

# Project Scheduling Case Study



## AdHoc Resource Planner and enTouch.schedule reduce planning time by as much as 80%

### The Problem

It used to take this industrial manufacturer up to 80 hours a month to modify and manage the job schedule. The scheduling manager would print out a copy of the spreadsheet and mock up changes for an administrative assistant to make the actual changes. This would take several iterations and constant updates. In addition, there was no way to easily insert a new job into the schedule when the current job would run long, or add a new job to the schedule. The spreadsheet approach had become cumbersome and difficult to manage. A new way to manage the schedule had to be found.

### The Analysis

The customer's bottom line depended on the timely and efficient scheduling of heavy equipment trucks and operating crews. The widely separated job locations and extended planning windows were significantly affecting job costs and profit margins. Jobs were often moved from one truck to another truck, which caused a bull whip effect on the overall schedule.

For example, if a truck and crew were already in Illinois when a new job in Illinois hit the queue, it would be beneficial to reassign the Illinois truck rather than move a truck from Florida to Illinois or send the Illinois truck out-of-state as originally planned. The constantly changing schedule due to new business, varying skill level of crews, and how the trucks were equipped placed it clearly on the critical path.

Because there was some flexibility as to when to actually perform a job, PSC recommended implementing a process that could perform a "what-if" analysis on the entire schedule as each job was added. If this analysis could be done quickly, there would be an immediate improvement in the scheduling process accompanied by a reduction in travel costs and an increase in margins.

### The Solution

By implementing AdHoc Systems' Resource Planner in conjunction with our enTouch.schedule framework, PSC was able to reduce the monthly schedule management time from 80 hours to less than 16 hours – about 20% of the original effort. The drag-and-drop user interface of the Resource Planner was used to move and insert jobs into the current job schedule as they occurred. enTouch.schedule was then called from the Resource Planner to readjust and update the schedule, which was redisplayed in the Resource Planner.

Using the Resource Planner, the scheduling manager can now print a variety of schedules by truck, type of job, availability of crew, or by customer. The user interface and the use of colors to differentiate between the various types of jobs for easier readability make the management of the job schedule more intuitive. The Resource Planner can be integrated with any Notes application to provide custom requirements for each application, including how to handle weekend work and holidays. This feature can be customized to meet any end-user's needs.

### The Technology

- AdHoc Resource Planner  
[www.adhocsystems.com](http://www.adhocsystems.com)
- enTouch.frameworks™ from PSC Group, LLC
- Lotus Notes®/Domino®

### The Benefits

- 80% reduction in planning time
- "What-If" flexibility
- Reduced costs
- Increased margins



It's all in the way we listen.®

PSC Group, LLC is an information-technology and professional services consulting firm that specializes in business process architecture and back-end integration. We have extensive experience in the integration of IBM Lotus with the complete line of tools from AdHoc. We are also expert in enabling ERP systems to work together with CRM and Workflow applications and process.

When it comes to information management and control of business processes, PSC can provide you with a competitive advantage through the smart application of technology.

### CONTACT

Jose Blanco  
office: 800.592.8003  
direct: 847.969.8429  
[jblanco@psclistsens.com](mailto:jblanco@psclistsens.com)

PSC Group, LLC  
Chicago, Kansas City,  
Minneapolis  
[www.psclistsens.com](http://www.psclistsens.com)

It's all in the way we listen.®