dupco
consulting

CASE STUDY 2023

AVI

Shared Services

AVI GROUP

*adopts Microsoft Project for the Web & Project Accelerator solution
to help improve their ability to support their business and improve project delivery.*

Microsoft
Gold Partner

taking the lead

DUPCO Consulting: AVI
Case Study 2023

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WHO IS AVI

AVI LIMITED is home to many of South Africa's leading and best-loved brands. Listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange and centred on the FMCG market, AVI's extensive brand portfolio includes more than 50 brands.

They have a well-developed Shared Services structure spanning:

- International
- IT
- Finance
- Logistics
- Marketing
- Procurement
- Field Marketing

...that allows them to take advantage of their scale.

OUR SOLUTION

Delivering a proof of value based on Microsoft Project for the Web and Project Accelerator Solution

Project for the web

PowerApps

PowerBi

Project for the Web

Project for the Web is a modern project management tool that provides a collaborative platform for teams to plan, track, and manage their projects. It is part of the Microsoft Project product family and is designed to offer a more accessible and user-friendly approach to project management.

Unlike traditional project management tools that may be complex and require extensive training, Project for the Web aims to simplify the process while still providing powerful project management capabilities.

Key features of Project for the Web may include:

▪ *Intuitive Interface:* Project for the Web typically features a user-friendly interface that allows users to quickly get started with project planning and tracking. The interface often includes visual tools such as Gantt charts and Kanban boards for better project visualization.

▪ *Collaboration:* The platform is built with collaboration in mind, enabling team members to work together in real-time. This facilitates communication and ensures that everyone involved in the project is on the same page.

▪ *Task Management:* Users can create and manage tasks, assign them to team members, set due dates, and track progress. This helps in organizing work and ensuring that everyone knows what needs to be done.

▪ *Timeline and Gantt Charts:* Project for the Web often provides features for creating timelines and Gantt charts. These tools are useful for visualizing the project schedule, dependencies, and critical paths.

▪ *Integration with Microsoft 365:* As part of the Microsoft ecosystem, Project for the Web may integrate seamlessly with other Microsoft 365 applications such as Teams, Excel, and SharePoint, providing a comprehensive project management solution within the Microsoft environment.

Project Accelerator

For a lot of people, a project is more than a set of tasks with the team members assigned to work on them. You may need to track issues or risks or a process to decide which projects even get funded. This all can be done by extending Project for the web through Power Apps.

To make it easier for you to get started,
we are providing the Project Accelerator, which builds out these kinds
of scenarios for you.

Key features of Project Accelerator may include:

▪ *Proposals:* Through project requests, you can gather a set of information to help you decide which requests get funded and turned into projects.

▪ *Programs:* As you run more projects, it is ideal to be able to organize them into programs so you can easily step back and see the bigger picture.

▪ *Risks:* With any project, there are risks that need to be tracked so you can prepare in advance to either avoid or deal with them.

▪ *Issues:* Anyone in project management knows that issues come up as a project progresses – maybe the weather isn't favorable or maybe something disrupts the supply chain. Whatever it is, you want to track the issue, know who is driving the mitigation, and clearly see the next steps.

▪ *Changes:* As projects progress, there are going to be changes such as scope, design, or maybe an outcome of an issue mitigation. Tracking that change is key so everyone can look back and understand the history of the project.

▪ *Status:* As your project progresses, you want to routinely update stakeholders on how the project is tracking on key health indicators and even create status reports around what has been accomplished and what's up next.

With the accelerator, everything is customizable.
See a field that isn't relevant to you? Remove it! Want a different set of choices for fields like Strategic Alignment? Great! Change them! Most changes don't even involve writing code. Just go into the Power App, update the tables, update the forms, and voila! your changes are live.

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Questions & Answers:

User Experience and Adoption

How easy was it for your team to adopt and adapt to the project management software?

