

ON THE SPOT

Enterprise Project Management

EVERYTHING'S ON DEMAND THESE DAYS, INCLUDING ENTERPRISE PROJECT MANAGEMENT.

words SAMANTHA PERRY

This month *Brainstorm* took a look at the Enterprise Project Management sector, specifically asking: "On demand Enterprise Project Management software deployment – has it hit SA yet or are we lagging?"

➤ With software as a service (SaaS), customers sometimes struggle to understand where the software resides and who 'owns' it and have reservations about data integrity and security. Local business decision-makers are progressively changing their mindsets on this topic but the process is far from complete. Hence, we are lagging the uptake seen in foreign markets. Those companies that have already adopted SaaS realise that these concerns are non-issues with a well-planned solution. Even other queries about compatibility and customisation are answered with the right solution. These early adopters have seen that savings in time, operational costs and capital expenditure justify SaaS and also enable rapid scaling – up or down – as required. We anticipate rapidly growing uptake in the year ahead, as perceptions change.

Andre Engelbrecht, Business Connexion Services executive: Project Services

➤ South Africa is one of the leaders in on demand project management solutions, with local companies having developed and now providing on demand solutions to the rest of the world. That said, deployment is lagging behind the rest of the world due to perceived bandwidth and security concerns. SMEs have embraced the on demand model over the last two years, with government and large corporates trailing behind. The Development Bank of South Africa has deployed the largest on demand enterprise project management solution locally, providing over 500 users with easy accessibility across the entire country for over 5 000 projects.

Guy Jelley, CEO, Post Vision Technology

EPM



Gerald Chetty, HP SA



Andre Engelbrecht, BCX



Malcolm Rabson,
Dariel Solutions



Sue Ellenbogen, DVT



Guy Jelley,
Post Vision

✦ South Africa is definitely lagging in this space. Here, we are still trying to come to terms and get to grips with concepts such as Software as a Service, and therefore not owning or executing the codebase on an internal infrastructure. As the country

management software, there is room to evolve, universally, along the axes of configurability and scalability. On the demand side, in South Africa, there remain constraints on bandwidth, which will not be alleviated until we have internet prices and infrastructure more aligned with those in the US and Europe. While the awareness and technology are here, purveyors of EPM software here have scope for consulting and partnering services, meaning that there needs to be a deeper understanding of the products being sold. Therein, I believe, is the key lag in SA.

a mature project management office (PMO). The PMO organisation would see the benefits of such systems and motivate for its adoption. Until such time that South African companies acknowledge and integrate the benefits of a PMO (and not see it as a cost centre), we will see a low adoption rate. This would require organisational changes, where the PMO is involved at the strategic/executive hierarchy of an organisation.

Gerald Chetty, programme manager, Project Management Office, HP South Africa B

“THERE REMAIN CONSTRAINTS ON BANDWIDTH.”

SUE ELLENBOGEN, DVT

matures in technologies such as virtualisation, cloud computing and data ownership, however, on demand enterprise project management software deployment will start to come more and more to the fore.

Malcolm Rabson, MD, Dariel Solutions

✦ While there are companies in South Africa that provide on demand enterprise project

Sue Ellenbogen, project manager, DVT

✦ While general adoption of IT governance and project management disciplines are practised within South African companies, we have been slow to adopt EPM software. Typically, companies that adopt EPM software are companies that have

