PPM SOFTWARE COMPARISON

ITM Platform vs Microsoft Project

Project Online retired on 30 September 2026. Microsoft's project offer is now a family: Planner premium plans with the Project desktop app, Project Server for on-premises use, and Power BI, Copilot and Dynamics 365 sold separately. ITM Platform is one PPM product with a published price.

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THE SHORT ANSWER

Which one fits your organization

Microsoft Project is the stronger choice for organizations standardized on Microsoft 365 that want plans inside Teams, for schedulers who rely on the Project desktop app, and for buyers who need an on-premises PPM server. ITM Platform fits PMOs that want portfolio selection, resources, timesheets and project finance in one cloud product with AI included. For 25 managers whose 100 team members already have Microsoft 365, Planner and Project Plan 3 costs US$9,000 a year at list price [1] and ITM Platform US$11,700 [2]. Microsoft sells AI, Power BI and project finance as separate per-user licenses [3, 4, 5].

ITM Platform

Choose ITM Platform if

- ✓ You manage projects and services with budgets, purchases, revenue and timesheets in one product, without adding Dynamics 365 or a server. [6, 5]
- ✓ You need to score and select projects in the cloud, with weighted goals, pairwise comparison and an efficient frontier chart. [7]
- ✓ You want AI included in every account, and an MCP server that reads and writes the whole portfolio. [8, 9]
- ✓ You are leaving Project Online and want a fixed plan: .mpp import of tasks and dependencies, and a published 30-day migration route. [10, 11]
- ✓ You work in English, Spanish or Portuguese and want support from the vendor's own team.

Microsoft Project

Choose Microsoft Project if

- ✓ Your organization runs on Microsoft 365 and wants plans in Teams, where Microsoft 365 users edit premium plans at no extra cost. [12, 1]
- ✓ Your planners rely on the Project desktop app: up to 11 baselines, automatic resource leveling and earned value. [13, 14, 15]
- ✓ You need an on-premises PPM server and already run SharePoint Server. Project Server Subscription Edition is supported at least until the end of 2031. [16, 17]
- ✓ Your teams build on Power Platform, Power BI and Copilot, and want project data in Dataverse with the Planner Agent working on tasks. [18, 19, 20]
- ✓ Your security review requires vendor-held ISO 27001 and SOC 2 reports that name the service. [21, 22]

THE PRODUCTS

What "Microsoft Project" means in this comparison

Microsoft sells project management as several products. Its guidance for Project Online customers lists four destinations: Planner, Project Server Subscription Edition, Dynamics 365 Project Operations and the Project desktop app [23]. A comparison with ITM Platform starts by naming which of them is proposed.

ITM Platform is one product

Every module below is in the same license, on one data model, with one set of users and permissions.

- Portfolio and programs
- Strategic alignment
- Gantt projects
- Kanban and sprints
- Services
- Resources and timesheets
- Budgets, purchases and revenue
- Risks and issues
- Reports and dashboards
- PMPilot AI and MCP
- API and extensions

Microsoft Project is a family of products

These are the Microsoft products a buyer may mean by Microsoft Project, with the role Microsoft gives each. Most are licensed separately [23, 1, 16].

Planner (in Microsoft 365)
Basic plans for team tasks, included in Microsoft 365 business and enterprise plans

Planner Plan 1
Premium plans: timeline, sprints, goals and people view. Formerly Project Plan 1

Planner and Project Plan 3
Adds portfolios, baselines, critical path and the Project desktop app. Formerly Project Plan 3

Planner and Project Plan 5
Former top plan, no longer on the price list. Formerly Project Plan 5

Project Standard and Professional 2024
Windows desktop scheduling, bought once

Project Server Subscription Edition
On-premises PPM on SharePoint Server

Dynamics 365 Project Operations
Project-based services: resourcing, project accounting and billing

Microsoft 365 Copilot
AI, including the Planner Agent. Formerly Project Manager agent

