Mike Oliver

Director, PMO Services for Management Concepts

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Summary

Mike Oliver (PMP, MCTSProject 2007) is a program/project management (PPM) professional with over 25 years of experience, including 19 years in various global PPM senior consulting and lead technologist roles at EDS, an HP company. His most recent role with EDS was serving as the Lead Technologist for the EDS Global PPM Capability Group, which set the direction for PPM standards, professional development, methods, and tools for the company's 4,000+ project management professionals.

Mike holds U.S. patents (5907490, plus pending applications 9/742,793, and 9/742,626) for developing EDS' global earned value analysis application called EVAnalyzer for Microsoft Project, for which he received the EDS 2005 Distinguished Engineering Award. Mike also received the 2006 Distinguished Engineering Award for the EDS-specific version of his Schedule Quality Analyzer tool. He developed several of the PPM productivity, capability assessment, and quality management tools used globally at EDS. Mike authored many of EDS University's program/project schedule and risk management courses.

Mike has been a featured speaker at a number of PMI events and symposiums, including presentations at the 2007 PMI College of Scheduling Annual Conference (Vancouver, BC) and the ESI Project Portfolio Management Conference (Sydney, AU).

Specialties

CPM schedule management, Earned Value Analysis, quantitative cost/schedule risk analysis, PERT, planning facilitation techniques, project control metrics, PPM tool development, Microsoft Project solutions development, leading and facilitating organizational change, communications management, content design/delivery of PPM professional development programs, PPM maturity assessments, designing and implementing PPM capability maturity programs, leading learning communities,

Experience

Director, PMO Services at Management Concepts
November 2009 - Present (1 year)

Managing Principal at Project Solutions Consulting
May 2009 - Present (1 year 6 months)

Project Solutions Consulting (PSC) specializes add-on products, custom solutions, capability assessments, and training for Microsoft Project. We also offer PMO and program management

solutions in partnership with Project InVision International.

Director, Client Services at Project InVision International
February 2009 - May 2009 (4 months)

Designed and developed Project InVision's 'Schedule Sentry' application for Microsoft Project. 'Schedule Sentry' is a real-time activity monitor which protects Microsoft Project users from making specific changes to schedule information that might compromise effective integration of the project schedule with the Project InVision application.

1 recommendation available upon request

Lead Technologist / Global PPM Capability Group at EDS
June 2006 - February 2009 (2 years 9 months)

Served on the the EDS Global PPM Capability team, setting the direction and/or providing content for program and project management standards, processes, training, and enabling technologies for all of EDS.

Led the global Feature Owners and user acceptance test teams for EDS deployment of Microsoft Project Server 2007 Enterprise to 10,000+ users. Was heavily involved in providing Microsoft Project solutions for EDS groups around the globe, including add-on tools for Microsoft Project Professional utilized in EDS' Microsoft Project Server infrastructure.

6 recommendations available upon request

Senior PPM Consultant at EDS
April 2006 - June 2006 (3 months)

Consulted for EDS/Asia-Pacific PPM technology team responsible for Microsoft Project Server support in that hemisphere. In addition to aiding them with integration of a number of my add-on tools for Microsoft Project, I also devised the approach and developed the supporting tools which enabled them to manage dual cost models in Microsoft Project (EDS internal and client-facing) for Earned Value Analysis reporting to support the Commonwealth Bank of Australia contract.

1 recommendation available upon request

Senior PPM Consultant at EDS
April 2005 - April 2006 (1 year 1 month)

Provided program/project schedule management tools subject matter expertise and consulting support to U.S. & Canada Applications Delivery PO/PPI organization, supporting ~200 PPM subject matter experts and ~900 project management professionals. Developed Schedule Quality Analyzer tool for Microsoft Project 2000/2002/2003, which is used through the globe by EDS ~2,400 PPM professionals. Provided consultation on a variety of PPM issues, along with enabling solutions for several large EDS account teams.

