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IBM Rational Portfolio Manager

Highlights

■ **Align portfolio investments with business goals**

■ **Gain real-time visibility to make rapid, well-informed decisions**

■ **Implement IT governance processes with built-in models and workflows**

■ **Increase collaboration between management and delivery teams**

■ **Operationalize best practices and automate portfolio processes**

■ **Monitor and control risks, issues, and financials across portfolios**

■ **Gain a 360-degree view across IT and development projects by combining with the IBM application lifecycle management tools**

Project portfolio management is about aligning IT projects and investments with business priorities. It is about planning and managing individual projects and portfolios of projects to meet enterprise objectives. IBM® Rational® Portfolio Manager puts into practice your business strategies by automating the project portfolio lifecycle process from opportunity identification and prioritization through project execution and closure.

Enabling a 360° View of IT Portfolios

One of the more persistent challenges in portfolio management is having reliable insight on the status and delivery of software-intensive projects. Software is a key differentiator in building, integrating and extending complex applications and products today. Yet getting a clear picture on such projects can be a daunting endeavor with unreliable results frequently based on subjective information. Using Rational Portfolio Manager as part of the IBM Software Development Platform, you can benefit from comprehensive portfolio management across both day to day IT projects as well as development-intensive projects.
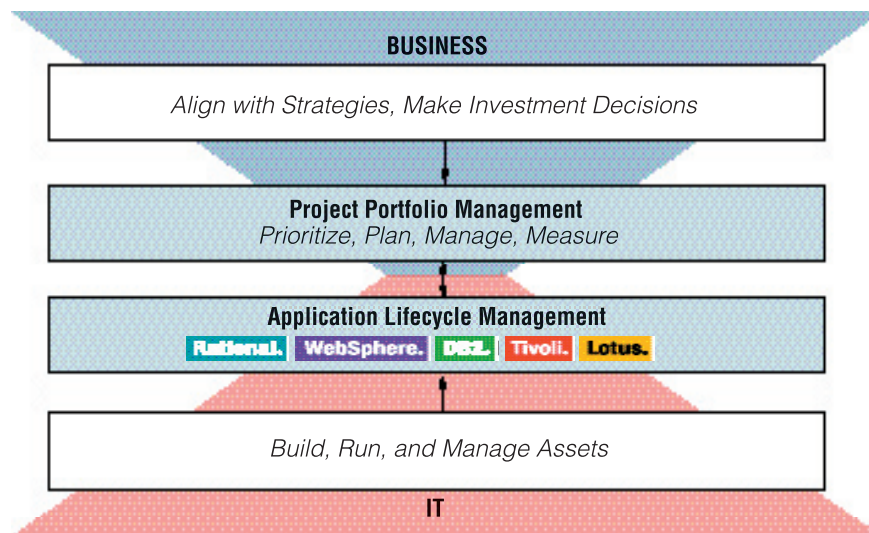

BUSINESS

Align with Strategies, Make Investment Decisions

Project Portfolio Management
Prioritize, Plan, Manage, Measure

Application Lifecycle Management
Rational. **WebSphere.** **DB2.** **Tivoli.** **Lotus.**

Build, Run, and Manage Assets

IT

Figure 1. Align business priorities with your IT and development projects.

ON DEMAND BUSINESS™

IBM provides the visibility that enterprises need to bridge the costly gap between business and IT by providing both:

- *Project Portfolio Management (PPM), which provides the ability to prioritize, plan, manage, and measure projects as a comprehensive portfolio*
- *Application Lifecycle Management (ALM), which supports software-intensive projects from concept through production, helping to bridge the gap between development and deployment teams*

Complete visibility into your project portfolio requires accurate project data and the tools to analyze and monitor that data. IBM provides a set of capabilities that combine portfolio analysis, project management best practices, enterprise transformation expertise with the industry-leading IBM Rational tools to create a 360-degree view of your IT and development infrastructure.

Only IBM delivers this complete lifecycle solution for prioritizing, planning, managing, and measuring IT portfolios and projects.

Making Informed Decisions

Rational Portfolio Manager captures project and proposal scope, schedule, financial and resource details in a shared repository. Key decision makers and project managers can use it to visualize and set the desired investment balance of projects and people. In this way, the entire organization can remain synchronized with the strategic objectives.

