Dean-Fluor Slashes Time-to-Schedule with Prometheus Scheduler for Maximo

DEAN | FLUOR   PROMETHEUS GROUP

Company

🏢 Dean-Fluor

📍 Saratoga Springs, Utah

🏭 Facilities Management

Challenges

- 800+ work orders/week.
- 1,600+ clicks to recreate a schedule.
- Inability to see total workforce availability.

Results

- Time-to-schedule reduced by 20-25 hours/week.
- More effective scheduling decisions.
- Increased visibility, accuracy and accountability.
- Scheduler has gained back 50%+ of his time.

Dean-Fluor Slashes Time-to-Schedule with Prometheus Scheduler for Maximo

ABOUT DEAN-FLUOR

Dean-Fluor is a government agency that helps organizations improve the lifecycle reliability, availability, and maintainability of their facilities. With expertise in engineering, analytics, systems, and software integration, Dean-Fluor also specializes in project management, scalable project delivery, installation, operations, and maintenance.

CHALLENGES

Armando Zavala knows a thing or two about tedium. As the sole Planner/ Scheduler and CMMS Administrator for his department at Dean-Fluor, he spent the majority of his weeks stuck in a cycle of scheduling and assigning over 800 work orders per week. With the scheduling tool he had, it took several clicks and moving between multiple screens to be able to schedule and assign a single work order. He'd complete one, then move on to the next.

"It was tedious work," he says. "Very repetitive and dull. And if I made a mistake, I had to start all over again. There was such a high volume of work orders and this was the only way we knew how to schedule them, so I was constantly focusing on just getting the schedules done in time. I didn't have any bandwidth for much else."

Armando was eager to get to other high-value work in Maximo that required more analysis on his part and that his department had flagged as high priority. "I wanted to explore inventory in Maximo," he recalls, "but I just didn't have the time." The sheer volume of the work orders and the clumsiness of the process in the tool meant that he had few hours left in the week to tackle these other tasks. "It took me at least 1,600 clicks to create a schedule for the week. At two to three seconds per click, that time adds up."

- **Inefficient scheduling tool:** Overly long processes in the tool led to dozens of hours per week being spent on repetitive, dull tasks, reducing the time employees had to work on high-value activities.

- **Inability to schedule or assign multiple work orders:** A lack of useful, easy-to-read data and visual elements made it difficult to spot inaccuracies, evaluate wrench time, or compare different scheduling scenarios.

- **Lack of visibility:** A lack of useful, easy-to-read data and visual elements made it difficult to spot inaccuracies, evaluate wrench time, or compare different scheduling scenarios.

Armando needed a visual tool that would allow him to easily make mass changes so that he could get the same work done in significantly less time.

SOLUTIONS

About three years ago, Armando saw a demo at the Mountain West Maximo User Group (MWMUG) in Utah.

> "
>
> *"Immediately, I could see that Prometheus Scheduler was built so that planners and schedulers can accomplish their tasks quickly and with minimal effort. I started asking questions, and it was apparent that it had tons of functionality and capabilities that just weren't there in the other solution we had."*
>
> — Armando Zavala, Planner/Scheduler and CMMS Administrator, Dean Fluor.

Getting Prometheus Scheduler approved was easy, Armando explains, because it was so simple to prove its value. "My boss was running the User Group and had used Prometheus Scheduler before. I showed him how it could benefit us on a day-to-day basis by creating a schedule with vScheduler. There was an immediate cost savings because I could reduce my time to schedule by at least 2.5 hours per trade per week. I schedule for eight to 10 trades, so we were looking at saving 20-25 hours every week. I think it was easy for leadership to see the value and say yes."

After installing Prometheus Scheduler, Armando played with it in the development environment until he received training and completed troubleshooting and configuration with the Solufy team.
 "It's a very intuitive tool" he says.

