COTS product design & development, and custom software development. Prior to his current role, Keith worked for companies including Deltek, Faithful & Gould, and PrimePM.

**Calvin Nelson, EcoSys Solutions Architect, cnelson@ecosys.net**

**TT-04 Deltek PM Compass - The Project Management Easy Button**

The average project today involves countless complex processes, all aimed at improving project success rates and most of which require long hours (or days!) spent manually chasing down, updating and tracking information.

Wouldn’t you like an easy button? The practice of project management doesn’t have to include complex, manual processes in order to be successful. In fact, many of our
customers are seeing incredible time-savings and success rates by implementing what they’re calling “The Easy Button”.

In this session you will see a demonstration of how you can hit the easy button on your processes while at the same time improving the accuracy and reliability of your forecasts. You will see first-hand how Deltek’s PM Compass will help your project team reduce manual processes and ensuring process adherence, decrease process cycle time and improve business rhythm, improve the quality of project information, and maintaining data integrity!!

Jimmy Malik, Deltek, mohammadmalik@deltek.com

**TT-05 CSDR: The Forgotten, Complicated CDRL**

**C*CERT+: The Solution to Your Problem**

**Brief Session Summary:**

Session focuses on a streamlined solution for overcoming the time-consuming, resource-draining complexities involved in preparing the DCARC CSDR 1921, 1921-1, 1921-2 and 1921-5 reports, which more often than not are unfamiliar, overlooked and forgotten about until the day they are due; and they are being requested at a greater frequency than ever before. That solution is C*CERT+, which produces these fully validated, DiD compliant Excel and XML reports at the push of the button.

**Expanded Session Description:**

You have a problem. Your Contracts officer informed you that your CSDR CDRL submittal is due at month-end. To which you replied: “What is a CSDR?” That’s not all: You are required to submit three CSDR reports; the 1921, 1921-1 and 1921-2. To add to your impending panic attack, each report must represent the consolidation of six contracts from two different EVM systems, and the CSDR DD2794 WBS reporting structure is totally different. Your initial panic goes from bad to worse: DCARC is also requiring that you submit eight different “variants” of your end item deliverable--all of which must be embedded within the same CSDR report. You do the math: The DD2794 is requiring 40 reportable WBS elements, times eight variants; that's 320 worksheets alone in both the 1921-1 and 1921-2 Excel reports! You reach out to your counter-part on another program with a background on these reports, and she informs you it took three Analysts working overtime over a three month period to manually prepare these reports; which, she added, were rejected multiple times by DCARC due to numerical and structural inconsistencies due to human error. Where do you turn to now? The clock is ticking….

Fortunately, there is a solution: C*CERT+.

**Expected Key Takeaways for Participants:**
Attendees will gain a better understanding of the requirements and complexities involved in producing CSDR reports; and a greater appreciation of how C*CERT+ can produce these fully validated reports in minutes; vs. the alternative of manually producing these reports, which are prone to human error and can take weeks or even months to produce.

Michael Franks  
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Mr. Michael Franks is president and CEO of Midnite Dynamics, Inc., a consulting and software development company catering to government agencies and government contractors. Michael has 30 years of experience within the EVMS, financial planning, estimating and project management disciplines. During his 17 years at Business Engine Corporation (originators of MPM), he spent much of his time in a solution architect role, which gave him invaluable experience in software development and the software development life cycle. Michael has led numerous clients through all aspects of support related to: Earned Value validation processes; Integrated Baseline Reviews; Formal Reprogramming Audits; Proposal Pricing; and formal EVMS training. Michael holds a BA from Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles CA.

**TT-06 Data Driven Metrics with Deltek Acumen and wInsight Analytics**

Deltek is leading the way in helping government contractors collect, consolidate and analyze cost and schedule performance metrics, including those both currently mandated and planned by the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA). The truth is, whether you have a DCMA requirement or not, improving the quality of your project has proven to increase project success rates. Learn in this session how Deltek can help you stay ahead of compliance requirements and obtain consistent project success.

Attendees in the session will understand how the combined power of Acumen and wInsight Analytics will deliver unmatched visibility and control and support the new DCMA data-driven metrics.

**Tom Polen**, Solution Engineer at Deltek has scoped, designed, developed, and implemented scheduling and earned value management systems in the telecommunications, transportation, insurance, and defense industries for 18 years. Tom believes in customization of the tools to match specific organizational processes and needs. Tom’s overall vision is to help the field of project management to focus on analysis, rather than the development of data and information used to support analysis.
TT-07 Enterprise Integrated Program Management (EIPM)