"Yes it was fairly easy because it's a very user-friendly tool. If I can call it that,
I think the basics are very self-explanatory, so it wasn't too hard to get that done.

You know, obviously as we moved on to some of the other part of it and I think it will come
in the rest of the questions. But in terms of adaptability, I think it was pretty easy to adapt to it."

*Were there any specific features or aspects of the software
that received positive feedback or encountered resistance from users?*

Positive Answer:

"Yes it was, in terms of allocating resources and being able to track it from there
and also on the tool itself. If I have to allocate a task to Bert for example that he gets notified
on it and that we're all part of this group that we can view this project and contribute to,
I think that's a plus and something we don't get when you're using Ms projects for example."

Resistance / Pain Point Answer:

"Yes the fact that we can't really track sprints, is a red flag because a lot of the projects
that we work in our IT environment are run in scrums.

So I think that's one of the the features that we would have liked modified a lot more
but Bert has had many sessions with us and we hoping that Microsoft later on
launches that part of it.

So yes that was one of the painful points for us is that we would like it to be there.
It's very waterfall but would like a lot more agile to be incorporated into the tool."

Questions & Answers:

Impact on Project Efficiency

*Can you provide examples of how the software improved
project efficiency,planning, and execution?*

"Yeah, I do. I have a few of my projects that I have run on the tool
and it's easy to maneuver through. It's easy to look at and to see what's on the front of it
and also the reports, it shows a lot of information on tasks that are still pending which
gives a little bit of an overview of where all the projects are.

I think it's easy not just for project. For project management, if I have a team member that's
not in the project team and they are looking at the tool, it's so self-explanatory.

Obviously from a project team, we need to dig deeper,
but I think overall it is very easy to look at."

*Have you had any improvements in project timelines or resource utilization
after implementing the software?*

"Yes, because it does show you how the resources are allocated.
So it does make it a little bit easy to view, especially in our environment
there's a lot of the same resources being used on all the other projects."

Questions & Answers:

Collaboration and Communication

How did the project management software enhance team collaboration and communication?

"I do have a few of the team members that are using it as a guide as well
and able to contribute to it as well.

If I share a project plan with them, it's easy for us to identify which of the tasks
are easier to mark complete and prioritize them over the other, because of the outlook
of everything and it's on the web, it's easy to allocate it to them.
It's been easy to communicate with my project teams on some of my projects."

Customization and Scalability

*To what extent were you able to customize the software to fit your organization's
specific project management needs?*

"It's very user friendly it's easy on the eyes if that makes sense, it's not complicated.

It's not busy, there's no chaos on the pages. It makes it very easy for you to know that this
is the step, this is the date & this is where we at."

Has the software proven scalable to accommodate both small and large projects?

"Yes, it has. I have a very large project on this tool and I have a very small project
on the tool that I'm actually looking at."

Questions & Answers:

Return on Investment (ROI)

Have you realized and/or predict a measurable return on investment (ROI) as a result of implementing the project management software?

"I do predict the return because we were approached by other divisions as well in terms of using this tool.

So, yes it would definitely have a return."

Company Review

What was your experience working with Dupco?

"Very good.

Bert is a gem. He's very helpful.

We worried him for a very long time, and he always answered as quickly as he could. Sometimes it would be the simplest of things that we would ask, and he'd always try and find an answer for us, even if he couldn't, he would go back and try and get something back to us."

> *"DUPCO identified flaws in the manner that both projects and clients were managed"*
> *… Bert Du Preez*

"DUPCO Consulting started 10 years ago because we identified flaws in the manner that both projects and clients were managed,"
-    Bert Du Preez Director at DUPCO Consulting indicates.

"DUPCO started as a predominantly service company, however, we diversified by moving into the delivery optimisation, consulting and application development on Microsoft technology whilst implementing Microsoft solutions," Bert continues.

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+27 11 791 4840
info@dupco.co.za
www.dupco.co.za

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