DIS Sensors energies the project management with Team Sites, Planner, Power BI and Apps4.Pro



Serving over 700 companies in 60 countries, we specialize in project and process management. As a Microsoft Gold Certified Partner for over 8 years, we help all sizes organizations get the most out of Office365. Our brand, Apps4.Pro, won first place in the Microsoft HackProductivity contest.

Industry: Manufacturing

Products/Solutions: SharePoint Online, Power

Solution Summary

For 30 years DIS Sensors (a subsidiary of Rotero Holding) develop, manufacture and supply sensors, control systems and electronics for applications of all kinds. Their sensor range mainly focuses on the measurement of inclination, vibration and acceleration, DIS Sensors is also a leading supplier of rotary encoders. Because sensors are all developed and produced in-house, DIS Sensors also offer custom solutions for specific needs.

DIS Sensors adopted Office 365 and they hoping to fully migrate to use Modern SharePoint sites with Office 365 toolset like Planner, Power BI etc. For project management DIS Sensors started using Microsoft Planner, but they are looking solution for its resource manager, project leads to get the overall status of its various projects. JiJi Technologies helped DIS Sensors using its solution Apps4.Pro which provided Power BI connector and custom Gantt for the project management.

Challenge

DIS Sensors has several departments like: Management, Production, R&D, Sales, Purchasing. Every department has one or more SharePoint team sites. Mostly one for the department itself, added with dedicated team sites for specific work. At DIS Sensors there where projects like new design, sales, support, product management, etc. Some team sites have a lifespan of weeks, some for years and few team sites for life. Within SharePoint Team Sites, DIS Sensors used Microsoft Planner to assign 'work packages' to the workers. Some of the Planner plans are within one department and some of them are used cross departments. The collection of workers on the plans are from one or more department.

In principle this type of working with SharePoint, Planners, mail, etc. is fine. Every worker can see all their assigned tasks from different plans in the Planner hub -my tasks. The problem is that the resource managers don't have the overview who is working on which tasks from which. A project lead can see on his project (team site) plan who is working / has tasks on the project. But not on workers working / has tasks on other Planner plans.

Solution Strategy

Using JiJi Technologies solution Apps4.Pro, a custom developed Gantt is provided which shows the Microsoft Planner tasks as Gantt for its resource managers and project leads to check tasks from multiple plans from one place. Apps4.Pro Planner Gantt also provides the ability to edit the tasks from the Gantt itself. Using Apps4.Pro, DIS Sensors workers can convert their email to Planner tasks.

Using Apps4.Pro Planner ability of adding custom fields, DIS Sensors added fields like Estimated Work, Actual Work in Microsoft Planner. And these fields are used for hour/budget/resource planning. Its workers register their actual time spend on the tasks in the custom fields.

The default reporting capability in Microsoft Planner is limited. The core option in Planner allows filtering within a plan. JiJi Technologies solution Apps4.Pro uses Power BI API and Microsoft Graph API to synchronize the Planner data with Power BI dataset. The solution also does the periodic refresh of the Planner data with Power BI. As part of solution we provided a report with various filter options (plan, assigned to, due date, bucket).Now DIS Sensors resource managers and project leads started building reports and custom dashboards in Power BI as all the plan details from Microsoft Planner is available in Power BI.

Results

The resource managers and project lead at DIS Sensors are happy with the integration of Apps4.Pro solution with Microsoft Planner, which improves their workers productivity and project management. Now with Power BI reporting, they can get good overview of the various projects.

"Powered with SharePoint Teams sites, Apps4.Pro, Planner, Power BI our resource managers and project leads are happy with the project management."

- Ronald Need, Manager R&D, DIS Sensors