Power BI, Power Automate and Power Apps
Reporting, automation and custom apps on Dataverse

Azure DevOps
Agile boards, story points and SAFe for software teams

Project Online
Retired on 30 September 2026

Project for the web
Moved into Planner in August 2025

In this comparison, **Microsoft Project** means Planner and Project Plan 3 with the Project desktop app it includes: the product priced in the pricing section, and the one the scores refer to. Where another Microsoft product covers a gap, the facts name it with its price, and the capability table marks it as Add-on. It does not raise the score. The exception is Microsoft 365 Copilot, because its price is included in the team comparison.

Microsoft describes Project Server Subscription Edition as the closest match to the feature set of Project Online [23]. It is installed on SharePoint Server Subscription Edition in the customer's own infrastructure, a private cloud or Azure virtual machines [16].

AT A GLANCE

ITM Platform and Microsoft Project side by side

The facts a budget holder and a PMO lead usually ask for first. Microsoft facts name the product they refer to.

	ITM Platform	Microsoft Project
What it is	One product for projects, agile work, services, programs and the portfolio [24]	A family: Planner premium plans with the Project desktop app, Project Server Subscription Edition on premises, and Dynamics 365 Project Operations for project-based services [23, 1]
List price	Public: US$39, 34 or 26 per manager per month, billed annually [2]	Public: Planner Plan 1 US$10 and Planner and Project Plan 3 US$30 per user per month, billed annually. Project Server has no public price [1, 16]
Who needs a paid license	People who manage projects or portfolios. Team Members and guests are free [2]	Anyone who creates premium plans or needs the timeline, dependencies, baselines or portfolios. People with Microsoft 365 can edit tasks in premium plans at no extra cost [1, 27]
Free trial	14 days, self-service, no credit card [2]	One month for Plan 1 and Plan 3, self-service, credit card required [1]
Products and add-ons	One edition. AI, API, MCP server, extensions and single sign-on included [2]	Features split between Plan 1 and Plan 3. Microsoft 365 Copilot, Power BI and Dynamics 365 Project Operations are separate purchases [1, 4, 5]
Deployment	SaaS on Azure (West Europe). Options: single-tenant private cloud in any Azure region, or on-premise [28]	Planner: Microsoft cloud, in the tenant's home region by default. Project Server: on premises or customer-run hosting [29, 16]
AI	PMPilot assistant, questions over live data, AI plans and weekly AI reports, included for every account [8]	Planner Agent with a Microsoft 365 Copilot license at US$30 per user per month. Copilot in Planner in preview for Plan 3 [1, 3, 30]
MCP server for AI agents	Yes. Hosted server with 47 tools that read and write, OAuth 2.1 and each user's permissions, included [9]	Planner MCP Server for basic plans. Premium plan data through the Dataverse MCP server, charged in Copilot Credits outside Copilot Studio [31, 32]
Automation and extensions	Included. Scripts that run on record events, schedules or webhooks, call other systems and can stop a save [2, 37]	Power Automate flows and Power Apps. The Planner connector covers basic plans only; premium plans use the Dataverse connector and Dataverse webhooks [19, 38, 39, 40]
Standard implementation	Fixed-price configuration service of about two weeks [41]	No published deployment time. Microsoft recommends a partner for migration and complex deployments [42]
Interface languages	English, Spanish and Portuguese [24]	44 languages listed for premium plans, including Spanish and Portuguese [45]

	ITM Platform	Microsoft Project
Security certifications	None held by ITM Platform itself. Hosted on Microsoft Azure, whose ISO 27001 and ISO 27701 certificates cover the infrastructure [46, 47]	ISO 27001 and SOC 2 Type 2, with Planner, Power Apps and Dynamics 365 in scope [21, 22]
Reviewers on ease of use, value and support	Ease of use 4.4, value for money 4.5 and customer support 4.6 of 5, from 105 reviews on Software Advice [53]	Microsoft Planner: ease of use 4.5, value for money 4.5 and customer support 4.2 of 5, from 301 reviews on Software Advice [51]

Numbers in brackets link to the sources at the end of the page.

