# 5 Undeniable Benefits of Cloud Construction Management Software

The pressure to stay up to date on current projects has been a thorn in the side of many contractors. Poor communication has derailed countless construction projects, causing them to finish late and over budget.

The good news is that for construction firms that use the latest technology, communication has never been easier. Just as your field teams need the right tools to complete their construction projects, you need software for managing your projects effectively. Any good solution should enable you to:

- Track costs against budgets.
- View and store important documentation such as RFIs, jobsite progress photos, and project issues.
- Easily collaborate with field teams, office staff, subs, vendors, and clients.

Cloud construction management software allows your team members to log on from anywhere. From their choice of device, they can enter standardized data, site events, labor activities, material costs, and more into a fully searchable database that's updated in real time. This means no more tracking in separate Excel spreadsheets or disparate systems. It also cuts down on missing information and unnecessary mistakes. As a result, you can run more organized projects, deliver on time, and maximize your profits from every project.

When you choose cloud construction management software that includes project management, built-in financials, job cost accounting, payroll, and inventory, you can benefit from:

- Real-time access to project data from anywhere, on any device.
- Consistent and auditable workflows.
- Improved field-to-office communication.
- Reduced response times with instant notifications and message alerts.
- Improved accountability through enhanced documentation, tracking, and record-keeping.
- Greater ROI on every project.

As your business grows, it's important to keep projects running smoothly and turning a reliable profit. With cloud software, you can connect your teams, manage cash more carefully, and keep your customers and employees happy.

*Here are five undeniable benefits of using cloud project management software coupled with cloud construction management software.*

## #1  Track Projects in Real Time

Imagine a solution that handles project management, accounting, payroll, and inventory on one platform. With one unified software solution, project managers can easily track costs compared to budgets, view and store important documentation (such as RFIs, daily field reports and change orders), and collaborate with other users (such as field techs, office staff, and clients).

When you connect your accounting and project management teams on one platform, they can track all aspects of a project. They gain real-time views of active and completed tasks, time by employee, and project profitability. Everyone can drill down to see budget versus actual, change orders, subcontractor commitments, compliance issues, payroll details, and more.

*Modern cloud software connects the field and office designed to exchange data in one cohesive software solution.*

## #2  Eliminate Costly Delays

Cloud construction management software can streamline the exchange of information between your teams in the office and out on job sites. When someone uses a mobile app to make changes to items such as RFIs, project issues, or timecards, the system will automatically update and sync this data in the accounting application. When your entire workforce has access to the same information at the same time, you can be sure that important issues will be addressed immediately—before they cause costly delays.

A project manager in the field can submit an expense report from their mobile device while on-site. The expense report will go directly into the cloud software where a manager will look at it, approve it, and turn it into an accounts payable invoice. You can even specify a person who might need to see that expense. This cuts down on administrative overhead and helps you avoid the frustration of another manual process. With modern cloud software, you eliminate steps because there's no need to re-enter data into other software. And because job costs are instantly visible, everyone has access to the same information at the same time.

With cloud software, teams are connected so everyone is working from the same set of information. Think of it as a single source of truth.

*Cloud construction management software gives field staff and office workers the tools they need to communicate properly. Your operations and accounting staff will be able to make sure that both groups have the information they need to make smart decisions.*
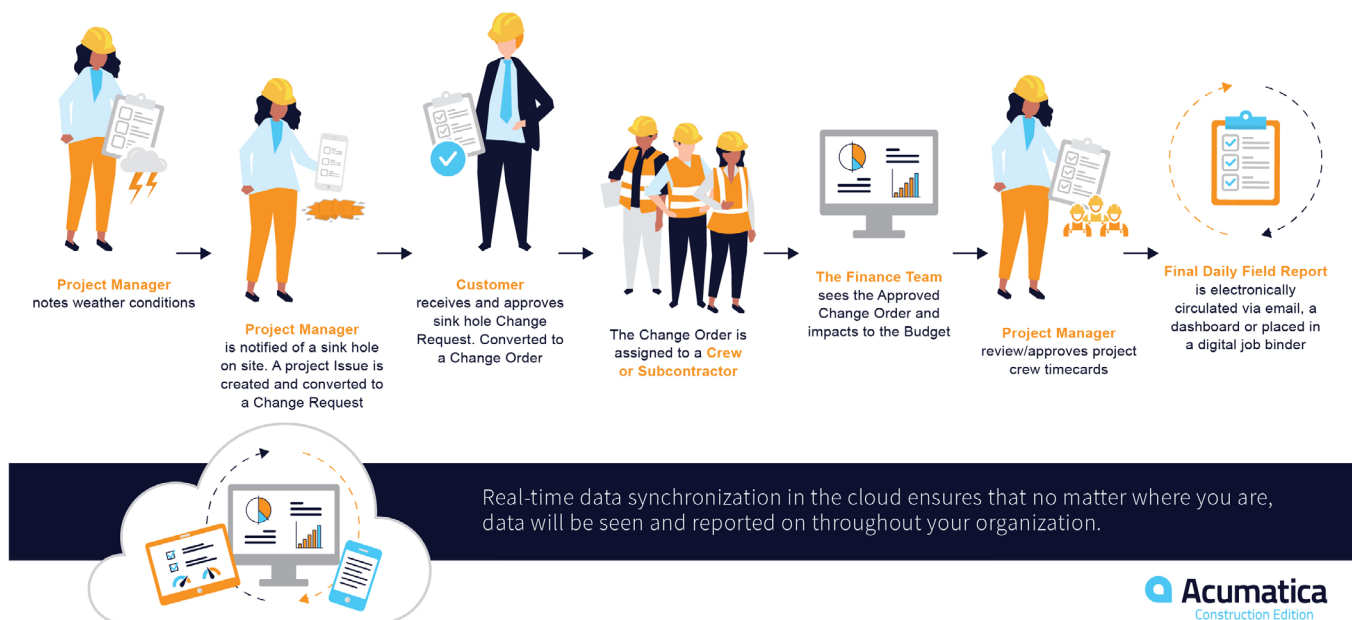
# #3  Automate Workflows to Increase Collaboration

One roadblock to seamless communication between project teams is the complex, manual workflow between stakeholders. Traditionally, if a subcontractor has a question, they will approach the contractor, who will then submit an RFI to the architect, who will request clarification from a consultant. The answer will follow the reverse route back to the subcontractor, resulting in delays and outdated information.

