



Macmahon Case Study

Software for the Mining Industry

Quotation

“Macmahon needed to redevelop a fundamental piece of software to be used in day-to-day operations of managing drilling equipment for mining and construction projects. Deadline made every effort in understanding Macmahon’s needs, and co-operated well to transform the existing software into a finished product that is much more user friendly and also delivers everything we need it to.”

Simon Putna

**Commercial Manager - Engineering,
Macmahon**

Project Snapshot:

1. Deadline developed “Drillbit”: drilling management software for Macmahon, a leading Australian mining company that has been operating for more than 48 years.
2. Drillbit speeds up the data entry, has exceptional usability & makes generating reports easy.
3. Drillbit provides significant ROI for Macmahon - organise replacement equipment faster, avoid stalling projects and therefore eliminate unproductive wage spending. Drillbit also gives Macmahon competitive advantage when bidding for new projects because the reporting tools enable them to more accurately predict the likely cost of drilling new holes.

Project Description

Macmahon Holdings Limited (Macmahon) is a leading construction and contract mining company that has been operating for more than 48 years. Macmahon directly employs more than 3,500 people and boasts an order book of \$3.1 billion, with major projects in Australia, New Zealand, Asia, Mongolia and Africa. The company’s mining capabilities provide the full range of underground and surface mining solutions to mine owners.

A crucial success factor for Macmahon is their ability to accurately and efficiently deliver operational asset management services. Macmahon approached Deadline to redevelop the existing software which is used for managing valuable drilling assets. The development process began with a series of scoping sessions that involved a team from Macmahon: Commercial Manager, Equipment Controller and Senior Accountant; and Deadline’s Senior IT Projects Manager and Programming team. Detailed scoping allowed Deadline to understand the workings of the existing system and determine what needed to be improved and transformed into new software. Macmahon Commercial Manager - Engineering, Simon Putna states the efficiency of the development process is attributed to both parties commitment as it ensured a high level of cooperation and working towards a consistent end-goal.

At a mining site, data is recorded on a range of areas relating to the drill apparatus; along with type of rock strata and length of time taken to drill holes. This information is entered into the software on a day-to-day basis. Easy to use reports allow Macmahon to quickly and accurately calculate the life of the equipment and therefore its redundancy. The software has significant usability such as the extensive search functionality, ability to be viewed online so that the user can view and manage projects at different locations; monitor the status of equipment, and their progression and cost.

Macmahon’s new software (called “Drillbit”) speeds up the data entry process and makes it easier to manipulate the data into meaningful reports. As Macmahon can more accurately predict when drilling equipment is going to break down, it also creates a safer working environment for mining engineers. The return on investment is significant as Macmahon can organise replacement equipment, avoid stalling projects and therefore reduce or eliminate unproductive wage spending due to unexpected equipment failure. In other words, Drillbit produces a more efficient use of labour.

Macmahon is a leading Australian construction and contract mining company embracing technological innovation in order to streamline its operations and achieve business efficiencies. Deadline welcomed the opportunity to create custom-software for the specific needs of a leading company in what is Australia’s most important primary industry.