MAIN DIFFERENCES

What changes for the PMO

These are the differences a PMO usually notices first when it compares ITM Platform with Microsoft's offer after Project Online.

One product, or a set of Microsoft products

Microsoft covers project and portfolio work with several products: Planner premium plans for plans and portfolios, the Project desktop app for detailed scheduling, Project Server for on-premises PPM, Power BI for reporting and Dynamics 365 Project Operations for project finance [23, 26]. Most have their own license.

ITM Platform puts the portfolio, Gantt and Kanban projects, services, resources and finance in one license and one data model. Project managers, resource managers and finance users work on the same records.

ITM Platform
One product and one paid license type.

Microsoft Project
Planner, Project desktop, Project Server, Power BI and Dynamics 365, mostly licensed separately.

Portfolio selection in the cloud

Planner and Project Plan 3 portfolios show the manager, progress and dates of each premium plan as read-only fields, with a status set by hand [54]. Scoring, pairwise comparison and the efficient frontier are documented in Project Server's Portfolio Analysis, which runs on premises [55, 56].

ITM Platform weights business goals by points, by a scale or by pairwise comparison, and shows each scenario as value against cost with an efficient frontier and a budget limit [7].

ITM Platform
Scoring, pairwise comparison and a frontier chart in the cloud product.

Microsoft Project
Read-only roll-up in Planner. Portfolio Analysis in Project Server, on premises.

Project finance next to the plan

Planner premium plans have no documented budget feature [57]. The Project desktop app tracks costs and earned value inside each project file, with one currency per project [58, 59]. Budgets against actuals, revenue recognition and invoicing are in Dynamics 365 Project Operations, at US$135 per user per month [60, 61, 5].

In ITM Platform, each project and service shows the top-down budget, the bottom-up estimate, actuals and the last period close, with purchases, revenue and five revenue recognition methods [6, 62].

ITM Platform	Microsoft Project
Budget, purchases, revenue and period close in the same license.	Costs in Project desktop. Project accounting in Dynamics 365.

Moving off Project Online

Project Online retired on 30 September 2026, and its pages, reports and APIs stopped working [63, 26]. Microsoft lists four destinations, says a destination is not necessarily a one-to-one replacement, and recommends a partner for the move [26, 42]. Planner takes .mpp files through the Planner Power App, and a Microsoft support moderator notes that resources and baselines are not imported [42, 64].

ITM Platform imports .mpp tasks and dependencies into the Gantt and updates matched tasks when the file is imported again. Resources, assignments and calendars are not imported. ITM Platform publishes a 30-day migration route that starts with a pilot of 10 to 20 initiatives [10, 11].

ITM Platform	Microsoft Project
.mpp import of tasks and dependencies; people assigned afterwards.	Planner Power App import, a partner tool, or Project Server.

AI in the license, or per user

The Planner Agent creates tasks, works on assigned tasks and writes status reports. It needs Microsoft 365 Copilot at US$30 per user per month [1, 20]. Microsoft's Planner MCP Server works with basic plans, and premium plan data is reached through the Dataverse MCP server [31, 32].

ITM Platform includes PMPilot, AI plans and weekly AI reports in every account. Its MCP server reads and writes the whole portfolio with 47 tools [8, 9].

ITM Platform	Microsoft Project
Included, without AI credits.	Microsoft 365 Copilot license per user.

PRICING

What each product costs

Both vendors publish prices. Microsoft prices per user and per product, so the total depends on which Microsoft products cover the scope you need.

The same team: 25 managers and 100 team members

Every comparison prices this team, with a license for each person who updates tasks or reports time. Prices are per year, before taxes and discounts.

