Acumatica
Construction Edition

THREE REASONS

Why Proven, Born-in-the-Cloud Software Is Essential for Construction Firms

The construction industry is growing quickly, and technology innovation will play a key role in its future. To maintain profitable growth, construction firms must use integrated, automated, and innovative software that connects office staff with field teams—both of which are increasingly becoming populated by Millennials and members of Generation Z.

Construction professionals of all generations can benefit from using a modern solution that was born in the cloud, allowing for seamless integration of their front-office, back-office, and field processes as well as their specialty applications. With such a solution in place, the entire organization can work off of a single source of truth in real time. This means teams can access job costing, project management, contracts, budgets, commitments, subcontracts, workflows, compliance, billing, payroll, and construction mobile apps from one control panel.

Here are three reasons why born-in-the-cloud solutions are essential for construction firms.

1. Collaborate
2. Connect
3. Communicate



It's easiest to achieve these three C's when you use cloud-based construction and accounting software that gathers your processes in one place.

Born-in-the-cloud software makes data available to you and your core team anytime, anywhere—in the office or on-site for a project.

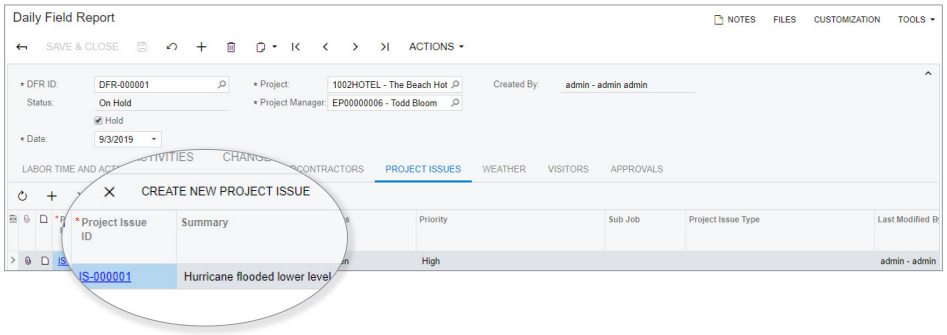
1. **Collaborate** – Integrate Your Teams and Streamline Your Workflows

It's crucial for field managers to be able to collaborate and share information with the back office. Imagine a software solution that gives you one place to get all relevant information so that your project managers can avoid multiple steps and errors.

With cloud construction and accounting software, a project manager in the field can submit an expense report from their mobile device while on-site. The expense report will go directly into the cloud software where a manager will look at it, approve it, and turn it into an accounts payable invoice. You can even specify a person who might need to see that expense. This cuts down on administrative overhead and helps you avoid the frustration of another manual process. With modern cloud software, you eliminate steps because there's no need to re-enter data into other software. And because job costs are instantly visible, everyone has access to the same information at the same time. Think of it as a single source of truth.

Look for cloud construction and accounting software that provides a seamless, collaborative experience between the office and field. Field teams can increase their productivity by using tablets to read their Daily Field Reports and get automated reminders about their daily tasks.

Another way modern cloud software can enhance your collaboration and streamline your workflows is by delivering notifications. For example, you can create notifications based on your metrics and then be notified automatically of a cost overrun or an expired compliance date. With these proactive notifications, project managers will be better equipped to manage their day-to-day activities.



Streamlines field management with digital access to employee jobsite and productivity information

Daily Field Reporting (DFR) helps you ensure that everyone is looking at the same information and that information has been transferred accurately from the field to the office. Daily Reports are composed of

several key components, including time collection, subcontractor updates, job site visitors, issue and change request tracking, and job site weather updates.

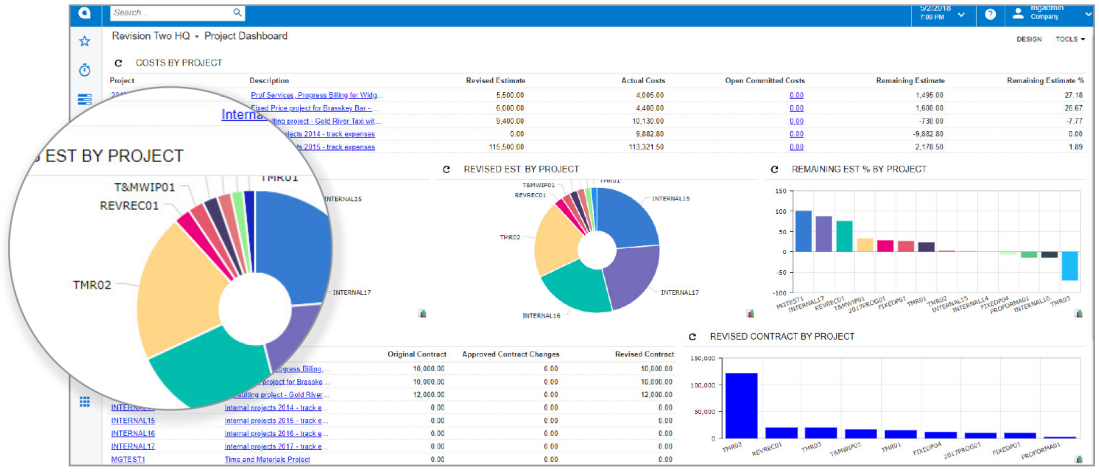
Cloud software also enhances your workflow processes by connecting your office to the field. You'll have more control and issue more timely approvals on change orders by being able to notify all parties involved and identify the impact of the change on project costs, revenue, and schedule. With collaborative and connected software, you can stay on top of change orders and avoid profit fade.