By providing real-time access to centralized project data,your decisions can be based on accurate, objective data, not guesswork.
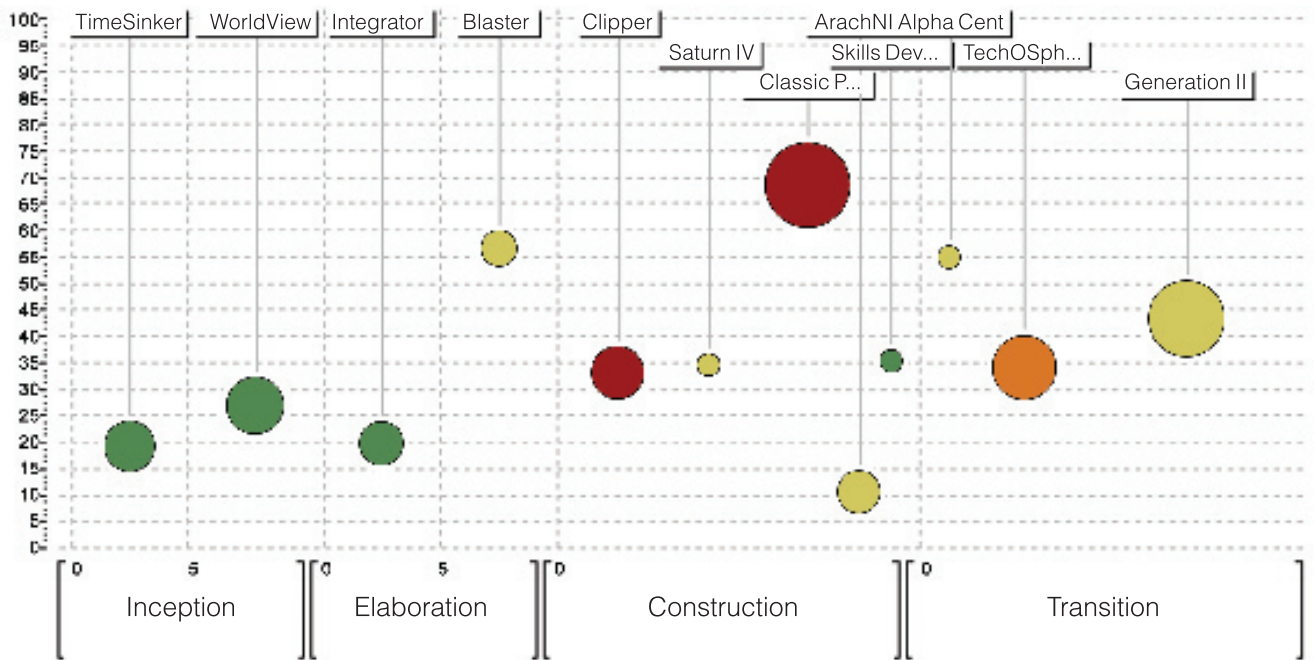

Figure 2. Leverage powerful portfolio analysis views like this one which can convey project phase, ROI, size, number of open project issues and volume of unmitigated risks.

Automating Portfolio Management

Rational Portfolio Manager automates portfolio and project management so you can:

- *Visualize and balance your portfolio via dashboards*
- *Balance workload and manage demand*
- *Quickly ramp projects with reusable methods based on best practices*
- *Optimize resource leveling and scheduling*
- *Improve effective collaboration between business and technical stakeholders*
- *Actively manage risks and issues*
- *Calculate cost variances in real time*
- *Automate time and expense capture and forecasting*

The result is a closed loop portfolio management process that marries top down portfolio analyses with bottom up project management.

Manage Portfolios

Rational Portfolio Manager enables you to align priorities, projects, and resources with business priorities. The portfolio dashboard captures and synthesizes complex project and portfolio metrics into clear macro reports using tables, maps and graphical displays of status and comparisons.
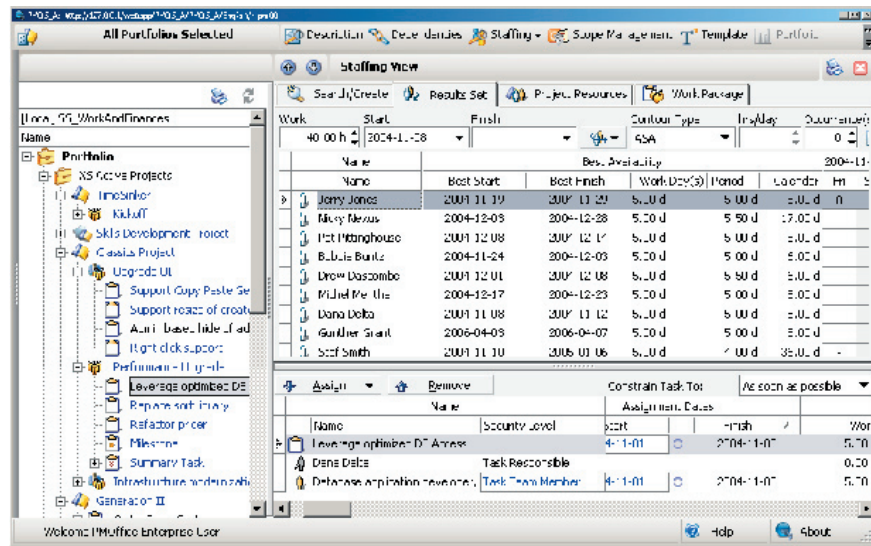

Figure 3. Resource planning capabilities help you apply the right resources to the right projects.