ITM Platform, list price, all included

11,700

USD per year

25 manager licenses at US$39 a month, billed annually. The 100 team members need no paid license. All included in the price: AI, timesheets, project finance, the API, the MCP server, packaged connectors, single sign-on and support. [2]

Planner and Project Plan 3 for the 25 managers

9,000

USD per year

25 Plan 3 licenses at US$30 a month, billed annually. The 100 team members edit premium plans with the Microsoft 365 licenses they already hold. [1]

Included in ITM Platform, charged separately by Microsoft Project

ITM Platform's license price includes each item in this table. The other column shows how Microsoft Project sells it. Items that ITM Platform does not offer are left out.

	ITM Platform	Microsoft Project
AI assistant	✓ Included	Microsoft 365 Copilot, which the Planner Agent requires: US$30 per user a month billed annually, US$9,000 a year for the 25 managers. [3, 1, 30]
Timesheets and project finance	✓ Included	Not documented in Planner. Microsoft provides them with Dynamics 365 Project Operations, listed at US$135 per user a month, or with Project Server on premises. [65, 66, 5]

List prices before taxes, discounts and services. The Microsoft figure assumes every team member already has an eligible Microsoft 365 license [1].

ITM Platform list price	Per manager license per month
5 to 49 manager licenses	US$39
50 to 149 manager licenses	US$34
150 or more manager licenses	US$26

Price per manager license per month in US dollars, billed annually; the same figures apply in euros. The tier price applies to every manager license. Team Members, project guests and no-login resources need no paid license, with no limit on their number. The first contract adds a training pack. Private cloud and on-premise deployments add an annual maintenance fee.[2]

Microsoft Project pricing

- Planner in Microsoft 365: included in Microsoft 365 business and enterprise plans.[42, 67]
- Planner Plan 1: US$10 per user per month. Planner and Project Plan 3: US$30, with the Project desktop app on up to five PCs. Both billed annually.[1, 68]
- Microsoft 365 Copilot, required for the Planner Agent: US$30 per user per month billed annually, or US$31.50 billed monthly.[3, 1]
- Power BI Pro: US$14 per user per month. Dynamics 365 Project Operations: US$135 per user per month.[4, 5]
- Project Professional 2024: US$1,129.99 once, for one user on one PC.[16]
- Project Server Subscription Edition: no public price. Server and user licenses through volume licensing with Software Assurance, plus SharePoint Server.[16, 69]

TWELVE CRITERIA

How the two products score

ITM Platform scores higher on eight criteria and Microsoft on one: ecosystem. They are level on project delivery, integrations and security. Microsoft's scores refer to Planner and Project Plan 3 with the Project desktop app, the product priced in the pricing section. Project Server and Dynamics 365 cover more of portfolio, resources and finance as separate purchases, and each criterion names them.



Scores from 0 to 5 against the published scale. ITM Platform assessed both products. The criteria are not weighted, so there is no total: weight them by what matters to your organization.

Scoring scale

Score	Meaning	When it applies
5	Complete	Covers the criterion natively, with public evidence and no material gap.
4	Strong	Covers it well. The gaps are minor for most buyers.
3	Partial	Covers the core. Material gaps remain, or the buyer needs configuration work.
2	Limited	Mostly available through development, add-ons or third parties, or only on request.
1	Marginal	Touches the criterion without a usable answer.
0	Not covered	Public evidence shows the criterion is not covered.
Not scored	Insufficient evidence	Public sources do not establish the answer. The reason is given next to the criterion.

THE OTHER SIDE

Where Microsoft Project is the stronger choice

Microsoft is the better choice in the situations below. If one of them is a firm requirement for you, ITM Platform is probably not the right product.

