VT Halter Marine

WebEVM™ replaces Cobra, eliminating labor-intensive processing of their Earned Value Management Data

Background

The U.S. Department of the Navy awarded VT Halter Marine of Pascagoula, Mississippi a $745,940,860 fixed-price incentive-firm contract for the detail design and construction of the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) PSC (formerly the Heavy Polar Icebreaker). This was VT Halter Marine's first contract requiring full ANSI-748 Earned Value Management System (EVMS) compliance.

Initial EVMS Implementation

VT Halter Marine reviewed the EVM software market and selected Oracle P6 for scheduling, Deltek Cobra for the Earned Value engine, Encore Analytics Empower for EVM analytics, Variance Analysis collection, IPMR submission, and DoD Data-Driven EVM Compliance Metrics (DECM) generation.

Early in the implementation it became apparent that the integration between Cobra and the other tools would be a recurring challenge. For example, VT Halter Marine was required to export and manipulate spreadsheets from P6 prior to loading the schedule data into Cobra. The same was true of getting data from Cobra and P6 to Empower.

This manual process was error-prone, time-consuming, and difficult to repeat on a monthly basis. More time was spent reconciling data and fixing integration issues than using the resultant data. The timeliness and accuracy of EVM data became an issue.
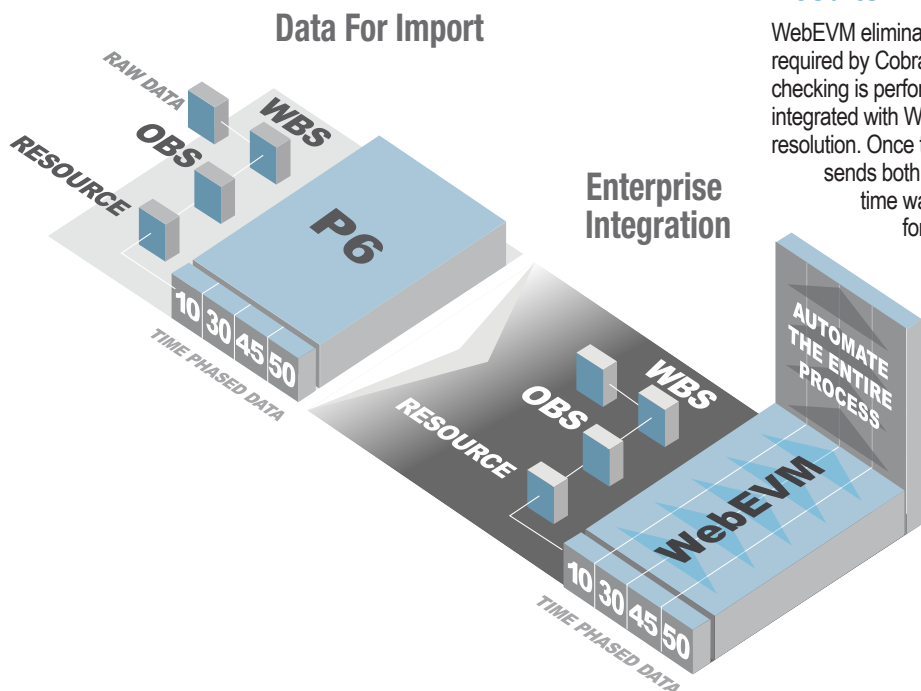
Enter WebEVM

In November 2020 VT Halter Marine decided to pilot a different EVM engine. WebEVM was selected for a pilot and within three weeks (even with a hurricane impacting the plant's operation) was able to transition the data from Cobra to WebEVM.

WebEVM directly imported the P6 resource spread at the activity level for Baseline and Forecast to generate the future BCWS/ETC and calculate the new period's BCWP. Actual cost is easily integrated from the VT Halter Marine ERP system to complete the data set. Finally, from within WebEVM a simple button pushed both cost and schedule data to Empower to fully support internal program analytics, IPMR submissions, and DoD Data-Driven EVM Compliance Metrics (DECM) generation.

Results

WebEVM eliminated the time-consuming and error-prone manual operations required by Cobra to integrate with P6 and Empower. With WebEVM, the error checking is performed upfront when the P6 data and actual costs are integrated with WebEVM, thus catching errors at the source for quick resolution. Once the data is validated in WebEVM, a simple push of a button sends both cost and schedule data to Empower. Data quality improved, time was created to review and use the performance data prior to formal submission, and confidence in the data was restored.

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