

Industry professionals have accepted the importance of Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) and accounting programs to run the financial side of their businesses. However, when managing capital construction projects on the jobsite, the timeliness of information is paramount to making good decisions.

Unfortunately, due to their almost mechanical, transaction-oriented nature, ERP and accounting systems suffer in providing this timeliness: an inherent lag in time exists between when work is performed, and when meaningful reports can be distributed to project teams. Over the years, individuals have bridged this gap with a myriad of stand-alone tools, mostly Excel spreadsheets, and some version of a scheduling application.

The reason for this is the requirement to understand where work in progress stands, at any point in time, and to objectively assess the project performance, as work is being performed. Project team members make day-to-day decisions



end of each month, “estimated” actuals can be replaced with the actual data from accounting via accessible integration touchpoints.

Project teams are enabled by tools which allow them to perform what-if scenarios, for instance the best case, worst case, and most likely case for the work to be performed. This information, along with the likelihood and severity of each case can be used to generate risk models, as well as to forecast the cost and effort of remaining work.

---

## Project 3D

---

---

---



---

## About the Author

---

Rick Deans is the executive vice president of industry engagement at [InEight](#).

---

## A B O U T A

---

This article is republished from the [InEight Behind the Build online blog](#). [InEight](#) provides field-tested construction project management software for the owners, contractors, engineers, and architects who are building the world around us. Customers worldwide rely on InEight for real-time insights that help manage risk and keep projects on schedule and under budget across the entire life cycle.

Any views and opinions expressed in this article may or may not reflect the views and opinions of the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA). By publishing this piece, CMAA is not expressing endorsement of the individual, the article, or their association, organization, or company.