1 recommendation available upon request

Lead Technologist / EDS Project Management Delivery (PMD) Group at EDS
December 2001 - April 2005 (3 years 5 months)

Led PMD's Enabling Technologies team that specialized in program and project management solutions. Personally developed Version 4 of the EVAnalyzer tool for Microsoft Project, along with Version 3 of the PMX Schedule Management Toolkit for Microsoft Project. Provided consultation on a number of pursuits and large accounts, including devising the schedule management strategy and supporting tools for EDS' $6B NMCI (Navy/Marine Corp Intranet) program.
1 recommendation available upon request

Consultant Architect / Lead Technologist at EDS Project Management Consulting
November 1999 - December 2001 (2 years 2 months)

Served as a lead contributor to a virtual team of senior PPM consultants and practice leaders in developing the EDS ePMO service offering. I designed and helped developed a tool called Profiler, which is a web-based tool for gathering information about program/project management environments and offering graphical analysis of the organization's PPM culture, maturity, strengths, and opportunities for improvement. I also designed and developed a suite of PPM tools for project information management and schedule management under the auspices of the service mark, 'PMX'.

Program Manager / eSolutions School of Project Management at EDS
August 1999 - November 1999 (4 months)

Led a virtual team of education program designers to develop and deliver three - six week PPM professional development programs to deliver 70 new project management professionals for eSolutions by the end of 1999. We had 30 days in which to develop the curriculum and implement the program. Also personally developed the streaming video course entitled "Introduction to EDS PM 2.2" course, which was used for cross-training with the other eSolutions schools of Business Consulting and Technology.

Senior PM Consultant / Health Care SBU SEPG at EDS
July 1994 - August 1999 (5 years 2 months)

Consulted for a number of EDS accounts and clients around the globe on a variety of project management issues ranging from application of PPM methods in unique project situations, PPM tools/technique skills development, PPM capability assessments, facilitation of planning sessions and post-project reviews, development of custom PPM tools, and configuration/implementation of project/program office constructs.

Developed the multi-project cost/schedule management strategy and supporting tools for use on all Y2K programs conducted by the EDS Health Care Strategic Business unit. Authored a 105 page user guide and corresponding training course for Microsoft Project that's still in use by EDS.

Served as the program manager for the first two waves of the EDS Global Project Management Excellence program.

In 1997, I contributed to the design requirements for the first web-based version of Project InVision

(built by Project InVision International for EDS, which replaced EDS 'Project Data Manager'). I continued to periodically consult for hundreds of EDS account teams over the next 12 years on effective application of InVision to their business.

1 recommendation available upon request

Advanced Systems Engineer / Project Manager at EDS
1993 - 1994 (1 year)

Served as a member of the NASCO account 'FIRST" team, a group of Senior and Advanced SE's with responsibility for examining the requirements, proposed solutions, estimates, and technical designs for all project and service requests to be performed by ~170 developers servicing the TPS platform for processing health insurance claims. For one of the projects I planned and led, I developed an innovative technical solution for compressing a critical file for claims processing whose exponential growth rate was threatening consumption of CICS region space. The solution reduced the size of the file 93% and significantly flattened the slope of growth rate, and did so in a manner that did not increase processing time in utilization of that file. The project was delivered on-time, within budget, and with 0 defects.

Systems Engineer at EDS
1991 - 1993 (2 years)

Served as a main-frame applications developer supporting the NASCO account's instance of the TPS (Total Plan System), a health insurance claims processing platform that supports multiple clients, multiple lines of business, pay-provider/pay-subscriber, POS, HMO, TPA, ... (hence the name, 'TPS'). Taught some of the local classes on EDS ALC utilities and developed a number of SE productivity tools for the MVS/ESA TSO development environment.

Technical Business Associate at EDS
1990 - 1991 (1 year)

Supported the BCBS of Michigan NASCO account on the claims processing team.

