

## Case Study SJ Berwin

# Using Microsoft Project Server 2010 to drive simplified working practices and efficiency.

Established in 1982, SJ Berwin is a leading international law firm with around 150 partners and more than 400 other lawyers. The firm's multidisciplinary teams of lawyers provide commercial legal advice for financial institutions, international companies and entrepreneurs across Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

SJ Berwin advises clients on a number of areas such as corporate/M&A, commercial, EU & competition, employment & pensions, finance, financial markets, investment funds, intellectual property, litigation & dispute resolution, private equity, real estate, reconstruction & insolvency, and tax. The organisation has won numerous awards for its expertise including Corporate Team of the Year at The Lawyer Awards 2010.

## Challenges

SJ Berwin's IT project managers found it increasingly difficult to schedule and report accurately on projects because of variations in the methods and systems being used to plan work and record progress. As a result projects often took longer and required more effort than initially planned.

SJ Berwin found that the Project Server toolset was not being used consistently or effectively. Project plans often lacked the detail, accuracy and validity needed to enable the level of strategic programme delivery that was desired. John Court, IT Project Manager explained:

"We had historically struggled to accurately capture and report upon planned and completed project work. The variation in the methods and tools used to capture and plan project work meant that a significant amount of effort was required to collate and verify the information. This tended to lead to a greater dependency on estimation than was desired. Furthermore, our installation of Project Server 2007 was configured in a manner that did not fit with our working practices. Superfluous complexity demanded effort to maintain, i.e. numerous complex enterprise fields for capturing granular details about work and resources."

“The expertise and professionalism of the CPS team was of a high standard throughout the implementation.”

## Solution

SJ Berwin has worked with CPS since 2006 on implementing and maintaining its Microsoft Project Professional and Microsoft Project Server environment. As there was an existing investment in Microsoft Project software, hardware and skills, the decision to upgrade from Project Professional and Project Server 2007 to the respective 2010 versions was a logical one that enabled SJ Berwin to leverage new benefits such as the time sheeting capability.

SJ Berwin asked CPS to simplify its configuration of Project Server and to focus on accurately capturing completed and planned work. Custom reports were created to enable the extraction of data to show completed and planned resource utilisation. The SJ Berwin IT team worked closely with CPS to review, develop and refine working practices to focus on a simplified planning process that included a frequent update cycle. CPS also created a bespoke Microsoft Project 2010 training course for SJ Berwin to reinforce the newly developed working practices and ensure that the IT project team could use the new solution effectively.

## Results

The implementation took less than six months and has provided a platform for SJ Berwin to address efficient project resource management and provide accurate visibility on the status of all projects. CPS provided implementation consultancy and training throughout allowing the organisation to improve its portfolio and programme management maturity level. Project Server 2010 also allows project managers and team members to create, view and maintain plans on the move via the internet in Project Web Access (PWA).

John Court said:

*“The expertise and professionalism of the CPS team was of a high standard throughout the implementation. The individuals involved demonstrated a good understanding of our requirements and the system implemented. It is important for us to ensure that this change in working practice is adopted completely by our IT team to ensure we harness the value of the technology. Our historic issues are predominantly attributable to the same problem and we believe a combination of training and long term governance is the best way for us to overcome this.”*

**sjberwin** 