2. **Connect** – Get Real-Time Insights into Your Business

When systems are disconnected, business processes become more complex than they should be. For example, on many older software systems you must pull reports from multiple applications to collate them into one report. This means you're not only wasting time but also leaving your business vulnerable to errors.

Cloud construction and accounting technology gives you total visibility into your business. Real-time dashboards empower you to keep projects on track and on budget from anywhere at any time. As a result, your firm can achieve greater profitability.

Using a dashboard with drill-down capabilities, you can identify and share changes in project costs. By defining key project metrics, making them visible to your entire team, and measuring them as each project progresses, your firm can reduce risk, increase productivity, and improve customer satisfaction.



Easily track activities, documents, and costs from one central area

Project managers can use a personalized project cost budget status dashboard to compare actual and committed costs on task or sub-job dashboards. They can track billing and revenue recognition by cost code, contract line items, and other details, and can see a detailed view of contract amounts, estimated costs, commitments, and estimated gross profit by project.

With cloud construction and accounting technology, field applications can provide everyone with the same dashboard view.

Connected cloud construction and accounting software can make accurate data available consistently across your organization—whether you're pulling data from spreadsheets or other software applications. With drill-down dashboards, you gain the visibility you need to run your business more smoothly.



Stay on top of every project and budget with real-time information at your fingertips. With cloud construction and accounting software, you'll make decisions more effectively and easily capture and track all activities—including employee time, expenses, and change orders—from one central area.



3. **Communicate** – Establish Tighter Project Controls

Perhaps the cloud's greatest benefit is its ability to deliver real-time data to users across multiple locations. Contractors with several offices can communicate using real-time data. Remote workers or employees in the field can stay connected to the most up-to-date insights, which helps them keep customers happy. When employees have access to the most relevant information possible, their productivity increases, their communication improves, and the entire construction project runs more smoothly.

Modern cloud construction and accounting software provides an intuitive interface that helps office and field staff get up to speed more quickly. They get the tools to communicate effectively and keep projects moving along. Your operations and accounting staff will be able to make sure that both groups have the information they need to make smart decisions. And you can get automated notifications on your phone when you're approaching your budget threshold.

The key to establishing greater project control is to be able to manage projects by exception and see issues before they escalate. Modern cloud construction software should include project management capabilities that put real-time information at your fingertips.

With these features, you'll make better decisions more easily. You'll also use one central system to capture and track all activities, including:

- Outstanding issues
- Quick view of project cost summary
- Ball in court – who has which document
- Cost and revenue by project
- Actual vs. budgeted costs
- Job site camera – for weather conditions on the dashboard
- Overdue tasks



Project alerts can keep team members informed of what they need to do next, minimize downtime, eliminate unnecessary costs and delays, and keep the project moving along.

When your office staff can see issues as soon as they are identified in the field, projects can move along without delays. For example, a foreman in the field can identify an issue such as a safety incident, take a picture, document it in the software, and get all parties involved earlier to get faster resolution. Plus, using an intuitive modern user interface will enable faster time to productivity for all your employees.

Summary

The construction industry is growing quickly. Technology innovation, which can eliminate silos and improve collaboration, plays a key role in its future. Are you still skeptical about whether the cloud can eliminate silos and improve collaboration?

Ask yourself these questions:

- Is the software I'm currently using easy to learn, and does it allow everyone in our organization to see the same data at the same time?
- Does it automate, control, and streamline our accounting and back-office construction processes?
- Can our field team members access our system from any device, anytime, anywhere?
- Is our current system based on a scalable platform with open APIs for seamless integration with third-party applications?

If you said "no" to any of these questions, consider researching Acumatica Construction Edition. This modern construction and accounting software delivers accounting, project management, inventory, payroll, service management, CRM, and mobile capabilities. It enables connected teams, better customer service, and increased profits.

About Acumatica

Acumatica's cloud-based construction accounting software provides the best path to thrive in the new digital economy. Built on cloud and mobile technology with a unique customer-centric licensing model, Acumatica Construction Edition delivers a suite of fully integrated construction software, including financials with job cost accounting, project management, field service, CRM and mobile. This means your teams can get the latest project reports, contracts, budgets, change orders, invoices, purchase orders, and job costs from wherever they are.

To learn more about Acumatica Construction Edition—and request a free custom demo—visit us online.