

# Secure Your Construction Future

8 Reasons Your Construction Company  
Should Move to a Connected, Cloud  
Software Solution



**Trimble**  
Construction

## If the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns weren't enough of a challenge for construction, the industry finds itself in flux once again.

In 2022, several large Australian building firms, such as Pivotal, Condev and Probuild, went into liquidation<sup>1</sup> due to the combination of floods, building material price hikes, high demand for labour and COVID disruptions. These real-world examples underline the need for construction businesses to operate leanly and to be able to pivot quickly in response to outside forces.

In order to do this effectively, construction companies need to be able to access real-time data across all aspects of the business. Yet too often, this data is trapped in silos and information transfer between departments is sluggish. To overcome this, construction businesses need a central source of truth that all departments can dependably rely on. Enter modern, connected, cloud construction ERP software.

<sup>1</sup>Australian Broadcasting Corp. "Pivotal director warns other 'big builders' face collapse as 'gouging' pushes construction industry to edge" 26, May 2022





## **Construction ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning)**

software is powerful business management software that brings together all core business functions, such as inventory, sales and marketing, project management, finance, HR and more, into one application.

Today's cloud-based, connected ERP systems source real-time information from all departments via a single-source of data truth and automated workflows.

Connected construction ERPs deliver several benefits, including increased cohesiveness, better planning and decision-making, and improved collaboration and synergy, ensuring your business is ready for anything that might be thrown at it.







# 8 Benefits of construction-specific, cloud **ERP** software.

Why are connected, cloud construction ERPs so vital to running a successful construction business today? Here are eight key benefits:





1:

### **Connect Your Entire Business and Project Teams for Better Collaboration**

In many construction businesses, information is siloed in various departments, making the exchange of information inefficient and time-consuming. In a survey for our recent 'Road to Recovery' white paper, project management teams reported spending an average of 41% of their weekly work hours keeping their projects and disconnected software systems up-to-date, suggesting that teams are spending valuable time manually inputting data into their project management software.

A construction ERP eliminates the need to manually enter data multiple times by making real-time data available across the business, meaning your employees can quickly extract the data they need from all departments.

2:

### **Improve Decision-Making: On the Project, in the Back Office and Beyond**

By bringing together all your business data into one system, you can get a much clearer overview of what's happening both on your projects and across your entire business at any one time. This allows you to make much more informed decisions, as well as identify any adverse trends or unexpected changes more quickly, and therefore respond to them more proactively in order to minimise the impact.

For example, real-time inventory and warehouse performance information can be correlated with order and supply data, so when order demand fluctuates or supply delays happen, you can get real-time reporting and tailored alerts that help you react quickly and reduce the impact on customers.







3:

### Take Charge of—and Improve—Your Cash Flow

Our whitepaper also uncovered that only 11% of respondents in a finance role reported that they definitely had the right software to do their job well. Sadly, only 5.6% reported that their finance systems integrated seamlessly with all other systems and departments in their company, that it was very easy to accurately forecast, and that they were completely confident in the future readiness of their tech stack.

So what of the other 94.4%? It seems the vast majority of finance departments in construction businesses simply aren't able to access the data they need in a timely enough matter to make accurate forecasts, making it difficult for them to help the business quickly respond to changes and trends—for example, the surging supply costs the industry is currently experiencing.

A connected construction ERP that can leverage a hosted cloud environment and real-time data gives your finance department broad oversight over the whole business. This allows them to track expenditures and budgets, monitor the progress of projects, calculate contract billings and be alerted of any issues or updates. By giving finance more control over cash flow, they are better equipped to increase your business's ROI.



4:

### **Reduce Risks and Run More Efficient and Profitable Projects**

Much like those in finance roles, our whitepaper revealed that those in project management roles were also being let down by their platforms in the area of integration. 48% of respondents said their project management software had only basic or no integration capability with other systems or departments in their business, while 56.5% said they only had access to real-time data some of the time.

As any project manager will know, accurate data and forecasting are essential in construction. Issues like improper allocation of materials, untimely project completions and deviations from the scheduled workflows can all incur significant financial losses.

A connected construction ERP can help project managers avoid such issues by providing and analysing daily field reports, and giving managers access to up-to-date information so they can make data-driven decisions on the go. This leads to less confusion, smoother workflows, reduced waste and higher profits.