Executive Director at Woodland Lakes Retreat Center
1989 - 1990 (1 year)

Responsible for administration of an annual budget of $1.5M, fundraising, PR, facilities management, program planning, scheduling, capital development projects, procurement, etc.for a 45 acre facility with lakes, hiking trails, campgrounds, and a new $2.5M lodge/retreat complex. Personally developed all the software for Woodland's accounting and lodge reservation system. Served as general contractor to finalize construction of Woodland's lodge facility (conference rooms, dining hall, gymnasium, and overnight accommodations for up to 290 guests)

Executive Director at Howell's Mill Camp/Retreat Center
1980 - 1989 (9 years)

My responsibilities as Executive Director at HMCA were similar to those at Woodland Lakes (see 1989 - 1990 entry). During my tenure, program attendance increase 350% and contributions from

supporters increased 310%. I completed a number of capital development projects during my tenure including a new men's dormitory, a new dining facility, design and development of all our back-office applications software, and installation of a campus wide PBX telecommunications system, just to name a few...

Electrician / Framer at Brentwood Builders
1979 - 1980 (1 year)

Brentwood Builders specialized in high-end, contemporary custom homes at $350K+. We also engaged in light commercial construction projects. I served as a 'lead man' for their framing and roofing crews as well as an electrician on a few projects. I also prepared energy efficiency studies for low-income housing projects being built with federal funds.

Education

EDS University
Corporate Training, Information Systems/Project & Program Management, 1990 - 1996

WV College of Graduate Studies
Work towards MBA, Information Management, Organizational Behavior, 1987 - 1988

ITT Telecom
Certificate, PBX, KSU, Voice Telephony, 1986 - 1986

Cincinnati Christian Seminary
M.A., Theology, 1982 - 1986

Cabell Country Technical School
Certificate, HVAC/Environmental Controls, 1984 - 1984

Kentucky Christian College
B.A., Theology, 1976 - 1979
Activities and Societies: Delta, Epsilon Chi

Honors and Awards

Microsoft Certified Technical Specialist (Microsoft Project Professional 2007)

EDS Distinguished Engineering Award 2006 for Schedule Quality Analyzer tool for Microsoft Project

EDS Distinguished Engineering Award 2005 for EVAnalyzer tool for Microsoft Project

1 U.S. Patent and 2 patents pending for EVAnalyzer, a graphical Earned Value cost/schedule performance analysis tool used globally by EDS

Guest speaker at a number of PMI chapter and global conferences, including PMI College of Scheduling Annual 2007 Conference, Project World & Business Analyst Summit 2007, ESI Project Portfolio Management Conference 2002 (Sydney AU).

Interests

Microsoft Project, schedule management tools, techniques, and innovations, golf, guitars, recording/producing music

Mike Oliver

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Linked in.

11 people have recommended Mike

"Mike is one of the sharpest minds I have worked with. Not only does he possess a deep mastery of Project Management, he is also capable of thinking and working outside of the box to accomplish a task."

— **Gary Thompson CFPS**, *Information Analyst - Metrics and Estimating, EDS*, worked with Mike at EDS

"I've had the pleasure to work with Mike and used many of his Microsoft Project tools on large projects and programs. When it comes to 'creating magic' with Microsoft Project, Mike is an absolute wizard…"

— **Christine Arseneault**, *Project Manager, EDS*, worked directly with Mike at EDS

"Mike served our organization as Director of Client Services. He provided a superior level of customer service to our existing clients and helped set the direction for new products and service offerings. He provided our organization and our clients with a broad, deep knowledge of Project and Program Management principles. His expertise in schedule manage and integrity using all versions of Microsoft Project proved extremely valuable in his development of a specialized Microsoft Project "toolkit" that allows our or web-based product to more tightly and seamlessly integrate with the Microsoft Project application. Mike would be an extremely valuable asset to any organization."

— **Bryan Morgan**, *VP, Development & Support, Project InVision International*, managed Mike at Project InVision International

"Mike was my assinged mentor at a very crucial time in my career and started me down the Project Management Path. I gained more from our discussions and career planning sessions than from any course I've ever taken. Mike helped me see things differently and gave me tools that have helped me to continue to grow and improve long after that relationship officially ended when I left EDS over 10 years ago. I find myself still using examples and passing on advice from Mike to the people I manage and coach today and it's still as valuable as it was to me back then. Mike stays current and is always on top of technology, but he has a depth of understanding that outlasts trends. I own him much."