You can quickly analyze scorecards and perform detailed ROI, payback or breakeven analyses using various models including Net Present Value (NPV), Economic Value Added (EVA) and Internal Rate of Return (IRR).

You can also view resource and capacity status as well as schedule and budget variances.

Manage Resources

Proper resource management begins with understanding an organization's resource utilizations and skills inventory. By consolidating multiple projects into a single repository, enterprises gain the visibility needed to plan and balance their workload and utilize resources efficiently. Rational Portfolio Manager can maintain a broad and deep model of an organization's capacity, affected resources, skills inventory, total workload and resource demand. Its capacity and resource planning functionality helps to optimize skills usage so that mission critical resources are aligned with high priority projects.

Manage Scope

Rational Portfolio Manager can provide you with the framework to help you smoothly move high priority ideas and initiatives into measurable programs and projects. It provides a framework for leveraging and reusing process templates and models. This asset-based approach to process standardization and implementation guides the capture, adoption and reuse of optimized engagement models, project plans and work products.

Authorized managers can publish a selected method by simple drag-and-drop into template workbooks. This ability to instantiate domain- specific projects from reusable templates helps ramp new projects quickly while enforcing consistent process.

Manage Work and Collaborate

Day to day project overhead can challenge any team. You need to optimize project schedules and resources and your teams must have access to current dependences and timely notification when changes occur.

Rational Portfolio Manager features a repository level resource-scheduling engine. This rich and powerful integrated scheduler analyzes bottlenecks, available slack, over-allocated resources and due date constraints in an iterative process that finds the best solution available across a multi-project environment. You can author and edit project plans in Rational Portfolio Manager or leverage included import/export capabilities to work with projects authored in Microsoft® Project Professional 2000/2002/2003.

For managers and teams Rational Portfolio Manager provides an integrated collaboration workflow engine to manage the flow of all project work. Project processes can be configured and automated into a fluid knowledge-enabled workstream that can span the project lifecycle. This ability to communicate from the WBS can provide project managers and team members with with quick access to all project information for the project element referenced.

Similarly, to provide project managers and participants with timely event and variance information, Rational Portfolio Manager uses project-configured state notifications and triggers. When specific changes or events occur, relevant participants are alerted via e-mail notifications.

Manage Risks and Issues

Risk and issue management provide the coarse and granular perspectives needed to clearly assess, track and take action to reduce risk across the project lifecycle.

Rational Portfolio Manager efficiently manages risk by centrally cataloguing risks and responses. Each identified risk event is described and measured based on its impact, probability and precision rankings in the provided Risk Ranking Matrix.

The risk database identifies each risk and enables you to calculate the financial impact on each of the project areas. Additionally, a trigger is provided that identifies how you will know when a risk event occurred. Risk owners can also set the 'closure criteria' that describes what must happen in order for the risk to be considered closed.

Rational Portfolio Manager addresses basic project change control and issues management by centralizing all exceptions, with their assigned owners, priority and status. In this way issues pertaining to the project are identified, logged and responded to by generating actions or tasks. For each issue, the team member can define proposed actions, identify the impacted areas and quantify the impact.

IBM Rational Portfolio Manager Components

	Portfolio Dashboard	Capacity & Resource Management	Resource Leveling & Scheduling	Project Collaboration	Reusable Artifacts & Templates	Issue & Change Management	Issue & Risk Management	Time & Expense Management
IBM Rational Portfolio Manager	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
IBM Rational Portfolio Manager Console			X	X	X	X	X	X
IBM Rational Portfolio Manager Time and Expense								X

Manage Financials

There can be significant benefit to organizations in having a single source of project performance information. Rational Portfolio Manager provides project managers with the ability to estimate capital costs and consumable budgets and then time phase them across the life of the project.

As an example, to facilitate the capture and tracking of incurred and/or committed expenses, Rational Portfolio Manager enables users to easily enter time and expense information against appropriate accounting charge codes via an intuitive expense entry and reporting interface. The benefit of this integrated capture is that time and expense can be seen in the context of project tasks and activities.

By centralizing project expense reporting, cost variances are calculated in real-time, so you can reduce potential project risk and contingency utilization. As project participants incur expenses, Rational Portfolio Manager calculates the remaining expense budget for each charge code and displays the associated budget variance.

