Meeting the One-of-a-Kind Needs of an R&D with Prometheus Scheduler for Maximo

PROMETHEUS GROUP

Company

🏢 Aviation R&D Facility

📍 Delaware, United States

🛩 Military & Defense

Challenges

- 20+ hours/weeks manual data entry
- Inability to review and analyze metrics.
- PMs slipping through the cracks.

Results

- 90% time savings scheduling.
- Custom layouts and reports.
- Improved decision-making.
- Nearing 100% PM compliance.

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ABOUT OUR CLIENT

A world-leading provider of commercial, military, business, and general aviation engines and components, our client serves markets around the globe with their electrical power and mechanical systems for aircraft. As a low-volume R&D facility, the team in Delaware is focused on research, new product development, processes, and analysis — their facility and equipment is highly specialized and frequently re-engineered.

CHALLENGES

At our client's aviation R&D facility, the team of planners and schedulers weren't concerned with moving from reactive maintenance to proactive maintenance. As their lead Maintenance Systems Manager, Evan explains, "It's just the nature of this facility. Because our focus is on product research and development, it makes sense that much of our maintenance will be reactive."

Limited visibility of accurate resource availability: The team needed an efficient way to schedule what proactive maintenance they did have, without letting any work orders slip through the cracks when there were gaps in resource availability. This was the heart of the problem, according to Evan. "Maximo reports into Excel without all of the needed information, which means I spent about 20 hours a week manually filling in the blanks by copying and pasting data for our PMs and PM compliance."

Not only was this time-consuming and extremely tedious, it was also costly; Evan's time could be better spent on deep analysis and using the outcome of that analysis to make improvements.

Inefficient scheduling: The functionality was woefully limited. Using IBM Maximo and Excel, Evan had no choice but to make scheduling assignments on an individual basis. With five rotating maintenance shifts, this left a lot of room for PMs to slip through the cracks if a technician was out sick or on vacation. And since much of this work included regulatory PMs, missing a work order could have major consequences.

Lack of metrics and reports: Furthermore, Evan, who brings data to the leadership team to enable strategic decision-making, needed the ability to generate reports about several different processes, assets, and metrics. Even if they could access all the data needed, there was no simple, quick way to do so. This made it particularly challenging to accurately analyze bad actors, inefficiency, costs, and return on investment (ROI).

SOLUTIONS

As Evan and the team became more fed up with the inefficiency and lack of capabilities they were facing, he reached out to an acquaintance he'd met in a previous role. "We visited her facility and she was downright bragging about Prometheus Scheduler," he recalls. "So, I got some information from her and started speaking with Prometheus Group. It turned out that Prometheus Scheduler could solve all of the challenges I was facing."

Evan worked closely with Richard Almendarez and Keith Schramm to customize reports and layouts in Prometheus Scheduler and MPower to meet the unique needs of this facility.

Solution components:
- Prometheus Scheduler for Maximo
- vCalendar
- vJobPlan
- MPower

> *"The equipment we use is unique, specialized, and constantly being re-engineered. For the small cost of MPower, we gained huge visibility into understanding the maintenance costs of our assets in specific time periods, information that we couldn't get anywhere else."*
>
> — Evan, Maintenance Systems Manager, client in Aviation

BENEFITS

Custom reports: Previously, our client wasn't able to get the information he needed with Maximo's reporting functionality alone. Using MPower, now he can access all the tables he needs at once and pull the data where he needs it. One such custom report he uses is a "Tools Usage" report that enables him to see which technicians have been issued what tools, and if they were returned properly. This helps the team identify lost, stolen, damaged, or misplaced tools.

Cost analysis and budgeting: Using MPower, Evan can see maintenance costs including labor hours, materials charged to work orders (WOs), cost centers, and more. This makes it easier to craft annual budgets.

Ability to schedule by craft, not by person: With Prometheus, Evan and the Planning and Scheduling team are able to schedule by craft, not by person. By doing so, they never lose the line of sight of the maintenance work that needs to be done. Even if a technician goes on holiday or is out on sick leave, because the PMs are assigned by craft, another technician can see that work.

Monthly compliance reporting: Using Prometheus Scheduler, Evan and his team can keep track of PM compliance and generate a custom monthly report. Now, there's no more question about whether or not they met their compliance requirements.

Identifying bad actors: Evan explains, "With MPower, I have insight into which assets are performing well and which ones aren't. In layman's terms, I break it down like this: think of a set of tires that is supposed to get you 40,000 miles. But instead, they're wearing out at 20,000 miles. With Maximo, we couldn't see when assets were prematurely wearing out – but with MPower, I have the granularity to see exactly where the problem is. We have four identical pieces of equipment and Prometheus Scheduler allows me to report comparisons of the four, in terms of maintenance labor, WOs charged against, the costs of materials and parts, downtime, etc Based on these KPIs, I can easily see which asset is a bad actor."
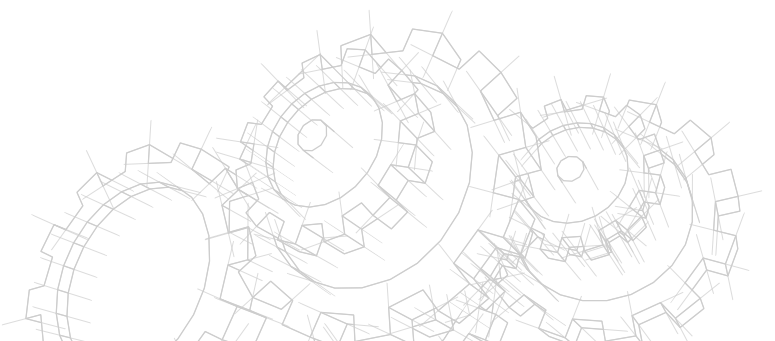

RESULTS

90% time savings scheduling: Prior to implementing Prometheus Scheduler, our client's scheduling was done using IBM Maximo and Excel spreadsheets. The process ate into about 20 hours a week. By using Prometheus, the team has drastically increased their efficiency to schedule because Prometheus eliminates much of the manual work. The process now takes between two to three hours per week, which is time Evan and the team can now spend out in the field.

MPower layouts and custom reports: Prometheus Scheduler's out-of-the-box functionality is robust, but our client required several custom configurations to meet their exact needs for their unique situation. As a result, Solufy worked with them to build several new custom reports and layouts.

Improved decision-making: With the analytics our client generates from the custom reporting features, their team is better equipped to make strategic decisions about the maintenance of assets – the "gray area" has shrunk and now the numbers tells the whole story. As a passionate problem-solver, Evan says MPower lays out the facts in black and white. "I like the software so much," he says. "And I know we're not even using it to its fullest extent at this facility. It gets me the granular details I need in a way that's easy to read, so that I can get to the bottom of problems and failures and from there, it's easier to determine an effective solution."

Almost 100% PM compliance: Now that our client can schedule PMs by craft instead of by the individual, the risk of work orders being overlooked or missed has virtually been eliminated. Evan says this has increased their PM compliance tremendously.

Their team has experienced such positive results with Prometheus Scheduler that Evan managed the implementation of it at another facility in 2018.

> *"I think Prometheus Scheduler adds so much to IBM Maximo than using Maximo alone. Maximo is not an easy tool to use. Prometheus Scheduler takes all tables into account and allows me to do so much at once."*
>
> — Evan, Maintenance Systems Manager, client in Aviation Engineering

Learn more about how Prometheus Group can help your organization today

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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