

Interview with Peter Yusufi

What types of things are you responsible for?

Basically, for coordination real estate projects, which means that I take care of finances, I make sure deliver or materials is done on time, I make sure the budgets are balanced, which means that we manage our finances in terms of what we have to do in our company to make sure we don't spend more on a certain project that we work on. I'm responsible for coordinating the renting of properties, which we own, which basically means that I have to make sure that properties are rented and tenants are paying their dues on time. We basically have to take note of contracts to make sure when they are about to expire, we know we have to contact our tenants to renew them or finish them if we are not happy.

What kind of struggles do you encounter when trying to accomplish things in the work area?

Finding information quickly. I need to find a solution for finding information faster. Information about our own tenants, buildings which we own, suppliers, materials, prices and costs, how long it takes to do certain work, standards of those works.

Do you use any software programs, and if not would you consider using any?

Yes, I'm trying to use mostly cloud-based programs. So, I'm drying to use google drive and dropbox. This allows me to share information with people I work with and allows me to give them certain permissions. It also allows us to not lose data, so when something is stolen I know it's safe. It is also a fast process.

Does it work well for you?

It works well, but they are not always perfect. They crash sometimes, or they get stuck, they are not as extensive, they don't have all the functions that, for example, excel has, if I were to compare it to google spread-sheet.

What kind of information do you work with?

I work with photos, layouts, floor-plans, contracts, personal data, prices, measurements, design so aesthetic data and color, angles, pressures, really any kind of information you can work with.

Are there any multi-step calculations that are involved with the information you're dealing with, which could be organized using an application?

Yes, we basically control budgets, so that's very simple, addition and subtracting. Nothing more complicated than that really...

If I were to make an application for you, what kind of things would you need?

Right now, I need an application that would allow me to organize all of the tenants that I work with, which are probably over 50. So I need to be able to have some sort of a data base where I have all of their information, all of their contact information, I have all of the photos of the property, I have a list of all of them problems that have occurred there, together with how they were solved, and how much it cost me to solve that. I need to know basically, when the contract begins and when it will expire and I need to have this information reminded to me automatically. For example I want to know 3 months in advance when contract of a tenant will be expired.

So a calendar would be useful?

Yes, but something not only, but the responsible people would get notified. So we know what action to take. And when I see a tenant had a lot of problems or requests, which I had to pay for, and I see that in the history, I want that to jump out at me. So then I could see that over the last year I've spent x amount of money, and that exceeds the amount of money that I usually allocate which means I need to discuss that with them.

So, a lot of budgeting?

Yes, all finances.

What kind of applications are suitable for you, or as you said, the people responsible in the office?

I use google drive... really. I need an application that is cloud-based, internet based. This leads me to do better project management. So I can allocate tasks to people, follow those tasks and see the results of them without me having to go to speak to those people all the time. I have a lot of things I need to work on, and I can't always be discussing these things. So I need a way to tell them quickly with clear directions. Fast as possible, that's most important.

Would it be okay if it's not online; If it were just on your computer?

That would be okay, but I would prefer it to be online. So it's accessible and saved. Since things break, things get stolen, and the internet is the safest we have at them moment.