Cloud construction management software provides workflows that increase collaboration across the entire business. It enables you to:

- Replace multiple steps and eliminate duplicate data entry by automating tasks and processes.
- Ensure that action items will be addressed, and project data will remain current by using intuitive dashboards and alerts.
- Perform accurate, real-time analysis of current projects and intelligent forecasting of future ones by using powerful business intelligence tools.



## Connected Teams -  Project Management Workflow

**Project Manager** notes weather conditions

**Project Manager** is notified of a sink hole on site. A project Issue is created and converted to a Change Request

**Customer** receives and approves sink hole Change Request. Converted to a Change Order

The Change Order is assigned to a **Crew or Subcontractor**

**The Finance Team** sees the Approved Change Order and impacts to the Budget

**Project Manager** review/approves project crew timecards

**Final Daily Field Report** is electronically circulated via email, a dashboard or placed in a digital job binder

Real-time data synchronization in the cloud ensures that no matter where you are, data will be seen and reported on throughout your organization.

**Acumatica** Construction Edition

With workflows, teams can streamline and automate repeatable tasks, increasing overall efficiency and minimizing opportunities for errors. Managers can make faster, smarter decisions. Employees can collaborate in a more productive and agile way.

# #4  Streamline and Enhance Communication

We all know what it's like to get dozens of emails on an hourly basis. Being able to communicate effectively and turn these emails into actionable tasks is paramount to your firm's success. The key to greater project control is to be able to cut through email clutter, so that you can manage projects by exception and identify issues before they escalate. When your office staff can see issues as soon as they arise in the field, projects can move along efficiently. Project alerts can keep team members informed of what they need to do next, minimize downtime, and eliminate unnecessary costs and delays.

Cloud construction management software can also help you turn email into a communication vehicle. You can eliminate multiple processes to update project activities with a simple, easy-to-use Outlook Add-In.

Users can also centralize storage for drawings, photos, change orders, and any other important documentation that impacts a contract and informs the audit trail. Additional tracking capabilities include a job-specific dashboard and a program dashboard that offers insights into all open projects.

> "I am really glad we made the decision to go to Acumatica's cloud-based construction and accounting software because our teams are doing purchase orders, change orders, and everything remotely. Project Managers can get into the system to see what is going on with their projects. Cloud software is the way to go because it is so easy. You just log in and it's nothing different than if you were just sitting in your office."
>
> *John Dawne Meijer, Controller, Pin Oak Corpus Christi*

Cloud construction management software can also proactively alert your team of any issues and enable effective collaboration. When everyone has access to the same information at the same time, they can prevent delays and address important issues immediately.

# #5  Log On Anytime, from Anywhere

Finally, there's something for the field: mobile access. Connecting the field to the office is a must. Cloud technology and mobile applications make it possible. They enable your team to document and update project data from anywhere in the field. For project team members, the ability to stay connected to stakeholders while on a jobsite can shave hours off the work schedule. And by not having to chase down contracts, insurance documents, RFls, change orders, and the most current project plans, employees can keep projects moving forward while working in the field.

Cloud construction management software can enhance the flow of information between your teams in the office and out on jobsites. Changes made in the mobile app to items such as RFIs, project issues, and timecards will be updated and synced automatically in the cloud software—helping to ensure that your business will run as smoothly as possible.

*The cloud connects everyone so management, field operations, and the back office have a single source of the truth and complete visibility into customers and your business.*

## Getting Started with Cloud Construction Management Software

Construction firms can no longer stay competitive by relying on paper-based processes, manual workflows, and an endless barrage of emails. Smart, forward-thinking firms are moving their businesses to the cloud. With cloud-based solutions, they're finding the powerful communication tools and automated workflows they need to maximize the profitability of every project.

Don't get left behind on yesterday's technology. Take the first step towards a better bottom line today. Learn all about **Acumatica Construction Edition**.

> "Now that we run our business in the cloud, we can easily share data between the office and field. This means every decision made in the field can incorporate accounting data, and every back-office decision can consider what's happening in the field. The result is smart, strategic decisions that drive our business towards profitable growth."
>
> *Jackie Patterson, Controller, Focus Design Builders*

## Take the Next Step

Cloud construction and accounting software empowers contractors to keep projects running smoothly and profitably by helping them connect their teams, manage cash more carefully, and keep their customers and employees happy.

Acumatica Construction Edition is a complete, native, and cloud-based construction and accounting software solution. This easy-to-use software includes powerful financials, job cost accounting, project management, payroll, inventory, order management, service management, CRM, mobile, and more.

Built on the world's best cloud and mobile technology with a unique all-inclusive user licensing model, it enables a complete, real time view of your business anytime, anywhere. You'll increase collaboration, streamline time-intensive processes, and increase project visibility and profitability.