CASE STUDY

Evolving Project Management at Hill & Wilkinson with Schedule Validator

HIGHLIGHTS

Challenges

- Maintaining Overall Quality & Reliability of Project Schedules

- Alignment of Project Timelines with Contract Schedule Terms

- Managing Efficient Updating Cycles

- Updates Reflecting Accurate Project Progress

- Anticipating Potential Delays

BACKGROUND

Founded by Luther Hill in 1968 as Luther Hill & Associates, Hill & Wilkinson emerged as a beacon of construction excellence in the industry. After his commendable journey with Rice University and notable service in the US Army Corps of Engineers, Luther Hill embarked on a storied career in construction.

From monumental projects like Dallas' North Park Mall to Perkins Hall at Southern Methodist University, his footprint is seen across many iconic structures. Known for his humility, commitment to quality, and safety, Hill's ideals form the cornerstone of Hill & Wilkinson's business practices. The baton of leadership eventually passed to Greg Wilkinson and Fritz McKinstry in 1985, propelling the company through economic adversities and establishing its reputation further.

CHALLENGE

Hill & Wilkinson, while expanding its nationwide footprint in the multifamily residential sector, encountered palpable challenges, especially in managing project insights across diverse ventures. Some substantial hurdles were the quality of schedules, updating cycles, alignment with contract document schedule terms, and obtaining real-time, actionable project insights.

The need for a tool that didn't compromise depth for aesthetics and provided precise, actionable data without a time lag became apparent. This period underscored a demand for a solution that bridged the gap between data collection and actionable intervention, ensuring enhanced resource allocation and operational efficiency.

SOLUTION

Hill & Wilkinson adopted Schedule Validator, a tool designed to scrutinize and validate project schedules, ensuring alignment with contractual obligations and enhancing overall schedule management efficiency.

The tool empowered Hill & Wilkinson to:

- **Enhance Communication:** Leveraged Schedule Validator to amplify clarity and efficacy in communication regarding project schedules and updates across the organization.
- **Improve Planning and Execution:** Adopted the tool to elevate planning and execution schedules and witnessed a significant rise in the average overall score to 72, resulting in improved operational proficiency over two years.
- **Centralize Project Oversight:** Utilize project and enterprise dashboards to provide a consolidated view of multiple concurrent jobs, enabling simultaneous comparison and efficient management of diverse projects.
- **Strategic Review and Decision-Making:** Employed Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) like execution scores, critical path slip changes, completion variance, and overall quality scores from the Schedule Validator to fortify strategic decision-making processes and optimize project outcomes.
- **Proactive Issue Identification and Resolution:** Identified potential schedule bottlenecks early on, enabling proactive mitigation, which expedited the process of problem identification and instigated swift, data-driven resolution methodologies.

By harnessing the capabilities of Schedule Validator, Hill & Wilkinson optimized their project management processes, resulting in more seamless communication, advanced strategic planning, and meticulous execution across all active projects. This integration not only facilitated an enriched operational framework but also fostered a culture of precision and proactive management, ensuring projects adhered closely to planned schedules and quality benchmarks.

SOLUTION HIGHLIGHTS

- Enhanced Communication
- Improved Planning & Execution
- Centralized Project Oversight
- Strategic Review & Decision-Making
- Proactive Issue Identification & Resolution

"Communication has significantly impacted our organization's schedules through Schedule Validator."

Hill & Wilkinson

BENEFITS

Schedule Validator brought forward several notable benefits to Hill & Wilkinson's project management:

- **Efficient Schedule Analysis**: Swift and comprehensive examination of project timelines and practices, minimizing disruptions and enhancing alignment with contract specifications.
- **Contractual Compliance:** A structured approach to verify and maintain adherence to contractual schedule terms, safeguarding against potential legal and financial ramifications.
- **Enhanced Updates:** Streamlined processes to ensure project schedules are routinely and accurately updated, reflecting real-time progress and foreseeable adjustments.
- **Quick Impact Checks:** The capability to conduct rapid assessments against unexpected project impacts, safeguarding adherence to contractual timeline obligations
- **Optimized Quality Control:** Ensuring meticulous and consistent quality across all project schedules, mitigating risks, and preventing potential project derailments.
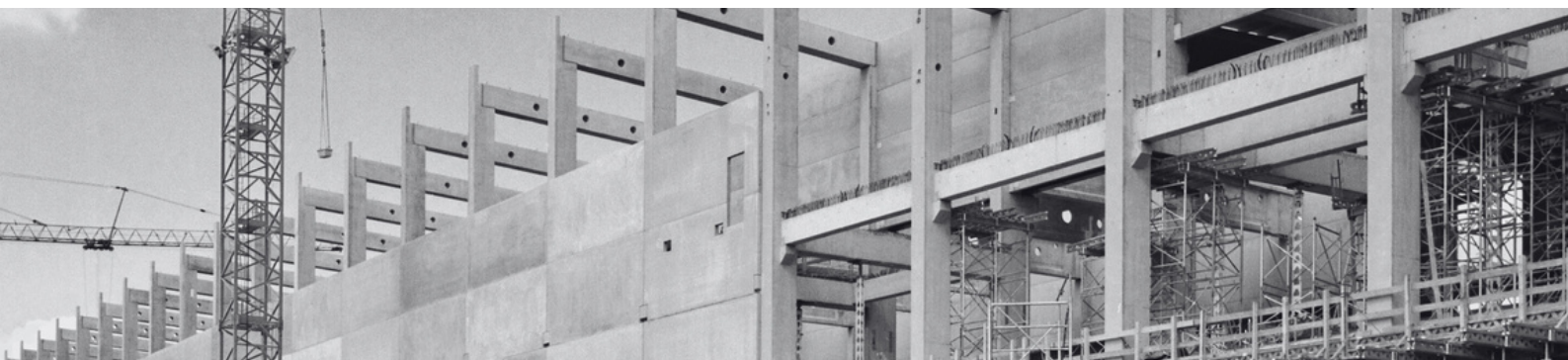
BENEFITS AT A GLANCE

