EBOOK

Selecting the Best Digital Pull Planning Tool

Tips to help you invest in a connected, smart, and easy-to-use pull planning solution

HOYLU
for construction

Creating an Engaging Digital Work Environment

Simply put, the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way the construction industry operates. As the workforce became more and more dispersed, project teams found it difficult to meet in person for traditional whiteboarding Pull Planning sessions.

As a result, the "big room" experience — where project details, milestones, materials, and planning are outlined on a whiteboard, sticky notes, and paper — is going digital. Pull Planning software recreates the big room experience and secures all project details in one place.

Some tools take it a step further by combining pull planning with whiteboarding to give teams the big room experience in a digital environment. With this type of tool, teams can easily monitor, measure, and stay informed by connecting everyone in real-time regardless of location.

The right pull planning software:

- Improves stakeholder accountability through performance visibility

- Enables real-time feedback and notification alerts on project progress

- Mimics the analog Pull Planning process

- Automates handoffs between project team members

- Enhances project analytics

Creating an engaging digital work environment for your team does not have to be a daunting effort. If you're looking for a connected, smart, and easy-to-use Pull Planning tool, consider the tips offered in this guide.

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Get the big room experience in a digital environment with the right Pull Planning software

What to Look for in a Digital Pull Planning Solution

Online whiteboards have become a great solution but interactive workspaces take collaboration to the next level. Digital Pull Planning tools help you create engaging workspaces to better organize your projects.

Typically, online whiteboards and digital Pull Planning tools are purchased as separate solutions. But some tools take it a step further and combine Pull Planning with whiteboarding to create a single source of truth for project details.

Consider the following as you weigh investments in these digital collaboration solutions:

COLLABORATION

Digital collaboration tools are proven to increase efficiency by reducing risk, error, wasted time, and materials. The right Pull Planning tool enhances collaboration and keeps processes lean and simplified.

FUNCTIONALITY

One of the biggest advantages of using a digital solution is a reduction in project errors. Mistakes and resources are extremely costly and result in missed deadlines. With Pull Planning workspaces, teams can provide updates instantly so project managers can identify issues, follow up, and pivot faster.

ENGAGEMENT

Teams can be seamlessly connected to project plans and interact in real time. Imagine entering project details simultaneously versus updating a PowerPoint or Excel spreadsheet and waiting for the next meeting to discuss the changes. Collaborative software increases engagement and interaction.

EASY TO USE

Complicated setup won't work in the construction industry. Users need to easily navigate the platform from any location. The end result is a tool that increases efficiency and reduces errors.

Features in Your Digital Pull Planning Tool

Digital Pull Planning tools offer a number of features. Here are some to look for as you make your investment:

Tasks Properties — A task features allows users to populate tasks ahead of time to accelerate the Pull Planning session with easy drag-and-drop functionality.

Milestones — Milestones can be identified and defined with an easily recognizable shape or color.

Variances Reasons — Delays and incomplete tasks can be tracked and explained. For example, marking the day's task with "weather" will document the blocker and duplicate the task to be planned for another day.