> "
>
> *"I learned a lot at training, but I had already figured out most of it on my own while experimenting in Dev, because it's so easy to use. Then, we went live, and I immediately gained back more than half my week."*
>
> — Armando Zavala, Planner/Scheduler and CMMS Administrator, Dean Fluor

Prometheus Scheduler: Now, Armando can schedule and assign work orders in mass quantities with just a couple of clicks. He is scheduling two to three weeks in advance and is able to quickly make changes when he is thrown curveballs. "It used to be difficult to deal with exceptions, such as a maintenance technician calling in sick," he recalls. "Even though these are situations schedulers face all the time, not every software is built to handle our day-to- day realities like Prometheus Scheduler."

vCalendar: The Dean Fluor teams use vCalendar to keep track of availability exceptions, such as training and vacations. That availability is then seamlessly integratedwith vScehduler.

vJobPlan: Dean-Fluor has just started with vJobPlan and, according to Armando, "We look forward to using it more. It will help a lot with comparing labor hours estimated versus what was put into the job. Before, we had to build an extensive query in SQL to get those numbers, put them in excel, and go through them one by one. In vJobPlan, it's all right there."

BENEFITS

> *"We struggled for a long time, not knowing that there were better options out there, not knowing that it didn't have to be that way. Here's what I would say to anyone who has questions or hesitations about investing in Prometheus Scheduler: the time you're going to save is well worth the expense."*
>
> — Armando Zavala, Planner/Scheduler and CMMS Administrator, Dean Fluor.

Prometheus Scheduler has benefitted many people across the organization – from senior leadership, to the maintenance technicians, and of course, the scheduler. Armando says hands-down the biggest benefit for him is the time he saves on all his scheduling tasks.

"Prometheus Scheduler is a flexible tool that has features and capabilities not offered by other solutions," says Armando. "For instance, let's say I have an assignment made in the future for two mechanics for one hour. The day it comes up, one of the mechanics calls in sick and let's say I don't have another resource to do the work. Instead of two mechanics for one hour, I need to be able to change that work order to one mechanic for two hours. In our old solution, technically, it was possible to do that, but it was time-consuming. I was modifying the requirements in Maximo. Now, it's just highlight the WO and in a couple clicks, I'm done."

The time efficiencies gained in Prometheus Scheduler have enabled Armando's professional development and engagement. "Now, I'm doing 'fun' stuff; the stuff I enjoy most about this role. I get to explore Maximo and learn in ways that I wouldn't have had time to before. I finally have time to do what I'm passionate about and do the work that adds the most value to my department: taking the information out of the system and analyzing the data so that we can make the best possible decisions and create the most efficiency."

Prometheus Scheduler has also benefitted the maintenance technicians for whom Armando is scheduling, and the leadership teams making decisions based on their performance. "Prior to Prometheus Scheduler, we did not have clarity about how long jobs actually were versus how long people thought they were. The differences are shocking sometimes," explains Armando "It may have been possible to generate some of this data in our solution, but it wasn't easily accessible, and it wasn't in an easy-to-read visual format. Essentially, that meant we didn't have the data we needed. Now we do, and that helps us make better decisions."

1. **Time to scheduled reduced by 20-25 hours per week**: With more than half his working hours returned to him, Armando finally has the bandwidth to work on the high-value tasks that are no longer forced to the backburner. "Prometheus Scheduler has saved me so much time," Armando says. "But we know we've just touched the surface on what it can do. Currently, we have a fairly basic configuration with two main schedules: one master schedule for all work, and one for our corrective maintenance. But, we are looking to start using PM forecasting to get a cost analysis for the next couple of years and to really dive into vJobPlan. We know there is so much more Prometheus Scheduler can do and we're excited to dig into these other features."

2. **More effective scheduling decisions and flexible capabilities**: Armando explains, "Because Prometheus Scheduler is a visual tool, it is easier to see what I'm doing, and the consequences of some choices. Before, I'd make assignments and all I'd get was a number. Now, with the colorcoded heatmaps that I can configure to my specifications, I can see if I've scheduled too much or too little work, and I can readjust to make things better."

3. **Increased accuracy, accountability, and visibility:** While it may have been possible to access the data the Dean-Fluor team needed before, it was time consuming and difficult to do so. With Prometheus Scheduler, they have quick access to the data they need to determine a variety of necessary KPIs, including wrench time.

"If you're trying to find a scheduling tool that's easy to use, Prometheus Scheduler is great. If you're looking to go to the next level and also find something to do not just that, but also to increase efficiencies in Maximo and in general, then Prometheus Scheduler is even better."

— Armando Zavala, Planner/Scheduler and CMMS Administrator, Dean Fluor

Learn more about how Prometheus Group can help your organization today.

CONTACT US

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.