

Program Management Software Tools Review

ProjectLibre

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Fundamentals of Project Management

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## ProjectLibre

### Assignment 1.6

Download one of the open-source project management software tools and evaluate its capabilities and potential usefulness in your place of work.

### Introduction

Project management is the application of knowledge, skills, tools, and techniques to meet the project requirements. Project Management is categorized into five Process Groups: Initiating, Planning, Executing, Monitoring and Controlling, and Closing (Institute, 2013). Understanding what project management is and the process groups contained within is critical in the evaluation of any project management software. For this assignment, ProjectLibre was downloaded and evaluated for its ability to support the five Process Groups during a sample project of painting a room.

### Company Background

Downloaded from [opensource.com](https://opensource.com), ProjectLibre is a free project management (PM) software designed for the small to intermediate sized business application. ProjectLibre is developed by Marc O'Brien and Laurent Chretienneau, who were also the creators of another open source PM software called OpenProj in 2007 under the company Projity (Santos, 2015). Developed as a more cost effective solution to Micro-Soft Project, ProjectLibre is unique in that fact that is not only free, but capable of operating on Windows, MAC, OS and Linux software platforms.

## Software Review

In order to review the software for its usefulness, a sample project of painting a living room was created. Nine separate tasks were chosen which began with selecting colors to painting the final trim. In figure 1, each task was assigned a predecessor, with painting the walls consisting of two individual tasks of one coat each.

	🕒	Name	Duration	Start	Finish	Predecessors
1		Select Color	0.25 days?	6/3/16 8:00 AM	6/3/16 10:00 AM	
2		Purchase Paint	0.5 days?	6/3/16 10:00 AM	6/3/16 3:00 PM	1
3	📅	Prepare Walls	1.25 days?	6/3/16 3:00 PM	6/6/16 5:00 PM	2
4	📅	Paint Ceiling	2 days?	6/7/16 8:00 AM	6/8/16 5:00 PM	3
5	📅	1st Coat	1 day?	6/7/16 8:00 AM	6/7/16 5:00 PM	
6	📅	2nd Coat	1 day?	6/8/16 8:00 AM	6/8/16 5:00 PM	5
7	📅	First Coat on Walls	1 day?	6/9/16 8:00 AM	6/9/16 5:00 PM	6
8	📅	Second Coat of Paint	1 day?	6/10/16 8:00 AM	6/10/16 5:00 PM	7
9	📅	Paint Trim	1 day?	6/13/16 8:00 AM	6/13/16 5:00 PM	8

Figure 1: Living Room Paint Schedule

Project data can be viewed in Gantt, Network, WBS, and Task Usage. Each view provides specific, easy to understand, information and makes it possible for project management to control a project from initiation to close, with an emphasis on monitoring and controlling. After utilizing the software for three days, the following pros and cons were noted:

### Pros:

- Compatibility with multiple operating systems – It was possible to operate ProjectLibre on both a Windows based system as well as a MAC.
- Core PM Functionality – ProjectLibre has the capability to assist in areas of all five project management process groups.

- Ease of Use – Each task can be identified and linked by simply dragging and connecting related tasks. This allows the PM to brainstorm first, and then assign predecessors.
- Issue Tracking – Allows for quick identification when any one or more processes exceed the allotted time frame. This will aid in preventing delays, especially on items within the critical path.

#### Cons

- Scaling – Poor layout when it comes to the Gantt chart view. Difficult to see a clear picture when multiple tasks and longer time lines are utilized.
- Exportability – Difficult to export to MS Project. Not read by other PM software.
- Poor sharing – unable to determine how to share amongst team members without creating multiple copies, or operating ProjectLibre from the cloud.

#### Conclusion

I found ProjectLibre to offer a great deal to the small and medium sized business operator and believe it could help with project management within the Textron Aviation work environment. The ease of project creation, replication of standard templates, and ease with which linkages can be created between tasks make it ideal for identifying critical path items and any item that could delay a project if not properly managed. In the end, I would recommend the use of ProjectLibre.

### References

Institute, P. (2013). *A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK Guide)*

(5th ed.). Newtown Square, Pennsylvania: Project Management Institute, Inc.

Santos, J. M. (2015, April 27). *ProjectLibre Software Review: Overview - Features - Pricing.*

Retrieved from ProjectLibre: <http://Project->

[management.com/?s=ProjectLibre&submit.x=8&submit.y=7](http://Project-management.com/?s=ProjectLibre&submit.x=8&submit.y=7)