— **Jim Taylor**, *Project Manager, EDS*, worked indirectly for Mike at EDS

"I worked with Mike at EDS where he has always been the top resource for Project management and technical knowledge in support of these processes. He is extremely talented and his depth of knowledge is second to none. Mike has taught thousands of PMs how to be better managers and provided the tools to support them when needed. My opinion is that he is one of the top experts in our industry(Globally) and I would recommend Mike Oliver wholeheartedly for any role he pursues."

— **Stephen Schumm, PMP**, *Project Manager, EDS, an HP company*, worked with Mike at EDS

"I have had the pleasure of working with Mike Oliver on several projects for my nearly 12 years at EDS. He is a strong Technical Project Manager with a special talent for working with people, processes and tool development while maintaining the big-picture view. Mike's deliverable based approach to organization/client needs is attributable to his continued success. He consistently demonstrates strong communication skills and uses that skill to facilitate and mentor customers understanding of the infrastructure and integration requirements to make their projects successful. As Lead Technologist for the Global PPM Capability Group, Mike has developed numerous tools used by EDS Project Mangers around the globe, helping to both develop PM maturity and increasing individual productivity. He's been instrumental in identifying/consolidating the tools used with our organization and currently leads the GPPM Schedule Management Community. He is an asset to our team and would be an asset to any organization; I would not hesitate to work with/for Mike again or to recommend him to others. I can honestly say that EDS is a better company because of people like Mike."

— **Richard (Ric) Tucker**, *Regional Consultant - PPM, Electronic Data Systems*, worked directly with Mike at EDS

"I had the pleasure of working with Mike Oliver over a number of years while working for EDS. We implemented a number of tools developed by Mike. All of his tools are simple to use and provide Programme and Project managers with practical and useful tools. During this time I was based in Melbourne, Australia but this did not prevent Mike form providing support and assistance when ever requested. This was always provided with cheerfulness and professionalism. He has a fantastic knowledge of MS Project and Project Server and is always willing to provide help and support in using these tools. It was a please to have worked with Mike."

— **Rob Harding**, *Senior Project Manager, EDS*, worked with Mike at EDS

"Mike Oliver is highly regarded and respected across EDS and the IT industry as a go-to person on Microsoft Project and Microsoft Project Server. Mike is an expert on this tool suite and actively interacts with Microsoft to discuss future revisions. Mike has written several custom code "widgets" to extend MS Project's capabilities that are invaluable to the field. Mike is also an excellent Program and Project Management consultant with a proven track record to achieve results. He is an excellent PPM instructor and mentor with extremely strong communication skills. He is very patient, has a pleasant demeanor, and is an absolute pleasure to work with. Mike has proven his ability to

function independently and manage multiple projects under tight time constraints. I highly recommend Mike as an excellent candidate for any position."

— **Kim Fizell***, Project Manager, EDS*, worked directly with Mike at EDS

"I had the privilege to work with Mike as part of the PPM Capability. Mike articulates and then delivers on the "Art of the Possible". Mike looks at a situation, asks probing questions which go right to the heart of the matter, and then presents viable options for consideration or as seed for further exploration. His ability to take a complex problem statement and break it down into logical components and then articulate how we might solution the individual elements and thereby aspire to a fully integrated solution left me in awe. I admire Mike's contribution to our business and appreciate the legacy he has provided through his enabling technology tools and techniques which benefit our global team of PPM Practitioners. When you work with Mike, you gain solutions that work!"

— **Gail Niles***, Programme Manager, PPM Capability, EDS*, worked directly with Mike at EDS

"Mike just plain does amazing work. I have done consulting around project management for many companies and it is rare to find someone as dedicated and professional as Mike Oliver. He takes an all too uncommon no non-sense, common sense approach to his work that makes all the difference. Always willing to go the extra bit to make something work. Always willing to help others understand. A great asset."

— **Brian Kennemer***, Senior Enterprise Project Management Consultant, Microsoft*, was with another company when working with Mike at EDS

"Mike is a premier project management consultant having in-depth knowledge and experience with project management processes. Through his area of specialty (project management tools and standards), Mike has produced white papers and created comprehensive, automated VB add-ins to MS Project and MS Excel. He is an accomplished and sought-after speaker and mentor."

— **Joe Hamilton**, worked with Mike at EDS

Contact Mike on LinkedIn