This session is appropriate for individuals interested in leveraging their investment in SAP Enterprise-wide Resource Planning Systems while also supporting user demands for robust, easy to use, cost planning & scheduling systems. Matrix management is clearly the norm within project-centric industries; projects are managed within the enterprise while enterprise-wide management decisions must also consider project impacts. The Dassian Enterprise IPM applications leverage true real-time integration with SAP ERP system to provide the actionable information to manage both project and enterprise-wide decisions. It’s clear that your ERP system provides the integration of key management processes including: resource management, cost/project and financial accounting, procurement, inventory management, production planning, and master scheduling, etc. But now, with the integration of the Dassian Enterprise IPM applications, companies have the opportunity to provide for full real-time integration of these enterprise-wide processes managed thru a scalable, flexible, summarized and integrated comprehensive enterprise-wide program management suite of tools. Imagine the ability to have your program baselines, time-phased estimates to complete, actual costs, resource loads/availability, and purchase order/subcontractor status, all at your fingertips summarized within traditional project controls views with simple drill-down access to the details. Rethink opportunities to manage all projects small and large all within the context of optimizing the broader management of the entire business enterprise.

Participants in this session should expect to gain the following insights:

- How to leverage SAP ERP investment with easy to use and scalable project planning workbenches providing full real-time access to comprehensive relevant project, program and enterprise-wide management information.
- Learn how the Dassian Enterprise IPM applications are technically architected to be part of the SAP relational database and as such provide for single source of truth real-time integration of all ERP and project information.
- See how Dassian Enterprise IPM applications and our “integration” vs. “interface” paradigm applies to the seamless integration of user-centric popular commercial project scheduling tools (Primavera P6 and MS Project) together with the Enterprise Resource planning information managed within the SAP ERP environment.

Kevin Kane, VP Customer Strategy & Solutions

Keith Lee, Solution Architect

TT-09 How to Meet and Exceed a Schedule Assessment from GAO!
Brief Session Summary:
The GAO released its first ‘Schedule Assessment Guide’ in Dec of 2015. The guide has 10 Best Practices with a total of 150 sub-practices for Integrated Master Schedules (IMS). We will present a NEW add-in application for Microsoft Project, called ‘Forecast Scheduling App’, with which you can check if these best practices are met in your IMS. The app also helps you improve your schedule. You will see how to meet and exceed the criteria of a GAO-assessment of your program. There will be plenty of demonstrations.

Expanded Session Description:
The General Accountability Office (GAO) published its first ‘GAO Schedule Assessment Guide’ in Dec 2015. This guide has 10 Best Practices with a total of 150 sub-practices for Integrated Master Schedules (IMS). In this presentation, we will highlight the important and the challenging checks that the guide poses to capital projects. We will present a NEW add-in application for Microsoft Project, called ‘Forecast Scheduling App’, with which you can check if these best practices are met in your program schedule. It performs checks on about 50 of the GAO best practices in an automated fashion and it can capture your observations regarding the remaining 100 checks. It also helps you improve your program schedule.

We will also demonstrate CrosslinksPro with which you can create and monitor many cross-project dependencies between subprojects in your program. Our PathsPro add-ins can find your Program Critical Path across the subprojects in an Integrated Master Schedules (IMS) using Microsoft Project. You will see the new frontier of managing your program with Microsoft Project.

Expected Key Takeaways for Participants:
- High-level awareness of what is in the GAO Schedule Assessment Guide
- Understanding the why of some of the important and challenging GAO-checks
- Exposure to the latest applications that will help your program pass an audit from GAO

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Eric is one of the foremost trainers, consultants and authors on using project and portfolio management practices and software from Microsoft. He authored the books ‘Forecast Scheduling with Microsoft Project 2010/2013’ and “Dynamic Scheduling with Microsoft Project 2000/2002/2003”. He founded ProjectPro that specializes in Microsoft Project and Project Server. Eric has been involved in large programs at the Canadian Forces, IBM Cognos, Northrop Grumman, SanDisk and Investors Group. He was President of the PMI Ottawa Chapter (1997) and also president of the
MPUG-Ottawa chapter. Eric received awards from MPUG in 2012 (Community leader), from Microsoft since 2010 (MVP in Project) and from PMI in 2009 (Significant Contributions to the Scheduling Profession).

**TT-11 Automating EVM workflow for CAMs**

- Ever wonder if there is a better way to manage the cumbersome EVM workflow process?
  How about an EVM tool that makes the CAMs job easier!

This track will present real-world challenges and issues faced by CAMs on large government contracts and how they resolved their financial data management issues using an automated tool. We will provide a live demo of evData Pro, a CAM tool that consolidates many software solutions into one. Topics include:

- CAM workflow demo for VARs, BCRs, WADs, ETC & budget planning, & EAC Justification
- Rate analysis, headcount reporting, and material performance
- Case studies that show the productivity savings

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Patrick Dill has been collaborating with financial analysts and CAMs on large government contracts in the Silicon Valley for over 20 years. Patrick understands the day to day challenges PMs, CAMs, and financial analysts face. Patrick’s extensive experience includes engineering and project management for the defense and aerospace industry. He is a frequent speaker at EVM World, NDIA, and IPM Conferences.