TOP STORIES
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New software, new vendors, and a few you may not have heard of | SPONSORED BY FirstMarketplace

New for 5 October - TOP STORIES #187

Here are this week's featured vendors. A complete list of vendors available through FirstMarketplace can be found here.
Click on a vendor logo to visit that company's website.

Company Overview

Project Portfolio Office (PPO) is a South African developer of cloud-based project portfolio management (PPM) software, co-founded by CEO Guy Jelley and director Jimmy Hekma.
PPO positions itself between overly complex enterprise PPM suites and lightweight task tools, offering an enterprise-scalable platform with no long-term contract and free unlimited support. Users range from small consultancies to global Fortune 500 organisations managing everything from consulting, IT, strategic, marketing, new product launches and innovation (NPD), construction, large mining & engineering projects and programmes. Named customers include Old Mutual, AB InBev, Deloitte, PwC, Coca-Cola Beverages Africa, TotalEnergies, Mondi, Nampak, SEACOM and the University of Cape Town. The company also manages and coordinates the South African PMO Awards competition.

Products and Services

- **PPO platform**, cloud-based PPM and collaboration application for planning, managing, executing and reporting on projects, programmes and portfolios.
- **Portfolio Management**, aligns projects and programmes to strategic themes with centralised performance visibility.
- **Demand Management**, collects and evaluates work requests through a standard centralised process.
- **Project Management**, plans, tracks and manages all project work in one place.
- **Built-in Scheduler**, native project scheduling that removes the need for third-party planning tools.
- **Agile and Hybrid Delivery**, supports waterfall, agile and blended approaches including PRINCE2 (PRojects IN Controlled Environments) and PMBoK (Project Management Body of Knowledge) methodologies.
- **Resource Management**, forecasts demand, balances workload and shows capacity and availability.

Company Overview

Dragon is the speech recognition product line of Nuance Communications, headquartered in Burlington, Massachusetts and a wholly owned subsidiary of Microsoft since 2022.
The Dragon brand traces back to Dragon Systems in the early 1980s and the 1997 launch of Dragon NaturallySpeaking. Microsoft entered into a definitive agreement to acquire voice recognition and AI vendor Nuance Communications in a $19.7 billion all-cash deal, and Nuance has been a pioneer in voice-based artificial intelligence technology and was instrumental in helping to power Apple's digital assistant Siri.

Dragon positions itself as the world's best-selling professional speech recognition solution, offering dictation that's 3x faster than typing with superior accuracy, no voice profile training required. The range spans locally installed and cloud-hosted editions tailored for legal, law enforcement, financial services, insurance, social services, education and accessibility, with cloud editions running on Microsoft Azure. The healthcare line, including Dragon Medical One, is now sold through Microsoft as part of its clinical artificial intelligence (AI) portfolio.

Products and Services

- **Dragon Professional v16**, locally installed speech recognition optimised for Windows 11 with customisable commands and workflow automation.
- **Dragon Legal v16**, legal-specific edition with built-in legal vocabulary and formatting for contracts, briefs and motions.
- **Dragon Law Enforcement v16**, voice-driven incident reporting for officers on mobile data computers in the field.
- **Dragon Professional Anywhere**, cloud-hosted enterprise dictation that integrates into organisational workflows.
- **Dragon Legal Anywhere**, cloud-hosted legal dictation deployable across firms of any size.
- **Dragon Anywhere Mobile**, professional-grade mobile dictation for creating, editing and sharing documents on iOS and Android.
- **Dragon Copilot and Dragon Medical One**, Microsoft's clinical documentation solutions combining medical dictation and ambient listening for healthcare providers.

- **Time Tracking**, records time on project and non-project work.
- **Cost and Budget Management**, tracks budgets, actuals, commitments and forecasts.
- **KPI and Goal Tracking**, measures strategy performance through key performance indicators (KPIs) and benefit tracking.
- **Collaboration and Communication**, personalised project feed to keep teams informed.
- **Document and Knowledge Management**, unlimited central storage for project documents of any type.
- **Automations and Workflow**, automates gates, document approvals and routine project activities.
- **Analytics and Insights**, out-of-the-box reports and dashboards for consolidated or single-project views.
- **APIs and Integrations**, connects PPO with existing business tools via application programming interfaces (APIs).
- **Maturity Assessment**, consulting service that evaluates and improves project management office (PMO) maturity.
- **Implementation and PMO consulting**, guided rollout and PMO design support.
- **Training**, structured user and administrator training.
- **24/7 support portal**, free unlimited support for all users.
- **PMO Forum and PMO Awards**, community programmes supporting the South African project management profession.
- **Partner programme**, certified implementation partner network.

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- **Dragon for accessibility**, hands-free computer control and dictation for users with disabilities.
- **Dragon for education**, speech recognition for students and educators.
- **Dragon for financial services and insurance**, compliant documentation for client-facing professionals.
- **Dragon for social services**, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliant case note dictation.
- **Dragon for small business**, entry-level licensing for smaller teams.
- **Volume licensing**, flexible enterprise programmes with no seat counts or auditing.
- **Dragon Training Center**, documentation and learning resources hosted by Microsoft.
- **Enterprise support and knowledge base**, technical support for business deployments.

