

Incremental Epic Fact Sheet

Is Incremental Epic an ERP?

A question frequently asked is whether Incremental Epic is an ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) tool. This fact sheet discusses how Incremental Epic compares to conventional ERP software.

Enterprise Resource Planning

As with many marketing terms, it is very hard to find a precise definition of ERP. What is typically meant is a system that accounts for all people, materials and equipment involved in an organisation. This is often extended to integrate all facets of the business, including planning, manufacturing, sales, and marketing. In this regard Incremental Epic is an ERP.

However Incremental Epic's origin is completely different to conventional ERP. ERP is an evolution of MRP (Manufacturing Requirements Planning). Incremental Epic has been developed from the ground up for ship repair services. This leads to significant differences in approach:

Comparison

Conventional ERP	Incremental Epic
- designed for manufacturing operations	- designed for service operations
- optimises routine	- handles variation
- works to plan, divergence from plan a problem	- embraces change, divergence from plan an opportunity
- needs full data input	- can operate on minimal data
- fully populated database required from day one	- start with empty database, build up through day-to-day operations
- tries to level resources for stable operation	- manages necessarily varying resources for unstable production
- presupposes standard products, parts, suppliers etc.	- does not expect standardisation
- large scale/number of orders for a small number of suppliers	- many suppliers and ad-hoc purchasing
- solves generic manufacturing problems, often methodology-driven	- niche focus, based on real-world ship repair experience
- rigid procedures, emphasis on discipline over flexibility	- configurable emphasis on flexibility over discipline
- entails cultural change as organisation must adapt to system	- designed to fit existing working practices
- closed, 'black box' software	- fully open database and, under licence, source code

Summary

Incremental Epic can be described as an ERP system, because it deals with all aspects of the management of a company.

It is an ERP system specifically designed to manage the fast-moving, variable elements of service operations like ship repair.