

Are you aware of any type of Smart Board or something electronic that isn't crazy expensive that works well for job scheduling/planning? Any thoughts or recommendations?

What we are envisioning is something that is kind of interactive where as a group, during production meetings, with a large enough screen, we can all look at the screen and discuss and easily move jobs around and play with the schedule to come up with the best scheduling scenario as well as easily add and delete jobs, etc.

You can try the new Google Sheets. It works like (and looks just like) Excel.

The good news is, you can all see it and anyone can make changes on the fly. You can have any number of people in a conference room or a conference call all be viewing and making changes at one time.

The bad news is,anyone can make changes on the fly.

I do not use anything like this but will be interested in what others have to say.

Been looking for years ... no luck yet! I thought Hagggen was the play when I first saw it pre-EFI, but it did not comply with the "not crazy expensive" request. Since then, I have been told by many friends who have owned it that it is not flexible for a small shop environment with lots of changes. I liked it because you'd move the card and it recalculates all the hours. It also highlighted in red any steps that were now needing to be done earlier to prevent bottlenecks. Other than this I've seen nothing and hope to learn from this request!

I'm not sure but maybe 'google docs' would be good. I was going to look into this for our production team just for notes, updates etc on jobs

Maybe it could be used for scheduling. All could have an I-pad or I phone to view instead of a Smart Board.

We utilize a home grown shared "Google Doc" in which resides 4 tabs. Tab 1 "Jobs", Tab 2 "Press", Tab 3 "Finishing" and Tab 4 "History".

Thus every job is entered under Jobs, which includes: Job Number, Job Name, Job Description, Mail Files, Quantity, Due Date (firm or not firm), Outsource, Press, Ink (4/0, 2/2 etc.), Layout (W&B, W&T etc.), Sheets, Finishing (abbreviations c/sw/b - cut shrink wrap box, c/f/st/d/b cut fold stitch drill box), Stock In date box, Proof Out date box, Proof OK date box, Plated box, Notes box.

Upon proof out date-approval/stock ordered-arrived/plated, (used as a scheduling tool), we then cut and paste - move the job into Press. The Press Tab lists our offset and digital presses and is used as a scheduling tool. Once completed with press (digital and offset) we cut and paste - move to Finishing tab (used as a scheduling tool).

Once delivered and a delivery date has been entered in Finishing, we then cut and paste - move to History. We can sort, track, view "live" and "real time" job progress/status. All employees have "editing" rights except our sales team, as we do not want sales personnel moving and or scheduling jobs (particularly their own jobs) in process.

At any given time we have 5-10 employees entering in "real time" data. This is a hybrid system of several MIS/Estimating/Job Scheduling Systems-Boards that I have worked with. I would be happy to share it with others upon interest and or request.

(Editor's Note: the member who sent in this reply prefers to keep their contact info confidential in this Answer Compilation. If you are interested in this system, please email Sharon Flick at sflick@glga.info with your name and contact information. I will forward your message to the responder.)
