



Post Consumer Brands Successful Upgrade in 48 Hours



Upgrading Core JD Edwards ERP System

[Post Consumer Brands](#)

Executive Summary

“With FlowWright, we were able to not only plan tasks, but also execute them right from the tool...this was a big win for our team”

[Post Consumer Brands](#) was in the midst of an enterprise wide upgrade of their core ERP system, JD Edwards from version 9.0 to 9.2 when we realized we needed a more robust PM tool. This project needed extended down time from our core manufacturing plants and distribution centers. We were given about 50 hours of scheduled downtime by the organization. Every hour of JD Edwards not being available after the scheduled downtime window was a significant loss to our organization regarding manufacturing and on-time delivery costs.

Challenges

The complexity of the upgrade, coupled with its impact made the project team work overtime to ensure that the plan was as efficient as it could be. The ERP system was integrated with over half a dozen critical edge applications performing everything from warehousing to manufacturing execution and transportation planning. This increased the touch points and the complexity by an exponential factor. As the project team worked on Microsoft Project and Excel, it quickly became evident that we needed a better way to represent the plan, with all its dependencies.

How FlowWright Helped

FlowWright fit this need for us perfectly. After an initial fact-finding session, we became convinced of its capabilities. The project team was trained to use the tool and quickly migrated the MS Project plan into the FlowWright Tool. We were able to immediately see how the tasks came together, which of the tasks needed to be performed in isolation and which ones could be performed together. The FlowWright graphical representation was a big plus for us. FlowWright's execution capability was the even bigger win. MS Projects is a good planning tool but is poor in execution. With [FlowWright](#), we were able to not only plan tasks, but also execute them from the tool. Team members knew when to perform the tasks and how to acknowledge completion. If the process was delayed, the tool automatically recalculated the critical path for us. Another huge plus.

Results, Return on Investment and Future Plans

We had about 750 lines in the project plan with tasks being highly inter-related in many areas. With [FlowWright](#), we were able to make sure that the project leadership team understood every aspect of the plan and knew exactly where we were during execution. The senior leadership team were informed regarding actual post upgrade startup times. With the help of this tool, we were able to complete our upgrade successfully in 48 hours, ensuring that the plants and distribution centers could startup ahead of time.

Image below outlines part of our process within FlowWright