Inside Microsoft 365 and Teams

Planner runs in Teams and on the web, and people with an eligible Microsoft 365 license can edit premium plans at no extra cost. Users sign in with the same Entra ID account as the rest of Microsoft 365. [12, 1, 18]

The desktop scheduler

The Project desktop app keeps up to 11 baselines, levels resources automatically and calculates earned value. It comes with Plan 3, or as Project Professional 2024 for US$1,129.99. [13, 14, 15, 16]

Lower license cost for Microsoft 365 organizations

For 25 managers on Plan 3 and 100 team members who already have Microsoft 365, Planner costs US$9,000 a year at list price, against US$11,700 for ITM Platform. [1, 2]

An on-premises PPM server

Project Server Subscription Edition runs in the customer's data center or private cloud, with portfolio analysis, timesheets and an enterprise resource pool, and is supported at least until the end of 2031. [16, 55, 65, 17]

Power Platform and Power BI

Premium plan data is stored in Dataverse, where Power Apps, Power Automate and Power BI can extend it. Power Platform connects to a large catalog of SaaS applications. [18, 19, 70]

Certifications and support hours

Microsoft lists Planner in its ISO 27001 and SOC 2 Type 2 scope and gives administrators support in English 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. [21, 22, 43]

Project accounting on Dynamics 365

Organizations that sell projects and already use Dynamics 365 can add Project Operations, a separate product, and run budgets, billing, revenue recognition and invoicing connected to Dynamics 365 Finance. [71, 61, 72]

ITM Platform limitations to weigh

These are the limits of ITM Platform that most often matter in an evaluation against Microsoft's offer.

- No native mobile app. The web interface is responsive.
- No SOC 2 or ISO 27001 certificate held by ITM Platform itself, and no public status page.
- No SCIM provisioning. Multi-factor authentication comes from the customer's identity provider.
- No automatic leveling that moves dates, and no skills inventory.
- No story points or scaled agile planning. Sprint velocity appears only in the AI project report.
- Packaged connectors cover a limited set of systems, such as Jira, Microsoft Dynamics, HubSpot and Salesforce. Other systems need a Custom Extension or API work.
- Reports export to Excel only and cannot be scheduled.
- Interface in English, Spanish and Portuguese only.

METHOD AND SOURCES

How we compared the two products

How to read this page

The first part of the page gives the answer: who each product fits, what each costs, how they score and where Microsoft Project is stronger. The second part holds the evidence for each score, the capabilities one by one and questions for both vendors.

Numbers in brackets link to the sources at the end of the page. ITM Platform wrote this page, so treat the scores as one vendor's assessment and check the sources that matter to you.

How this comparison was made

1. The same twelve criteria are used for every product. They group the categories of ITM Platform's public PPM checklist and add security and the vendor's ecosystem.
2. Statements about Microsoft Project come from public sources: the vendor's documentation, release notes, recorded demos, legal terms and marketplace listings, then review sites and analysts. A capability named only on a product page or in a brochure is marked not documented. Each source carries a numbered link and the date we consulted it.
3. Scores go from 0 to 5 against a published scale. A product is scored on what public sources establish. Where they do not establish the answer, the item is marked not scored or not documented: ask the vendor to show it. A capability that works the same way in both products gets the same mark.
4. Scores refer to the product whose price is shown. When a gap is covered by another product of the vendor, a paid add-on or a marketplace app from another company, the page names it with its price. It raises the score only when its price is included in the comparison.
5. We did not run a hands-on test of Microsoft Project. Statements about ITM Platform come from its documentation and from the product.
6. The criteria are not weighted and there is no total. Weight them by what matters to your organization.
7. Where Microsoft Project is stronger, the page says so. ITM Platform's own limitations are listed too.

Who wrote it

ITM Platform wrote and paid for this comparison and makes one of the products compared. Read it as a vendor's assessment and check the sources.

We check the facts for changes every month, and sooner when Microsoft changes pricing or ships a major release. The date at the top of the page is the month of the last check.

If a statement is wrong or out of date, send us the correction with a public source. We correct verified errors.

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