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PPO Review

PPO scores 4.6 out of 5 on G2 from 17 verified reviews, with reviewers praising portfolio visibility, early risk identification and ease of navigation without formal training. One reviewer noted that PPO gives us a clear view of all our projects, making it easier to track progress and resources. G2 comparisons also show Project Portfolio Office's support quality is rated higher than several larger rivals.

Customer outcomes back this up, with Mondi using PPO to deliver close to 2 500 capex projects at its KwaZulu-Natal mills and AB InBev reporting an 80 percent improvement in governance compliance after rollout.

PPO G2 reviews

Nuance Review

Dragon Professional holds its largest review base on Capterra, rated 4.0/5 across 240 reviews, where users highlight recognition accuracy across accents and specialist terminology. One reviewer called it the gold standard in speech to text, and education users praise how well it supports students with hearing and speech difficulties.

TechRadar's assessment concluded that Dragon Professional is one of the best speech-to-text tools out there, and TrustRadius reviewers rate it 7.8 out of 10, citing outstanding accuracy for legal and clinical documentation.

Dragon Capterra Reviews

MindManager™

Company Overview

MindManager is a mind mapping and visual work management application owned by Corel Corporation of Ottawa, Canada. Mindjet was founded in 1998 by computer programmer Mike Jetter and his wife, Bettina Jetter, in order to support the development of their mind mapping software, MindManager, and on August 9, 2016, Corel announced they had acquired the Mindjet MindManager business. Every day, millions of people in thousands of global organisations use MindManager mind mapping and visual work management software.

MindManager positions itself as a single tool that takes teams from brainstorming through to execution using mind maps, flowcharts, Gantt charts and other diagram types, with deep integration into Microsoft Teams, SharePoint, Office and Jira. The Enterprise edition is SOC 2 (System and Organisation Controls 2) certified, with

single sign-on (SSO) activation, Azure group licence administration and Citrix Ready deployment. Named customers include Thales, Con Edison, Procter & Gamble, Ekso Bionics and Export Development Canada, with notable customers such as Dow, Microsoft, Pfizer, and Cisco listed historically.

Products and services

- **MindManager Professional**, the full desktop application for individuals and small teams covering mind maps, flowcharts, concept maps, timelines and Gantt charts on Windows and Mac.
- **MindManager Essentials**, web-based edition for individuals organising daily work.
- **MindManager Enterprise**, business edition with volume licensing, dedicated licence portal, large-scale deployment tools, premium support and access to the full product suite.
- **MindManager for Microsoft Teams**, visual mapping and co-editing embedded directly in Teams.
- **MindManager for Students and Educators**, academic licensing for learning and teaching.
- **Add-ons for MindManager**, paid extensions including the Jira Cloud and Jira Data Center integration.
- **MindManager Apps**, custom tools that plug into the MindManager interface for specific use cases.
- **MindManager Snap**, capture tool for sending ideas, images and links to personal or shared queues from desktop, browser or mobile.
- **MindManager Go and mobile apps**, map viewing and access on iOS and Android.
- **MindManager Files and Places**, integrated cloud storage plus connectors for SharePoint, OneDrive, Google Drive, Dropbox, Box and iCloud.
- **Cross-platform co-editing**, real-time and asynchronous collaboration across Windows, Mac, Chromebook, web and Teams.
- **SharePoint Linker**, queries and edits SharePoint lists and task lists from within a map.
- **Excel Data Mapper**, creates map views of spreadsheet content.
- **Map Roll Ups**, aggregates topics from multiple maps into a master diagram.
- **Gantt Pro and project cost tracking**, scheduling, resource and cost views with HTML5 export.
- **SmartRules and formulas**, conditional formatting and calculations on topic properties.
- **Content Control**, governs which map elements can be changed and by whom.
- **Publishing and sharing**, dynamic web links with view, comment or edit permissions.
- **Slides and presentations**, builds slide decks directly from maps.
- **Activity digests**, email summaries of edits and views on shared maps.
- **Windows**, Mac and SharePoint readers, free viewers for map recipients.
- **Licence programmes**, special pricing for government, non-profit and education.
- **Training and consulting services**, optional enterprise onboarding and support.
- **Partner programme**, reseller and distributor network.

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MindManager Review

MindManager holds its strongest review volume on TrustRadius, scoring 7.8 out of 10 across 513 reviews and ratings, with long-term users describing it as indispensable for project planning, brainstorming and daily task organisation. Reviewers consistently commend its capabilities in brainstorming, general organisation, and daily task management, often describing it as feature-dense and robust for planning activities.

On Capterra the product scores 4.6 (71), and on G2 it has been ranked a Leader in the Mind Mapping Grid in both the overall and small business categories, where 100% of users rated it 4 or 5 stars.

MindManager Reviews

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