WHITEPAPER

Increase Wrench Time with an SAP Certified Maintenance Solution

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While wrench time rates vary by company, a typical average is 30 percent.[1] That means only three hours of actual work is being done in a 10-hour day. Several factors contribute to lackluster wrench time, including waiting on parts and materials or unexpected travel, but utilizing best practices in planning and scheduling maintenance can help alleviate this issue. A company that is properly planning and scheduling its work can see wrench time increase to between 60 and 80 percent. The right kind of work order software helps you achieve this.

Streamlining planning and scheduling is one of the most effective ways to improve maintenance operations and increase wrench time. Optimization requires a solid foundation of collective maintenance knowledge along with communication and accountability across departments. It's important to remember that maintenance planning and scheduling is a not a "one size fits all" model.

Optimized planning and scheduling doesn't happen overnight. It depends on a few factors, including the organization's size, the relationships between maintenance, production, and procurement groups, and reversing the reactive work mode. There are several reasons to optimize your organization's planning and scheduling practices, including:

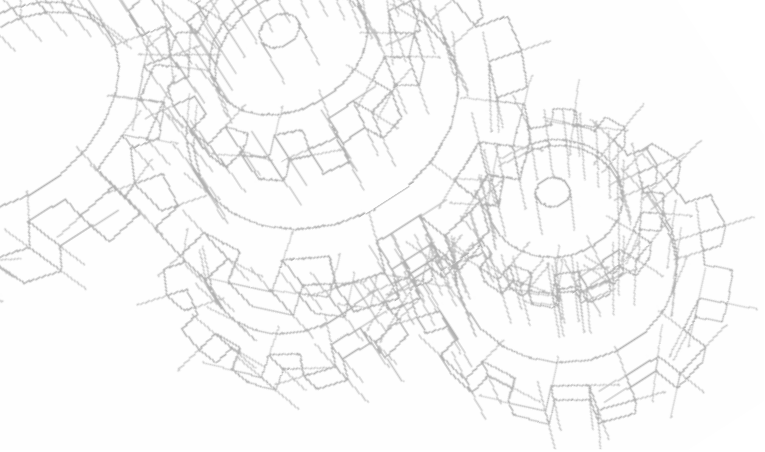
- Efficient maintenance practices enable resources to achieve more with less
- Proactive scheduling of production processes reduces equipment failures
- Optimizing helps to ensure preventive maintenance is planned, aiding in work orders being completed according to priorities and synchronized with production schedules
- Using SAP as the foundation for planning and scheduling safeguards data from becoming compromised due to incompatibility with other non-real-time programs, such as Microsoft Excel or Microsoft Project
- Scheduling and planning in a reliable application inside SAP helps avoid the loss of organizational knowledge when workers retire or leave the organization

Proactive, Not Reactive

Proactive planning and scheduling helps alleviate reactive situations. Studies have shown that reactive work costs three to four times more than planned work.[2] With a real-time work order management system, you will have the knowledge and ability to communicate immediately with multiple departments, such as production, to reallocate resources to other jobs.

Best practice maintenance planning and scheduling eliminates the need to hold an excess surplus of parts and tools in inventory and allows you to cancel requests for permits that are no longer needed. Having full visibility into inventory will enable you to use parts and tools freed up from previous work orders on future work orders. Also, being able to search long text in SAP to find parts required for a repair greatly minimizes the need for free text input. With all departments using the

1. Palmer, Richard. Maintenance Planning and Scheduling Handbook
2. Bardel, Hank. Plant Engineering: A Measured Approach to Uptime



same real-time application, you can quickly and easily schedule jobs and coordinate and minimize downtime with production.

With the right solution and efficient coordination of available materials, tools, and resources, your company can improve its workflow and save time and money.

> *Proactive planning and scheduling helps alleviate reactive situations. Studies have shown that reactive work costs three to four times more than planned work.*

Benefits of Planning and Scheduling

How do you begin to effectively plan and schedule maintenance resources? You should start by evaluating current maintenance processes. From there, you can implement a program that allows you to collaborate with all departments and allocate resources according to work order system requirements. Considerations when using a scheduling process include the following:

Scheduling Workers

- **Planning jobs in advance**
  - An effective planner (see Figure 1 on page 3) uses pre-existing task lists and bills of materials (BOMs), resulting in quicker and more informed planning. This leads to an increase in end-user productivity, also known as wrench time.
- **Arranging for parts and permits to be ready when needed**
  - An effective scheduler (see Figure 2 on page 3) helps ensure that equipment, permits, tools, and materials are available before any job starts.
- **Retaining knowledge**
  - A proven planning and scheduling platform gives workers across all departments access to the same work order flow best-practice methods. Among other benefits, this helps prevent the loss of knowledge when a senior worker retires or leaves the company.

