

# W2G

## Greater savings for homebuilders



### Objective

Building a house cost-effectively and in a timely manner takes accurate planning and scheduling to coordinate the activities of builders and suppliers. W2G, a specialist in software solutions for Australia's building industry, has created a comprehensive system for managing homebuilding. Called Integra, the application models an entire construction project, from the supplies needed and their delivery dates to the people and other resources required to do the work. Integra automates project scheduling, improves communication with customers, reduces delays by better coordinating activities, and improves contract management. Crucial to Integra's success is visualization that quickly communicates the current status of any project.

### Solution

Integra uses ILOG Gantt for .NET to chart and schedule every aspect of the complex building process. Each stage of construction depends on the availability of building materials and work done in previous stages. If rain delays the pouring of cement for a foundation, for example, framing has to be rescheduled. Integra automatically recalculates every dependency in response to any delay, and with ILOG Gantt for .NET, it recharts the project to help identify potential time and cost concerns. Integra saves Impact Homes, W2G's sister construction company, about four weeks and A\$5,000 (about US\$3,800) in administrative and time savings per home, and has enabled the company to double the number of houses it builds without a similar increase in personnel.

ILOG Product: ILOG Gantt for .NET

- **Industry:** Housing construction
- **Application Name:** Integra
- **Geographic Coverage:** Australia
- **Benefits:**
  - ▶ Savings in time and costs
  - ▶ Fewer paperwork headaches
  - ▶ Higher-quality homes



Changing the rules of business™

## Big win for homebuilders

Integra uses ILOG Gantt for .NET to model the entire homebuilding process. From start to finish, it shows every stage of construction and the materials, suppliers and builders involved. The application also addresses costs for supplies and building resources such as workers and equipment, expected delays resulting from holidays and other events, and the individual schedules of contractors and suppliers. The costs are tracked constantly, providing continuous accounting for the project. Future homeowners benefit from ILOG Gantt for .NET's thin-client capabilities, which let them track construction work and costs, state preferences, sign off on plans and request changes through the Internet. Integra even provides a link to the local weather bureau so that users can tell when rain or other weather conditions may impact a project. Integra simplifies construction planning and scheduling, enabling builders to concentrate on making homes.



## Benefits

ILOG Gantt for .NET greatly reduced the time and cost of developing sophisticated visualization capabilities for Integra. W2G's developers were doing the chart coding themselves until they discovered ILOG Gantt for .NET. It shortened the project by at least six months, and enabled the developers to focus more on functionality and less on the system's graphics. W2G has achieved outstanding results in pilot projects with three building companies in Queensland and Western Australia. Besides savings in time and administrative work and a doubling of the number of building projects without doubling the number of employees, Impact Homes has reduced its stress level enormously through better contract management. It has also experienced a huge drop in damage claims, mistakes and accounting errors, as ILOG Gantt for .NET's thin-client capabilities support once-only data entry and automated electronic document handling. Integra can be reached through the Internet from hardware stores and other suppliers of building materials. For example, users can use it at a tile store to determine how many tiles to order, and state preferences such as color, product model and placement in the home.

## Project

It took five people two and a half years to build Integra. ILOG Gantt for .NET saved them six months in development time for the application's graphics.

## About W2G

W2G was formed with the aim of creating the best software for Australia's building industry, one of the most important industries in the country. W2G's Integra solution provides unmatched benefits for companies throughout the industry, from small homebuilders to large construction companies. W2G's sister company, Impact Homes, is a leading builder of single-family homes in Queensland, Australia.

## ABOUT ILOG

ILOG delivers software and services that empower customers to make better decisions faster and manage change and complexity. Over 2,000 global corporations and more than 400 leading software vendors rely on ILOG's market-leading business rule management system (BRMS), optimization and visualization software components, to achieve dramatic returns on investment, create market-defining products and services, and sharpen their competitive edge. The BRMS market share leader, ILOG was founded in 1987 and employs more than 600 people worldwide.

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"This tool [ILOG Gantt for .NET] significantly reduced the time and cost required to build the Integra application. In addition to the product's rich functionality, ease of use, real-time charting capabilities and overall quality, we've been able to save at least six months' development time just in not having to worry about doing feature control. Gantt for .NET allowed us to focus on the functionality rather than the framework. Without it, the cost to produce the charting module would have been prohibitive and we'd still be writing it. It's an absolutely awesome product!"

- Paul Usher  
 Development Manager  
 W2G

"The ability to access everything about a customer's project, their digital plans and contact history - all at the touch of a button - has saved us an enormous amount of time and really improved the level of service we can provide."

- Peter Westerman  
 Office Manager  
 Impact Homes

