Business Challenge

Software is a large and growing component of AEC firms' project costs. The type of software and number of use hours can vary significantly from one project to another, making accurate cost assignment difficult. Historically, software license and support costs were lumped into project overhead, rather than being billed as a project expense.

In the past, billing for application use in projects has been difficult because:
- Association and tracking impacted user productivity
- All high-cost specialty application use required monitoring
- Desktop applications required individual file session association for accuracy

The shift to short-term subscription licensing and "pay-per-use" cloud computing increases variable out-of-pocket expenses.

Solution

Cetrus Process Meter, a real-time desktop Windows application monitoring solution, has an extension called Expense-to-Project (E2P). E2P lets users associate individual file sessions via pop-up panes cached with recent project information. File-level monitoring allows simultaneous license use for multiple projects. Users do not need to change their workflow or behavior. All Windows-based desktop and on-premises CPU-intensive applications can be monitored. Billing occurs only for active application use time.

Figure 1: E2P Pop-up pane example

User	Application	Start	End	Usage	Disposition	Uncertain	Total	E2P1	E2P2
mswanson	ACAD 2017	7/10/17 18:48:52 -0700	7/10/17 19:39:41 -0700	0:50:49	RunTime	N	$0.00	08506.005.000	009
mswanson	ACAD 2017	7/10/17 19:39:41 -0700	7/10/17 19:58:25 -0700	0:18:44	RunTime	N	$0.00	08506.005.000	009
GWurman	MATLAB	7/10/17 20:47:49 -0700	7/10/17 22:14:21 -0700	1:26:32	RunTime	N	$14.42	13604.000.000	004
mswanson	ACAD 2017	7/10/17 21:23:31 -0700	7/10/17 21:23:40 -0700	0:0:9	RunTime	N	$0.00		
mswanson	ACAD 2017	7/10/17 21:23:54 -0700	7/10/17 22:38:53 -0700	1:14:59	RunTime	N	$0.00		
tstrack	ACAD 2017	7/11/17 9:30:18 -0700	7/11/17 9:30:21 -0700	0:0:3	RunTime	N	$0.01		
tstrack	ACAD 2017	7/11/17 9:30:24 -0700	7/11/17 9:30:33 -0700	0:0:9	RunTime	N	$0.04		

Figure 2: Sample of an E2P Summary Report from 7/7/17 to 7/8/17

Benefits

- Convert license and support costs from overhead to billable revenue
- No changes to user work patterns
- Bill for any application desired
- File-level association assures billing accuracy

Details

- Monitor any Windows-based desktop/server application
- Users associate use to projects at file open via pop-up panes
- Monitor off-line or CPU-intensive computer application use
- Up to 4 mandatory or optional Input fields available
- Inactive/Idle configurable threshold extends file Active time
- Fixed Project Code, Flexible Name and Non-Chargeable billing types
- Detailed and Summary Reporting by Project, Application, User or configurable Input field
- Flexible CSV output for easy inclusion into billing or project management applications
- PDF format for management review

"E2P provides both additional revenue and cost avoidance – we've moved our software license and support costs from overhead to a project-reimbursable expense. In addition, Process Meter lets us see our peak and trending use. The data helped us avoid buying unnecessary additional licenses."

-Uri Eliahu, President
ENGEO

More About Cetrus Process Meter

Cetrus Process Meter (PM) uses desktop Agents to gather Windows application use information in real time. PM monitors designated applications regardless of the license delivery method. Plug-ins provide functionality to specific or all agents. Use data is aggregated in a multi-tenant data mart for easy reporting and analysis.
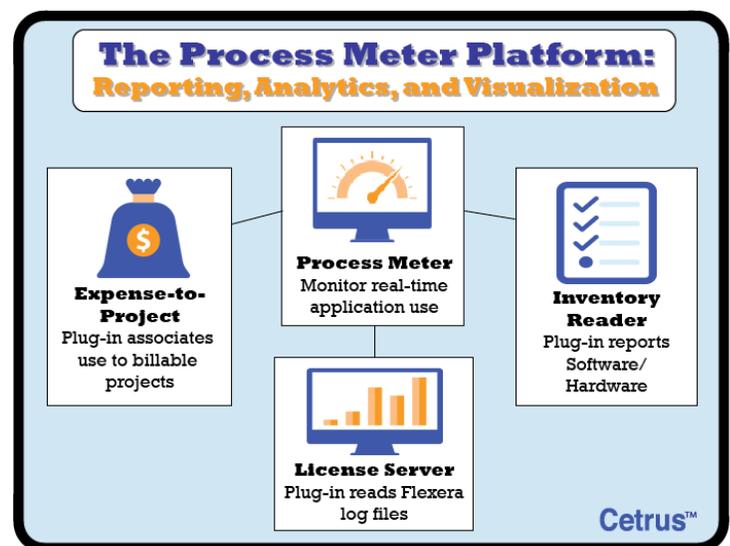
The Process Meter Platform:
Reporting, Analytics, and Visualization

Process Meter
Monitor real-time application use

Expense-to-Project
Plug-in associates use to billable projects

Inventory Reader
Plug-in reports Software/ Hardware

License Server
Plug-in reads Flexera log files

Cetrus™

Figure 3: The Cetrus Process Meter data capture components

Ready to Try E2P?
Get in touch with the Cetrus team today.

1 (877) 238-7871
www.cetrus.com