CHALLENGES

Modern shipbuilding is a complex, expensive and time and space consuming industry. Therefore, it is critical that it is done as efficiently and cost effectively as possible. Critical to shipbuilding today are the large assembly structures and substructures required to support shipbuilding activity. ProModel provides capacity planning departments with automated footprint and position planning for these structures, optimizing the utilization of the construction space over time. Capacity planning departments use various tools to create plans for moving these substructures, as well as tracking and managing changes to the plans daily.

Capacity planning analysts walk the shipyard hand-writing notes and other pertinent information which is then manually entered electronically into management systems once they return to their computer. This limits their ability to provide timely and accurate assessments of the current/planned assembly locations in the shipyard. Allowing capacity planning analysts to work remotely removes laborious manual steps and provides immediate and significant cost savings.

The analysts provide needed insight into unexpected events and conditions they can only gain through visual inspection of lay down areas. Here are two examples:

1. A construction space was previously allocated in the planning effort. Due to unexpected changes it is immediately available for use. The capacity analyst must physically walk to the identified space, make an assessment of what assembly can be assigned to the space, and then manually alter or override the planning arrangement to reflect the change.

2. Sometimes a space does not become available as planned. Situations often arise where material blocks the space and cannot be cleared in time to land the unit according to plan. In this case as well, a capacity planner must visit the location and assess impacts to planned arrangements, then adjust accordingly.

The inability to work remotely limits the capacity planning teams when immediate flexibility and expediency are required.
OBJECTIVES

ProModel’s custom application development team was tasked with providing analysts the capability to perform real-time surveys of yard conditions and operational activities and to update data remotely using a mobile device. The surveyor would be able to document deviations from the plan and provide real-time data/notifications to analysts such as annotated photographs, actual unit placement location, rotation, and orientation information, material blockages for planned spaces, and more.

Mobile yard surveyors updating in real-time also provides immense value to other organizations. Many reports on the capacity plan are generated and sent to other groups to plan/execute their own work. Creating an up-to-date authoritative source of yard conditions and plans for all organizations to access on-demand is an absolute necessity.

SOLUTION AND VALUE PROVIDED

ProModel’s team worked directly with the shipbuilding organization to develop a mobile ready tool that would interface with their existing MRP and other systems.

They created the Mobile On-Site Inspection application which will provide the first real-time feed of data with widespread availability in the shipyard. Additionally, Mobile On-Site Inspection will have the capability to store data in a local cache when access to the mobile network is not possible, and then update once connectivity is re-established.

The device provides:

- Increased accuracy of adjustments
- Real-time reporting
- Communication with inspectors
- Remote location tracking

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