

Bright Horizons Uses ProjectXnet Hosting Services to Improve Cost Management and Collaborative Workflow



The Problem: A Need for Cost Management and Streamlined Workflow

Bright Horizons Family Solutions builds and manages employer-sponsored child care centers for companies in North America and Europe. Its Construction and Facilities Departments needed a consistent and systematic way to track costs and approvals for its projects.

When the company moved away from an individual and paper-based system in 2004, they turned to Meridian Systems' Prolog Manager Software for its project management. However, the company was hosting the software itself and had trouble with support issues from its reseller.

While Bright Horizons' IT department was not familiar with the software and workflow required, The Cram Group was. Wes Smith of The Cram Group explained, "Bright Horizons' needs were three-pronged: It had an IT availability issue, new applications that needed integration and configuration, and they needed long-term user support."

"Prolog was a good software for us, but we had so many problems with how it was set up we decided to have it hosted."

Carole Meehan,
Construction Department Manager of
Controls and Procedures.

The Solution: The Cram Group's ProjectXnet Managed Hosting Services

The Cram Group began hosting Bright Horizons' Construction and Facilities software needs remotely. It developed a solution that gave Bright Horizons' project managers an integrated suite of software that included Prolog Manager from Meridian Systems, Microsoft Office, and Columbiasoft's Document Locator.

This solution provided online access to an integrated suite of project management, document management and workflow tools — access from any home office, at its main office, or on the job site.

Meehan noted that "The Cram Group is able to give us a more secure and easily accessible environment. We have a number of people who work out of the office as well as outside consultants. They can all get to Prolog more easily because they are doing it through the Web."

CASE STUDY

Bright Horizons Family Solutions

Furthermore, rather than having one dedicated IT person within the organization, Bright Horizons has a team of experts at The Cram Group. "They come to our office monthly to run routine maintenance and make minor changes as needed," added Meehan.

The Benefits: Smoother Workflow, Better Controls, More Accurate Management

After one weekend of implementation and a short time period for the necessary testing and training, Bright Horizons has seen an improvement in information sharing, cost management, and the approval processes required by the organization.

Bright Horizons project managers have a more efficient way to track costs, purchase orders and invoices while keeping all stakeholders informed. For example, the company has been able to streamline the signature approval process from weeks to a day or two, and it is all done electronically. Bright Horizons' management now has precise insight to the status of approvals and increased confidence that information is complete.

"Everything works faster now. We have the customization and customer service we need."

ProjectXnet also helps with Bright Horizons' construction and facilities cost tracking and projections. Now the company gets projections in real time and do better budget reporting now. Meehan noted, "I can't underestimate the time savings ProjectXnet has given us."

About Bright Horizons

Bright Horizons Family Solutions (www.brighthorizons.com) is the world's leading provider of employer-sponsored child care, back-up care, early education, and work/life solutions. The company operates more than 700 child care and early education centers across the U.S., in Europe, and Canada. Bright Horizons was recently named one of FORTUNE magazine's "100 Best Companies to Work For in America."



About The Cram Group

The Cram Group provides enterprise level Consulting, Hosting, and Development services that enable Corporations and Construction Industry participants to deploy integrated technology solutions for today's ever changing business processes. For more information, call 212-505-0381, or go to <http://www.thecramgroup.com>.

About ProjectXnet Online Services

ProjectXnet is the industry proven online service focused on the management and support of turnkey solutions for the Architecture Engineering and Construction (AEC) Industry. Over 15,000 users from international and regional companies rely on ProjectXnet technologies daily. Services are available for more than 20 applications from key industry vendors. Other core offerings include, integrated remote desktops based on Microsoft Office & Exchange Email, as well as support for BlackBerry and iPhone mobile devices. Solutions are available in SaaS and Traditional Licensing Models.



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