Automated Cross Platform Security

How AECOM used ProjectReady's Integrated Data Environment to connect systems and resources and remove data silos

AECOM

With construction projects becoming more demanding & complex and the amount of information increasing exponentially, choosing the right digital solution to manage workflows & deliverables becomes critical. Faced with this challenge, Jeff Walter, the Director of Digital Transformation for AECOM Canada, chose ProjectReady as their Integrated Data Environment.. The results have been exceptional & have paved the road to a future of "more with less," as Walter puts it.

Toronto, Canada, is one of the hotbeds of infrastructure construction in North America. Projects range from bridges to subway construction & are typically executed as Public-Private Partnerships (P3). Just bidding on these multibillion-dollar megaprojects is a project in itself. Jeff Walter, who heads digital transformation for AECOM's Canadian alternative delivery group, has experienced the challenge firsthand.

AECOM is always looking for ways to improve the performance of P3 project teams by piloting innovative solutions. An extremely demanding infrastructure RFP became a testbed for a solution that Walter had envisioned earlier – an Integrated Data Environment (IDE).

"Recently, we came through a big bid that would typically take ten months to prepare. We got a push to deliver it in four months, & we succeeded," says Walter. He believes that their newly adopted IDE, ProjectReady, contributed significantly to this success.

Applications in Silos

AECOM, like others in the industry, manages its project information in several applications: Microsoft Teams, SharePoint, Autodesk Construction Cloud, Procore, Plan Grid, & multiple project management software. As a result, project managers & other users are forced to login to several systems, navigate through different applications, & keep up with the continuous flow of information. Frequently, Excel spreadsheets become the umbrella for managing processes & content located in various repositories.

Many of these systems are designed for specialists & have a long learning curve. On the other hand, some popular tools are too simple for professionals. This discrepancy creates a situation in which management teams favor more straightforward tools that are not integrated with the professional teams' workflows.

Walter, saw an opportunity to utilize an Integrated Data Environment across his large infrastructure projects to connect systems & resources & remove data silos. Projects of this magnitude can span 10-15 years over multiple project phases & hundreds of vendors working on a single, which require an easy way to manage security for those systems & resources without having to rely on IT to add and remove resources constantly.

The Solution

Managing access rights, data security, administration, & onboarding can be strenuous for IT organizations that are already fully tasked. The customer's immediate need was about moving information between systems. AECOM wanted to use SharePoint as the ultimate project repository because it draws data from BIM 360 & connects to Microsoft Teams.

Thanks to the flexibility & customization capabilities of ProjectReady, it didn't take long to cater to AECOM's specific needs. In less than three months, the P3 group at AECOM Canada was using ProjectReady to provision project sites for SharePoint, the Autodesk Construction Cloud & Microsoft Teams & set security & governance across 5 of the largest Infrastructure projects in North America, 750+ professionals, 300 of whom are with externals vendors.

ProjectReady has become an invaluable tool for project directors, managers, & coordinators. It is a neutral collaboration platform & a centralized & secure access point to various software applications supporting the project lifecycle from inception to close out.
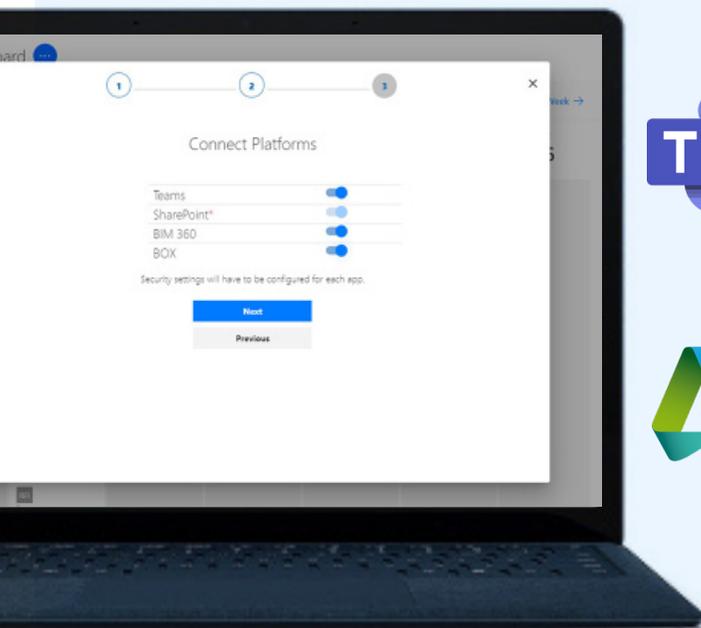
The Return on Investment

"This is game-changing. It is going to change how we deliver projects," Walter says, describing the feedback he has been getting from his organization.

Based on the experiences of AECOM so far, a design team's productivity can quickly double when they put ProjectReady into use. That means "doing more with less" – a phrase that Walter uses when talking about the tool.

The new platform helps project managers and BIM management teams with onboarding. "We're seeing huge, drastic savings in terms of how we administer software using ProjectReady," Walter explains.

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ProjectReady – The Integrated Data Environment (IDE™) for the AEC

ProjectReady is a SaaS project management & collaboration solution designed to meet the unique needs of design firms, owners & design/build firms. As an Integrated Data Environment (IDE™), we drive simple repeatable processes to connect data, platforms & common data environments - the Autodesk Cloud, Procore, M365 - providing a single pane of glass to centrally manage projects & information

Learn how you can use ProjectReady to automate project administration & so much more.

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