**56.6%** of workers only have access to real-time data some of the time





5:

### **Access Data and Connect With Your Teams Anywhere, Any Time**

In an industry where you may be managing multiple sites that are likely located across city, state or other borders, it can be incredibly frustrating when the information you need in the field is only available in the back office.

With a cloud construction ERP, project managers only need an internet connection to have all the data they need at their fingertips. Modern mobile tools applications today extend the power of the back office ERP into the field.. or coffee shop..or airport. This lets managers and supervisors easily distribute assignments and monitor the progress of projects across several work locations—all without having to get in the car and travel. It also alerts them instantly of any potential issues, allowing them to respond quickly to prevent delays.

6:

### Save Valuable Time and Effort

If you're using multiple, standalone software programs to manage your construction work, it's likely many of your employees are spending a lot of valuable time on low-value, manual tasks like re-keying data from one system to the other. We've already noted how project management teams are spending potentially 41% of the working week inputting data into their platform, but the survey also revealed that 56% of respondents in finance roles said it took three to eight hours—or longer—to gather data they needed for each reporting period.

This is time waste that could essentially be eliminated with a cloud construction ERP, which connects data and workflows across the business, allowing employees to automate this type of information-gathering. This not only reduces costs but also frees your employees to spend their time on tasks that bring more value to the business.

**41%** of workers' weeks is spent inputting data







7:

### Protect Your Data—and Your Business

Did you know that construction is one of the most targeted industries by cyber criminals looking to steal critical data or hijack your business? You might think that hosting your data in the cloud makes you more vulnerable, but actually the opposite is true.

Contractors working in multiple software systems or maintaining on-premise servers are ripe targets for hackers. Multiple systems, vendors, even accidental loss of data on paper forms can all provide easy windows for cyber criminals to gain access to your data. Most contractors don't have the IT resources to consistently monitor and secure every potential threat, or do consistent data backups to protect the company should a ransomware attack or other breach occur.

Modern, connected construction suites hosted in trusted, protected cloud environments, however, do offer these protections. And, it takes the burden off of you and your teams to stay on top of and prevent the latest data security threats.

8:

### Properly Scale Your Business to Grow

When you've got multiple systems in the business—finance using one platform, project managers using another, and so on—this inevitably leads to disjointed processes, and increases the level of process complexity throughout the business. This disjointedness and complexity can hamper the business once it begins to scale its operations.

With a connected construction ERP, hosted on a solid cloud platform, you can unite the business at an earlier, more manageable stage of growth, and implement company-wide best practices based on a central source of information. Once you've got all facets of the business working together like a well-oiled machine, it becomes much easier to increase your efficiency and scale your business. And, you'll have the right tech stack already in place to take advantage of the next wave of construction technology and innovations.







## **Future-Proof Your Construction Business Today.**

As you can see, a construction ERP can not only equip your business to deal with current challenges but also set your business up for future growth. Having this single source of truth helps every department to connect more seamlessly across the business, thereby allowing them to function more efficiently and with greater agility.

Want to find out how easy it can be for your company to become a modern, data-driven contractor?

[Connect with Trimble Viewpoint](#) for your personal assessment.





## ABOUT TRIMBLE VIEWPOINT

Trimble Viewpoint construction software solutions, part of Trimble Connected Construction, allow contractors to better manage their projects, processes and people, using the data gathered to lower risk and improve margins. With more than 40% of the ENR 400 on our platforms, Trimble Viewpoint innovations are transforming the construction industry by connecting operations across project management tools and mobile field solutions.

For more information, visit: [www.viewpoint.com](http://www.viewpoint.com).

©2022 Viewpoint, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Viewpoint®, Vista™, Spectrum®, ProContractor™, Jobpac Connect™, Viewpoint Team™, Viewpoint Analytics™, Viewpoint Field View™, Viewpoint Estimating™, Viewpoint For Projects™, Viewpoint HR Management™, Viewpoint Field Management™, Viewpoint Financial Controls™, Viewpoint Field Service™, Spectrum Service Tech™, ViewpointOne™ and Trimble Construction One™ are trademarks or registered trademarks of Trimble Inc., Viewpoint, Inc., or their affiliates in the United States and other countries. Other names and brands may be claimed as the property of others.