- Efficient Schedule Analysis
- Contractual Compliance
- Enhanced Updates
- Quick Impact Checks
- Optimized Quality Control

"Very efficient and effective analysis of overall practices and quick checks against impacts vs. contract terms."

Hill & Wilkinson

Navigating through the complex landscape of construction projects, Hill & Wilkinson, bolstered by Schedule Validator, enhanced their schedule management practices, ensuring unwavering alignment with contract terms and enabling a seamless progression through their projects. The ability to swiftly analyze, adjust, and adhere to meticulously planned schedules has not only safeguarded them against potential setbacks but has also fortified their reputation for reliability and excellence in the construction industry.

RESULTS HIGHLIGHTS

- Enhanced Project Management

- Streamlined Communication

- Updating Cycles

- Alignment of Project Timelines with Contractual Terms

RESULTS

Effortlessly blending into their weekly/biweekly project updates, Schedule Validator streamlined data integration and swiftly identified and addressed emerging issues. The facility with which problems were recognized and solutions implemented showcased the tool's potent communication features, aptly highlighted by Hill & Wilkinson: "Communication has significantly impacted our organization's schedules through Schedule Validator."

Navigating through their planning and execution schedules, Hill & Wilkinson witnessed a notable uptick in operational efficiency, evidenced by an impressive surge in their average overall score to 72 – showcasing a marked improvement over the preceding two years. This was not merely a numerical enhancement but a reflection of the amplified efficacy and strategic fortitude in their planning and execution phases, fundamentally altering how projects were perceived, planned, and executed.

The Project & Enterprise Dashboards, lauded by Hill & Wilkinson, emerged as a pivotal component in their strategic project review and oversight. Especially given the high volume of concurrent jobs in the field, the dashboards offered a consolidated, at-a-glance view of all active projects, enabling an efficient means to view, compare, and subsequently manage them collectively. This fortified their project management capabilities and enabled a more nuanced, data-driven approach to operational strategy and resource allocation.

"When asked about the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that drive our success, we focus on execution scores, critical path slip changes, completion variance, and the overall quality score."

Hill & Wilkinson

Navigating through the myriad of KPIs, Hill & Wilkinson identified execution scores, critical path slip changes, completion variance, and overall quality scores as the most beneficial in driving project success. These KPIs served as valuable metrics in gauging project health and progression. They became instrumental in communicating their strategic review processes, ensuring a consistent, reliable trajectory toward project completion while maintaining stringent adherence to quality and timelines.

In essence, Schedule Validator did not merely serve as a tool; it became an integral component of Hill & Wilkinson's operational and strategic tapestry, weaving through their projects and instilling a layer of precision, predictability, and enhanced communication across their endeavors.

Schedule Validator

HILL & WILKINSON
GENERAL CONTRACTORS

COMPANY EVOLUTION

Hill & Wilkinson's story began with Luther Hill's vision in 1968, laying the cornerstone of what would become a long-standing edifice in the construction industry. With roots firmly planted in the values of fairness, humility, and a commitment to quality and safety, the company built a name for itself through landmark projects that shaped the skylines and communities of Dallas.

Today, Hill & Wilkinson is a testament to adaptive growth and innovative excellence. From its headquarters in Richardson, Texas, to its expanding footprint across Central Texas and Fort Worth, the company has built more than just structures—it has built trust and a legacy that continues to grow. With Schedule Validator, Hill & Wilkinson has sharpened its competitive edge, ensuring that every project, regardless of scale, is managed with the highest standards of excellence and efficiency that Luther Hill envisioned back in 1968.

LOOKING AHEAD

Looking ahead, Hill & Wilkinson is poised to not only continue its trajectory of growth but also to redefine the parameters of success in the construction industry, staying true to its mission of delivering outstanding service and forging lasting relationships. With each project, Hill & Wilkinson is building more than buildings; it's making the future.

"Given we have a high number of jobs in the field at one time, it's a good way to view and compare all of them at one time."

Hill & Wilkinson

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