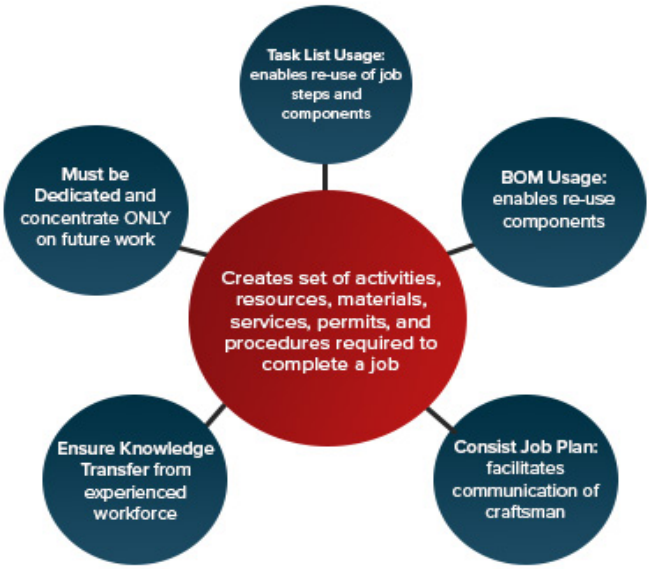


Figure 1: Best pratices of an effective planner

Figure 2: Best pratices of an effective scheduler

Scheduling Equipment

- Scheduling jobs and coordinating schedules with production
  - An effective scheduler evaluates existing maintenance practices and creates standardized processes and workflows, achieving top-to-bottom organizational support and buy-in.
- Coordinating availability of assets
  - An effective scheduler helps ensure that permits, rental equipment, tools, and materials are in place and available before any job starts.
  - A published maintenance schedule creates transparency and allows workers to know what they need before they need it, which increases wrench time.

Effective planning and scheduling of maintenance resources helps improve strategies for preventive maintenance and asset care. An effective best-in-class maintenance planning and scheduling solution increases worker productivity. It also helps ensure knowledge transfer between experienced workforce and new hires and enables cross-functional collaboration.

Centralizing your plant maintenance scheduling activities through a comprehensive solution that works inside SAP can help save time and effort by allowing you to visually organize all project scheduling, take advantage of a project overview map, and reduce the amount of overlooked or lost orders through accurate reports.

> *"Best practice maintenance planning and scheduling eliminates the need to hold an excess surplus of parts and tools in inventory and allows you to cancel requests for permits that are no longer needed."*

Addressing the Need for Proactive Support

Prometheus Group's real-time solutions help you understand all the steps in the planning and scheduling process, from identification, through planning and scheduling, and to execution.

Prometheus Planning & Scheduling revolutionizes the SAP planning process. Built inside of SAP, this certified solution enables you to take SAP to the next level by addressing common planning and scheduling challenges. Prometheus Planning & Scheduling enables you to document your company's processes and workflows for later analysis that can lead to cost-cutting adjustments for the next work order. The solution also includes a customizable Navigator with shortcuts to the workflow steps relevant to your organization. The features of Prometheus Planning & Scheduling include:

- **Navigator** - Use a custom layout relevant to each user's role to easily navigate the workflow process
- **Scheduler** - Take control of your planned work with an easy-to-use graphical scheduler
- **Order Planner** - Get an optimized and simplified view with access to additional planning enhancements

- **Work Package Manager** - Get everything you need to complete a work order in one place
- **Order to Task List & BOM** - Streamline work orders by copying information to task lists and BOMs to use in the future
- **Material Shopping Cart** - Save time and reduce free text spending with this easy to use material search

Prometheus Group has the complete planning and scheduling solution you need. With visibility into inventory and production schedules through the work order scheduler in Prometheus Planning & Scheduling, you will be able to improve preventive maintenance and asset care strategies while keeping reactive work below 25 percent and keeping work order life cycles as short as possible.

Summary

Effective maintenance job planning and scheduling enables more efficient work at a lower cost. Planning and scheduling that offers seamless integration with your ERP system increases efficiency and worker productivity by allowing you to schedule parts, tools, permits, and maintenance time. Using your ERP standards helps ensure consistency across the board.

The success of your work order system requires that you have the necessary people, permits, and parts ready. Prometheus Group helps you take your business to the next level with proactive maintenance resource planning and scheduling.

The Prometheus Platform's Planning & Scheduling module provides web-based planning and scheduling solutions for maintenance management, and the ability to expand to preventive maintenance management, material management, and shutdowns, turnarounds, and outages. It is an out-of-the-box solution that streamlines and enhances maintenance processes with applications that fully integrate with SAP, keeping a single source of truth for your data.

To learn more about features and functionality,
visit our website and review our Planning & Scheduling section.

LEARN MORE

About Prometheus Group

Prometheus Group is a leading global provider of comprehensive and intuitive enterprise asset management software solutions that work within ERP systems and span the full work management life cycle for both maintenance and operations. Developed jointly with end users, Prometheus software enhances the customer experience for planning, scheduling, and executing work for both routine maintenance and shutdowns and turnarounds, all while protecting the workforce with safety solutions and electronic permit to work. Our straight-forward functionality, graphical visualization, and simple processes enable customers to increase productivity, reduce costs, and improve reporting. For more information, please visit www.prometheusgroup.com.