

Innovation in Transportation: Better Workflow and Organisation Means More Creative Thinking



THE CHALLENGE

It is not a stretch to imagine one of the world's leading manufacturers of large trucks, buses, construction equipment, and industrial engines encountering massive information overload.

Headquartered in Sweden, it has production facilities in 19 countries that employ about 115,000 people, producing all these products for more than 190 markets globally. It is a diverse company that produces pretty much everything that keeps people and products moving.

Its Head of Enterprise Architecture manages a team of 60 people that could be working on 200 or more projects at once. The depth and complexity involved in managing so many projects is faced by the team head-on every day, and the information overload and subsequent disorganisation from this can cause massive disruptions in workflow. In looking for a solution to this problem, he had tried traditional methods like using Excel spreadsheets and MS Project to organise information and manage the team's numerous projects. "They [Excel and Project] only went so far in providing a solution to the challenges we were encountering with managing the larger volumes of project information," he said. "As things got more complex, it became much harder to use them successfully to keep the team organised and on-track."



The company is one of the world's leading manufacturers of trucks, buses, construction equipment and marine and industrial engines. The Group also provides complete solutions for financing and service. It employs about 115,000 people, has production facilities in 19 countries, and sells its products in more than 190 markets.

CHALLENGE

A major Swedish truck and heavy equipment manufacturer's Enterprise Architecture team works on 200 or more projects at once. Information overload can cause massive disruptions in workflow, and the resulting disorganisation hampers the creative process.

SOLUTION

They began using MindManager with an action management method that "rests on the principle that a person needs to move tasks out of the mind by recording them externally." They then created a dashboard that keeps the team abreast of all of the activities that they should be getting done each day.

RESULT

They were able to increase productivity and get more done in less time. The teams are now able to approach all of their projects more creatively with a much higher level of effective collaboration.

THE SOLUTION

He needed a way for both himself and his team to be more organised, and wanted to create a system to make everything more accessible — which would also mean that he could stop trying to store so much project-related information in his head. Colleagues had introduced him to Mindjet's MindManager in 2005, and showed him how to build basic mind maps. "I thought it was really interesting," he said. "I have as many as 250 projects running at once, and I thought the mind

map format would be a great way to collate and organise all of the project information in one central place." With a team of both traditional and creative thinkers, collaborating with MindManager proved to be a natural fit.

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that keeps him and his team abreast of all of the activities that they should be getting done each day. Along with this, they use MindManager to take notes, structure meetings, brainstorm, and review and reshuffle project tasks as and when needed. "The first thing that I do every day is open MindManager and do my daily review," he said. "There is hardly any part of my day where I'm not using it."



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Head of Enterprise Architecture

THE RESULT

The bottom line: "My team and I are able to get more done using MindManager. It's a level of productivity that we were not able to reach before," he said. He strongly believes that the more things that you keep in your head, the less room there is for creative thinking — and the less creative

thinking that gets done, the less innovation happens. His teams, therefore, are also now able to approach all of their projects more creatively with a much higher level of effective collaboration. He has found that using MindManager is like adding valuable extra hours to his day and drastically

increased productivity. "I like to leave work at work—just close my computer and stop thinking about it—with MindManager I can be more productive during my working day and as a result am able to go home without work coming with me," he said.

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