Dependencies — Dependencies can be defined by connecting tasks across the plan. This allows the team to better understand the workflow and logistics of their plan as well as the chain-reaction effect on a plan if the weather does prohibit work for a day.
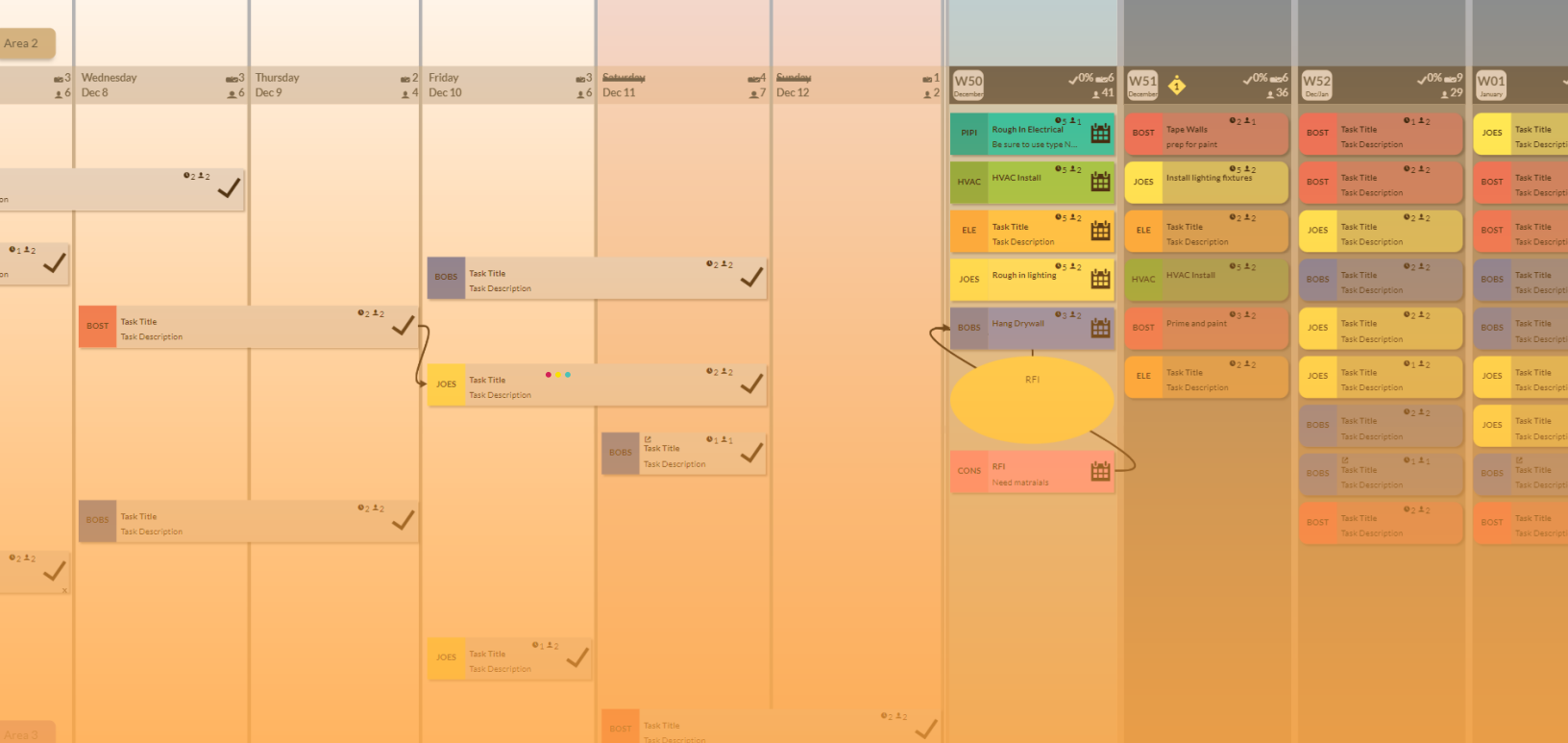
Whiteboard Area — A whiteboarding area helps you extend the project planning to include spreadsheets, branding, images, tables, CAD/architectural drawings, etc.

Reporting — Reporting features keep you on track. Many give you the PPC (Percent Plan Complete), the number of tasks and crew size by swim lane, and an overview of who is on schedule, who is behind, and why.

Area 2

Wednesday
Dec 8

Thursday
Dec 9

Friday
Dec 10

Saturday
Dec 11

Sunday
Dec 12

W50
December

W51
December

W52
Dec/Jan

W01
January

Area 3

PIPI — Rough In Electrical — Be sure to use type N...
HVAC — HVAC Install
ELE — Task Title — Task Description
JOES — Rough in lighting
BOBS — Hang Drywall
RFI
CONS — RFI — Need materials

BOST — Tape Walls — prep for paint
JOES — Install lighting fixtures
ELE — Task Title — Task Description
HVAC — HVAC Install
BOST — Prime and paint

Benefits of Digital Pull Planning Tool

Improve Communication
Seamlessly communicate among the entire project team in a single workspace that can be updated in real time from any device.

