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PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Four Macro Project Management Trends You Can't Ignore in 2016

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Big — by which we mean *macro* — trends in the business landscape are making 2016 an exciting time for service providers. The Internet has been changing the way companies do business for years. Now, with advances in cloud technology, more and more companies are replicating their traditional workspaces in the cloud. This means project managers are working with teams across time zones and cultures. By 2020, half the U.S. workforce is

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projected to be contractors, freelancers, and/or temporary employees, [according to Intuit](#).

Naturally, in tandem with this increased virtual collaboration, more and more work is becoming project-based.

Enter macro project-management trends to pay attention to.

As you gear up to increase profits in 2016, these four macro project management trends will keep you focused on the right areas of improvement. Read them, share them with your team, and implement what you can get buy-in on to stay on top of the competitive game.

Certification, Big Data
& more: 4 project
management trends
you can't ignore in
2016

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1. Big Data can no longer be

confined to the IT department.

Let's face it: Big Data is here to stay. Thanks to powerful systems constantly collecting and storing information, we have more data than ever to mine for actionable intelligence. Moreover, this data lives in systems that can talk to each other. Thanks to widely [available integrations](#), project managers will have fewer data exports. In turn, their data accuracy will increase, and they'll deal with fewer manual calculations (read: fewer spreadsheets). They will not only turn profits, but they will turn greater profits with the same resources, thanks to more granular views of their project data. Welcome to business in the age of Big Data.

2. Project managers will get more fiscal responsibility.

With today's technology offering unprecedented

ability to visualize the health of projects in real time, there are fewer excuses for having a project go over budget or miss a milestone or deadline. Project managers who succeed in 2016 will use the systems at their fingertips to [automatically track project profitability](#), to see which resources they can better utilize, and ultimately to deliver work more predictably and at a healthier bottom line than their peers. They will not only turn profits, but they will turn greater profits with the same resources, thanks to more granular views of their project data.

3. PMP certification is the new black.

These three letters look good on everyone. As the economy rebounds and more project management positions open up, PMP certification helps you ensure your resume doesn't get tossed too early. Moreover, with the Internet shrinking the world and connecting

people's networks more than ever, you'll want the experience this certification provides. Learn more about [becoming PMP certified here](#).

4. Sales and project teams are integrating.

If your project-delivery team can't see into the sales pipeline, they are already behind. Keep your eyes open for software integrations that connect your [CRM to your Project Management System](#). This lets the people who perform the work see into sales opportunities before the deals close, which lets them plan better. The big takeaway here is that better planning leads to better resource scheduling. That means you'll have more of the right people with the right skills matched to client needs, and you'll have less shuffling around mid-projects. When you add in more real-time analytics capabilities, this integration will also let you see which resources are available to

take on more work, letting you make stronger hiring decisions. Altogether, the Sales/Project connection stands to turn healthier profits, and more predictably at that, in 2016.

Is it time to take a second look at your project management system? [Learn how Mavenlink can help you deliver work more predictably and profitably.](#)

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