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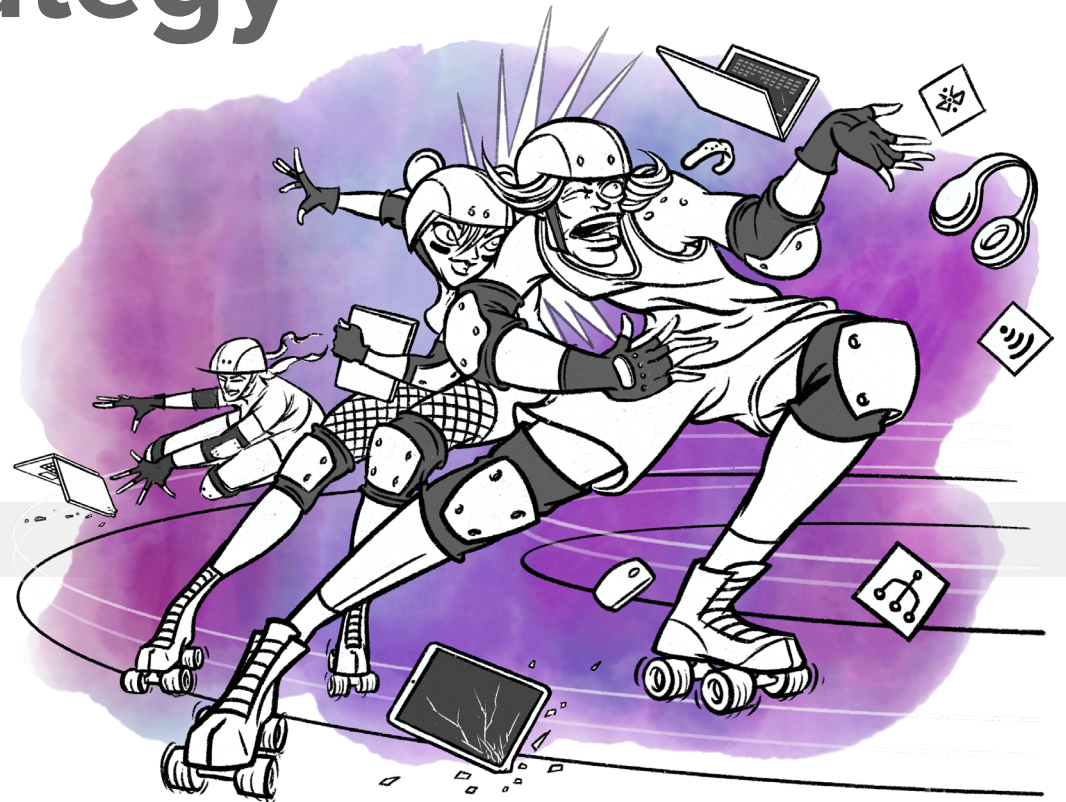
3 Steps to Streamline IT Operations and Connect Strategy to Execution

IT leaders and PMOs are under increasing pressure from nearly every direction. The fast-paced, competitive nature of business, paired with the growing complexities of the digital workplace and globally distributed workforces, has made aligning IT projects to company strategy and operating with agility on mission-critical priorities essential for the business's success.

In fact, organizations that combine project implementation with strategic alignment see a 90% project success rate, compared to only a 34% success rate in those organizations that neglect strategic alignment.[1]

It is imperative that IT leaders, PMOs, and execution teams reimagine the way they operate in order to move at a faster pace and execute on the right work to ensure the business remains competitive and viable in the market—all without adding budget, time, or resources.

What does reimagining IT work look like? Consider the following questions:

1. Are you confidently able to connect IT's work execution to strategy?

2. Do you have the data you need to prioritize the right work, flexibly shift strategy, and say no when needed?

3. Are you able to measure work execution against mission-critical priorities?

The following key steps to streamlining IT operations will help you connect your people and systems, iteratively plan and prioritize work, align execution to strategy, accelerate important projects, and allocate budget, resources, and time on the right work:

Members 1st Credit Union increased project completion by 29% by eliminating redundant behaviors and better prioritizing work.

Read the full case study.

Break through operational friction with visibility.

There's no real way to streamline all of IT's operations if you have no visibility into the work your people are doing, the progress of that work, or how it ladders back up to strategy. For most IT organizations today, data is viewed and tracked in disparate tools, requiring time-intensive manual navigation of systems to import and maintain data parity. Collaboration happens through email, spreadsheets, and other static tools, and teams are often operating in different geographies.

The result is work that is disconnected, difficult to align, and hard to prioritize. Businesses can't afford undue operational friction that slows everything down, or to waste time, budget, and resources on the wrong work.

IT leaders need to integrate core systems to gain complete visibility across all work. A single view of all work with centralized reporting accelerates decision making, increases collaboration across divisions and systems, and reduces time and money wasted on manual processes, meetings, and duplicated work.