Identify Milestones
Create workspaces to establish milestones that are critical to completing project phases. Once they are in place, you can plan and prioritize more effectively.

Understand Constraints
Identify and control for constraints across the entire project plan.

Prioritize With Efficiency
Outline all project components to make it easier for teams to prioritize and delegate tasks. Prioritize tasks and monitor progress as you go.

Visualize Deadlines
Set the duration of each of your planned activities. As each task is complete, those responsible will be able to visualize deadline on the whiteboard timeline — eliminating surprises along the way.

Stay Organized
Determine how you want to itemize activities and tasks. Digital Pull Planning tools help you stay organized by arranging everything on one board where it is easy to see what needs attention and when.

Implementing Successful Projects With Digital Pull Planning

Digital Pull Planning is an excellent tool for any team. It creates opportunities for growth and engagement. However, it can be difficult for companies to make the switch to digital when they do not have the proper tools.
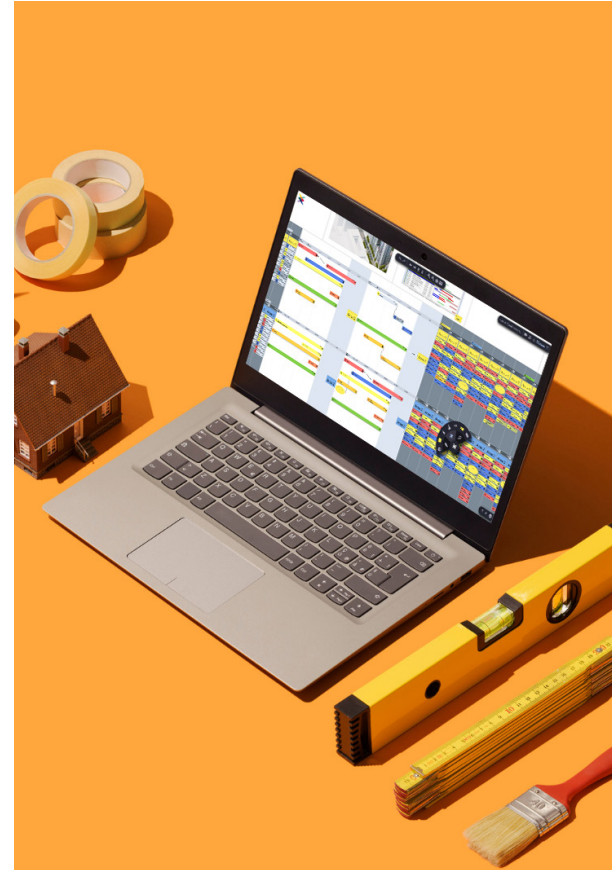
While many digital solutions are complex technologies that require extensive training and integration periods, some are easy to use. Hoylu collaborated with industry experts in construction, logistics, energy, education, and military to develop a tool that is simple to use and easy to adopt across organizations with remote teams.

"With Hoylu for Pull Planning, we executed our existing processes virtually," said Jon Molnar, Sr. Superintendent at Walbridge, a Top 50 U.S. construction company. "Hoylu is intuitive and easy to use, and that really helped keep our processes moving forward."

With Hoylu's Pull Planning Module, you can:

- Remove barriers in communication
- Get feedback from everyone involved
- Understand the scope of a project
- Learn from experience
- Continuously improve your process

Hoylu's Pull Planning Module allows multiple teams to come together and pull out their project schedule. Sticky notes are given two forms: tasks and milestones. Tasks are given properties such as team, days allotted, people involved, short descriptions, and a color. These tasks are created by their respective teams and populate into the task Inbox where teams can drag-and-drop those tasks onto the schedule against the milestones they've defined. The schedule can be viewed on a week basis or users can drill down into those weeks to view the expanded, daily schedule.

[LEARN MORE] [SEE EXAMPLE]

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Jon Molnar, Sr. Superintendent at Walbridge

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Contact us for a Free Trial of Enterprise Modules
www.hoylu.com/pull-planning/

Email Us **hello@hoylu.com**

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