

Primavera Enterprise Version 5

This report covers the Bronze Stage assessment of Primavera Enterprise Version 5, an application from Primavera Systems, Inc., that I conducted on Monday, 20 June 2005.

Primavera Enterprise is a well-established portfolio, programme and project management suite containing a broad range of functionality. It is capable of being configured in line with the requirements of extremely diverse client types, from low to high maturity users.

When originally developed, the application focussed on the planning and scheduling aspects of project management, displaying information in a clear and comprehensible way. It contained particularly strong resource management features, to optimise work allocation. Time recording was available and also included was a useful set of both tabular and graphical reports to convey project, programme and portfolio information to all management levels.

To this strong foundation has since been added a raft of methodology management, collaborative and workflow features. For example, the system can now support a tailored Prince 2 methodology to help users follow best practice. What was originally a client-server application has now been given a high level of Web functionality, providing simpler interfaces for light-weight users. Using a standard browser, Web users can create their own home page to display their personal choice of information. Project workspaces can also be set up so that team members have a centralised collaborative area.

Team members can now use the collaborative workspace to raise issues and enter change requests. The collaborative workspace also enables project initiation and gateway review processes to be controlled. Risk and issue logs are available and rules can be written that cause issues to be raised automatically if a particular set of conditions is satisfied.

Primavera Systems has indicated that, in their opinion, the design and use of these products fall within the field of guidance offered by the OGC Business Change Guidance documents covering Benefits Management, Portfolio Management, Programme Management, Project Management, Risk Management, Requirements Management and Strategic Management. I agree with their opinion. As mentioned above, the product includes a 'Methodology Manager' feature that incorporates workflow management and templating components that offer, among other methodologies, PRINCE2 functionality. At this stage I have found no reason to suppose that this is not appropriately compliant.

In my opinion, this assessment should now proceed to the Silver Stage and I have accordingly agreed a Silver Stage assessment plan with Primavera Systems, which is attached to this report.

S. Cotterell

24 June 2005