25–40% project costs are wasted on rework.[2]

- Gain visibility by integrating all systems, people, and processes in one place

- Centralize reporting to accelerate decision making and ladder data back to teams

- Eliminate wasted time and resources spent manually passing and importing data, status meetings, and static collaboration

Iteratively and flexibly prioritize the right work.

IT leaders and their people must ensure they execute on the right work—the critical initiatives that align with the company's strategy, shape its long-term operational and technology investments, and drive the business forward.

But guaranteeing alignment, and executing on it with the kind of speed and flexibility they need to, is easier said than done. IT organizations are often overwhelmed with work requests, and every stakeholder thinks their request is the most important. Sorting through and prioritizing the volume of all that work is increasingly difficult. Unfortunately, legacy systems often relied on to execute work cannot easily accommodate changes to plan, evolving requirements, or the growing complexity of digital work and distributed teams. Additionally, strategic requests are typically unstructured and require a high degree of cross-functional collaboration, which is where standard IT ticketing solutions fail.

A platform that centralizes visibility into all IT work, alongside integrated systems and data, gives PMOs the data and flexible technology architecture to plan work;

37% of project failures were caused by a lack of milestones to measure progress.[3]

prioritize resources, budget, and time around the right work; ladder that information back to execution teams; and say no to the work that doesn't align to strategy.

- Integrate the tools and systems your team uses to iteratively and flexibly plan and prioritize all IT work

- Connect work execution directly to company strategy and respond with agility to shifting priorities

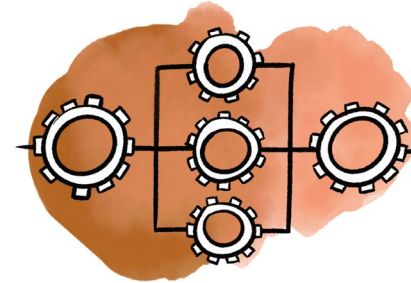- Set up real-time dashboards to track and measure progress of projects across major milestones

Standardize workflows and execute with agility.

Once IT PMOs are able to centralize and see work in one platform, they can allocate budget and resources to prioritize the right work. The next challenge is the ability to execute on that work with the kind of speed and agility needed to meet the requirements and complexity of the business.

The imperative to accelerate IT execution is so crucial to the company's ability to remain viable and move competitively in the market that 69% of CIOs say process automation and transformation are the top areas of focus for digitization, according to Deloitte.[4]

IT PMOs need to build automation into all workflows, dependencies, routing, and reviews, standardizing execution of all IT initiatives while enabling teams to continue executing work in the systems and tools in which they work best. Building in automation and data transfers across core systems can reduce time spent on resource intensive manual inputs. The reporting and tracking available from a single view allows PMOs to balance resources across demand. Instead of trying to execute work in force-fit tools, teams can keep their work methodologies and remain

Only 33% of today's work is automated.[5]

connected across divisions with customized workflows, enhancing their collaboration. Everyone's work is more agile and efficient, increasing throughput of crucial projects.

- Enable built-in automated workflows across core systems to eliminate time-consuming manual inputs

- Standardize execution of work to increase throughput and accelerate delivery

- Focus your teams on the most important work first to maximize resources, budgets, and speed without exceeding capacity
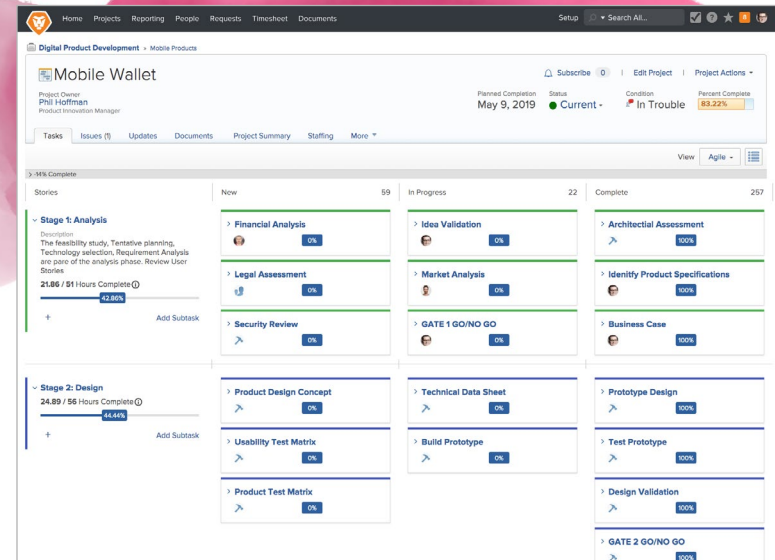
Streamline and automate IT PMO work with Workfront.

Prioritize the work that makes the biggest impact on the organization. Deliver it on time, on budget, and on spec with Workfront, the premier enterprise work management platform connecting IT execution directly to business strategy.

Workfront helps IT leaders:

- Integrate core systems and enable collaboration across divisions with automated workflows and standardized templates.

- Support multiple work methodologies and teams working in disparate tools.

- Track projects or groups of projects across major milestones.

- Enable speed and agility that deliver on outcomes.

Request a demo

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