

Case Study

Apollo Mechanical: From Start to End - Digitally

The Client



“Building People Who Build Great Things.” Apollo Mechanical Contractors, based out of Kennewick, Washington, has been a leading mechanical contractor since 1981. Apollo’s founder and CEO, Bruce Ratchford, took what he knew about sheet metal, mechanical design, and business management, and has been putting it to work with his team for the last 40 years.

What Drove Apollo to Touchplan

Apollo had an internal desire to improve their construction planning ability. Construction is a high variable and high volume type industry, which makes it difficult to bring learnings from one project to another. There is a lot of human glue which holds the process together and they were looking to improve the ability to disseminate and manage information throughout their processes. The dynamic nature of most construction projects make them an overhead nightmare to keep up with planning and execution. “A lot of hours had been wasted in simply manipulating the plan data, and eventually the plan data gets so out of date you simply end up in a reactionary state,” said Eldon Parry, Senior Project

Manager at Apollo Mechanical Contractors. They were also looking for a better method of managing the plan data, in order to focus more on execution rather than data manipulation.



Solution

In 2016, Apollo brought on Touchplan for the first time and since has adopted it across all projects. Touchplan is a fully collaborative tool that allows project teams to update their plans on a live basis, no matter where they are on the job site or off-site. With the desire to better manage the data in their plans, Touchplan was a smart and efficient option for Apollo.



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Eldon Parry

“A huge benefit of Touchplan is the ability for tradesmen to quickly learn how to use it. Field crews for us immediately start owning their plan information and helping populate content. This is an invaluable progression and naturally leads to, at minimum, a more cohesive team.”

Eldon Parry, Senior Project Manager

Results

One of the key advantages the project teams at Apollo gained from their extensive use of Touchplan is the ability to see the duration of a project from the start to end date. What this allowed them to do is manage multiple areas of a project from one digital interface and see where people are in the field on a live basis. Being able to simply see what is and isn't working well on the jobsite allows Apollo's project teams to diagnose problems on a live basis and attack them early with efficient solutions. “The more you’re able to keep up with the plan and maintain it, keep guys current on what the changes are, the more success and the better chance you have,” said Eldon.

