



Lightning-fast Agency and Program Decision Making with Jira Align

Jira Align for visibility across your entire government agency or program



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Many government agencies would like to be more agile, but often that can be easier said than done. Government agencies often find it difficult to keep long-running, complex programs on track to predictably deliver planned value. At the Atlassian Government Symposium 2021, Jesse Pearlman demonstrated how Jira Align could help government agencies achieve real agility. Pearlman, a business agility coach at cPrime, showed how government organizations can gain visibility into processes, improve predictability, and enhance responsiveness to changing circumstances.

Pearlman used Space Command's Space Orbital program as an example, describing the challenges with launching an orbital on time and on budget. The process requires extended timelines across multiple agencies, coordination of different agency resources and budgets, and management of a vast ecosystem of outside contracts.

Strategic planning and visibility

Agencies must be able to build a comprehensive plan and then consistently connect daily work, resources, and spend to high-level strategy. The only way to do this effectively is with end-to-end visibility and the continuous measurement of workflows, resources, and value delivered against strategic goals. However, too often, government organizations struggle with the lack of visibility and the ability to coordinate work strategically.

“Agencies with sensitive mission-critical programs like Space Command find Jira Align to be a powerful tool to gain predictability and agility in managing their multi-year programs.”

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interacts with other agencies—and demonstrated how agencies can plug into contractors’ Jira environments and get visibility into their systems.

Strategic planning and tracking are handled natively in Jira Align. Agencies can create strategies for projects—breaking long-term strategies into a series of shorter-term ones and visually tracking the plan’s progress. If there is a problem, they can use Jira Align to dive deep, all the way down to the task level, to identify the issue.

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Governance with lean portfolio management

A lean operation gives an agency maximum output for the minimum input, making the best use of taxpayer funding. Jira Align helps agencies become and stay lean by providing visualizations that will show whether or not a project aligns with its goals and timelines. Without visualization, a project can easily drift off course.

Pearlman showed how Jira Align helps visualize the lifecycle of a project— with special attention to milestones, budget, governance, and compliance. With it, agencies can easily evaluate if a project complies with strategy goals, agency standards, national policies, or other regulations. This helps ensure total project transparency and provides more predictability so an organization can plan with longer time horizons.

Pearlman pointed out that predictability is key, so Space Command can say, “We know we can launch the orbital into space on this day with great confidence!”

Near real-time decision making

A program team can put plans in place, but how do they know if they’re really working? Pearlman showed how Jira Align’s visualizations can track important milestones like spending, for example, with pie charts displaying estimated expenses and actual expenses (in near real-time). It doesn’t require laborious data collection or creating PowerPoint presentations to present vital information at meetings. And organizations aren’t discovering a problem two weeks later. Jira Align is constantly tracking clear, actionable data about execution, resources, and finances—allowing prompt decision-making.

Clarity on dependencies

Dependencies are complex in the government; a problem with one part of a project can affect everything else downstream. And it might not always be easy to predict the domino effect. How can an agency easily understand that complex web of relationships and impacts? Pearlman showed how Jira Align visually represents those dependencies, allowing users to select which sets of dependencies they want to view.

Unlike other solutions, “Align treats dependencies as a robust object that can represent conversations that should be taking place,” Pearlman noted. This allows agencies to “see into their threaded environment and

understand that to get from A to B, requires 1, 2, X, Y, and F." Near real-time decisions are possible when the data is available to ensure the right things are delivered at the right time.

Manage agency complexity with Jira Align

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For a more in-depth discussion on how Jira Align helped Space Command gain business agility, view the on-demand video of "Lightning-fast decision making with Jira Align across complex government agencies" from the Atlassian Government Symposium 2021.



Learn more at
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