Modular Solution

IBM Rational Portfolio Manager is available in three components so you can assemble the license configuration most suited to your environment. It uses a flexible component approach based on user needs. Implementations of Rational Portfolio Manager frequently use a combination of three components. For senior managers and IT program and project managers, Rational Portfolio Manager provides complete portfolio management and capacity planning. For project teams , Rational Portfolio Manager Console is used to track and manage project activities. For professionals who need to track their time, Rational Portfolio Manager Time and Expense enables easy capture and reporting.

Enabling Business-Driven Development

IBM has found there are three areas of focus that are needed to have a software development process that is well-aligned with business objectives. These are:

- *A strong focus on architecture, based on leveraging component and service frameworks*
- *A strong focus on asset-based development based on business needs and using project portfolio management*
- *An iterative development process that support continuous business transformation and optimization*

The result is a software development process that is business-driven and asset-based. We call this business-driven development. At the core of this approach is the IBM Software Development Platform. This complete, yet modular solution unifies your business, development, and operations teams by providing an integrated toolset, vocabulary, and approach to the complex task of developing software.

It complements this iterative process with business-focused capabilities that allow you to prioritize your asset needs from a business perspective, plan how you will implement and automate those needs, manage the implementation, testing and deployment process, and measure the result as an input for continuous improvement.

Rational Portfolio Manager is the newest addition part of the IBM Software Development Platform providing the enterprise visibility and consistency needed to drive an on demand business.

IBM Rational Services

A variety of service offerings are available to complement IBM Rational tools and best practices to help you build the capabilities you need in a combination that's right for your business. Our services are designed to help you build team skills, reduce the time to productivity when implementing a new solution, and to maximize the return on your investment in IBM Rational tools.

- *IBM Global Services provides services to IBM's clients to help them embrace Project Management best practices and disciplines. They have expertise in Complex Project Management, Six Sigma, CMMI attainment, and development of the project management office. IBM Global Services also offers extensive training curricula including PMP certification for project management professionals.*
- *Rational software development consultants bring years of experience to help you lay a solid foundation for successful software development projects. You can engage Rational professional services on large-scale customized consulting projects that are tailored to meet your organization's unique needs, or you can engage your local account team for short-term assistance with a single challenge. Several types of "packaged" services are also available, including offerings that provide an objective assessment of your software development capabilities, deploy a new tool or methodology, or help you produce tangible assets through a facilitated workshop.*
- *IBM developerWorks: Rational is the technical resource for the community of development professionals using or evaluating IBM Rational tools and best practices. developerWorks: Rational offers a variety of downloads, resources, discussion groups, and education designed to help you utilize IBM Rational solutions to best advantage.*

IBM Rational Portfolio Manager System Requirements

Server
- Dual CPU, 2GB RAM (for 25-50 named users. Contact IBM for other configurations)
- Operating Systems: AIX, WindowsXP/2000/2003, Solaris , HP-UX, Redhat Linux, Suse Linux
- Supported databases: Oracle, IBM DB2 on AIX, Solaris, HP-UX, Windows 2000/2003
- Supported application servers: IBM WebSphere, Apache Tomcat, BEA WebLogic, JBoss, SunONE Application Server (iPlanet), Oracle Application Server

Client
- Pentium II (233 MHZ or higher)
- 64 MB of memory, 15 MB disk space
- Windows 2000 or Windows XP
- Internet Explorer 5.5 or higher (includes JVM 5.00.3802 or higher)
- Internet access through phone line or network
- Supported desktop scheduler: If using the project schedule import/ export functionality, Microsoft Project Professional 2000/2002/2003

- *IBM Rational software training offers a curriculum that includes courses covering all the software development capabilities. A blended curriculum of instructor-led and Web-based training provides a variety of options to suit your organization's education needs.*

- *IBM Rational Customer Support helps ensure that your project keeps moving forward with the help you need, when you need it. These maintenance programs offer efficient problem resolution with both online access to tens of thousands of technical notes, patches, and upgrades, as well as direct access to a talented team of support engineers. IBM Software Maintenance is the standard maintenance offering, and Technical Support Account Services can supplement this, according to your business requirements.*

About IBM Rational software

Rational® software from IBM helps organizations automate and integrate the core business process of software development. Rational products, services and best practices power the IBM Software Development Platform, the premier platform for teams who discover, develop, and deploy software assets in business applications, embedded systems, and software products. This modular and complete solution enables teams to adopt a business-driven development approach based on open standards, including the Eclipse open source framework. The result is differentiated business performance. Additional information is available at **ibm.com/rational** and **ibm.com/developerworks/rational/rationaledge**, the monthly e-zine for the Rational community.

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