

Empowering Construction With Mobile Technology

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Executives in all industries are realizing the value of mobile technology and leveraging it for improved and timely communication across business operations. The construction industry is rapidly adopting mobile technologies, especially because team members tend to be dispersed and on the move.

Telecommunications lines gave way to cell phones, which gave way to smartphones. However, devices like the iPad have given some contractors a true competitive edge. Using construction software and an iPad app, contractors gain mobile access to business-critical applications, such as project management, estimating, accounting, and inventory and equipment management. This puts decision-making power in real time, anywhere, for wide-reaching benefits to a construction firm.

EIGHT BENEFITS OF MOBILE TECHNOLOGY

1. **Enhanced communications and collaboration.** With anytime, anywhere access, contractors can increase connectivity significantly and better collaborate with their internal and external teams. The back office and field staff can more easily share information and stay up-to-date on projects.
2. **Smart decision-making.** Access to real-time data puts valuable information at any team member's fingertips, enabling them to make more informed decisions. Plus, that information helps minimize risk and anticipate problems before they become costly.
3. **Increased productivity.** Remote access allows individuals to work from the office, at a jobsite, on the road or from home, which eliminates the need for frequent travel. It also speeds up and streamlines processes, optimizes routing and eliminates duplicate data entry.
4. **Better accuracy.** Mobile devices enable data to be entered once from the field, eliminating duplicate data entry by the back office staff and minimizing mistakes. With the entire team accessing the same real-time central database, contractors can be assured everyone is on the same page.
5. **Preventing bottlenecks.** By accessing information instantaneously, changes are processed quicker, potential errors are caught earlier and fewer project delays occur.
6. **Better customer service.** Instant access to data on any project allows a contractor to provide customers with more timely status updates. In addition, the efficiency offered by more seamless processes helps keep projects on schedule, which keeps customers happy.
7. **Mobility.** Remote access to data means owners, project managers and other construction team leaders can be on the move or stay on the ground as needed. They can stay in touch from anywhere.
8. **Increased profitability.** Due to efficiency and accuracy, mobile technologies enable construction firms to more quickly realize revenue and increase profitability on every job.

ALL-IN-ONE CONSTRUCTION SOFTWARE

Mobile devices are revolutionizing the construction industry with more instant access to business-critical data. However, it is not uncommon for each department in a construction company to use its own software packages to handle specific business functions. This can result in redundant data entry, errors and disconnect among team members. If the entire team works from one central repository of information, these challenges can be minimized.

Today, all-in-one construction software that handles the entire construction process from bid to cash in a single seamless solution allows every member of the team to communicate faster and react smarter. By adding a mobile device like an iPad to the solution, the entire team can access the same timely project information whether they are in the office or in the field.

VALUE ACROSS THE TEAM

By streamlining processes across the entire business with a single solution, contractors can dramatically minimize or even eliminate any disconnect among owners, estimators, project managers and office administrators.

Mobile technologies can significantly enhance project managers' ability to effectively complete a job. They can easily check the status of a materials delivery, verify the availability of a piece of equipment or view the job's estimate details. This instantaneous access helps prevent work stoppages and keep a project on track.

Mobile access to all-in-one construction software allows construction executives and owners to easily monitor business metrics and optimize performance whether they are sitting at their desk or walking a jobsite.

Having the ability to stay connected in the field enables contractors to make more informed decisions and better manage complex construction projects—driving down costs, increasing productivity and improving customer satisfaction.

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Policy Reminder

Although mobile devices offer numerous benefits for construction firms, contractors must ensure appropriate use. Policies need to be created to address issues such as using mobile devices while operating machinery or driving a vehicle. Security issues also must be considered to protect the valuable business data available on mobile devices.