Category	Product Name [and logo]	Brief Description	Experience with Usage	More Information
Project Management	smartsheet	Share your work with other team members, or simply collaborate on a specific task, Smartsheet makes it easy. Invite people anywhere to collaborate on your entire project by sharing the sheet with them, or simply send them a row with all attachments to get updates. Imagine having all notes, comments, files, and information in one centralized location accessible across any browser, device, and operating system. The result is real-time collaboration that streamlines communication, empowers teams, and drives efficiencies.	I used this product when I was working as a Project Manager for a Digital company specializing in Healthcare / Pharmaceuticals. The shop was ALL Mac so we used this web based tool as our primary project planning tool. I was skeptical at first, but it seemed to work very well. No issues with collaboration, or the basics of project management (e.g. handling dependencies / predecessor). In addition, there are all sorts of ways to collaborate/share your plan internally and externally (through export). I'd highly recommend it.	https://www.smartsheet.com/
Project Management	CA technologies Agile	A collaborative, enterprise SaaS platform for agile software development. CA Agile Central is an enterprise-class platform that's purpose-built for scaling agile development practices. Provide a hub for teams to collaboratively plan, prioritize and track work on a synchronized cadence. Connect your development work to your company's most important business initiatives. Measure productivity, predictability, quality and responsiveness with real-time performance metrics.	I used this at an eLearning company that was performing a migration of their platform / Infra + software. The company's standard was CA Agile (they were still using the old name, Rally). We used the tool primary to manage the Sprint lifecycle, i.e. with the Kanan board. The look and feel, as well as the usability was OK. We also used this solution for management reporting, and we had mixed reviews of the output. From my perspective, it was a decent tool to help us get the job done. It was a mixed shop (Microsoft and Mac) which is why this web based solution worked well.	https://www.ca.com/us/products/ca-agile-central.html
Project Management + Full SDLC Management	Visual Studio Microsoft Team Foundation Server	Microsoft product that provides source code management (either with Team Foundation Version Control or Git), reporting, requirements management, project management (for both agile software development and waterfall teams), automated builds, lab management, testing and release management capabilities. It covers the entire application lifecycle, and enables DevOps capabilities.[1] TFS can be used as a back-end to numerous integrated development environments (IDEs) but is tailored for Microsoft Visual Studio and Eclipse on all platforms.	I used TFS while I was working for a company that was predominantly a Microsoft shop. We used the Kanban/Scrum board to manage the sprint to sprint deliverables, as well as Product Backlog Grooming, Sprint Close, and Sprint Open. We also used it for change management for defects reported. In addition, our development team used the IDE for coding, version control, builds, and linking unit test cases to each build execution. The flexibility of this product is staggering. They had lots of 'bells and whistles' such as updating the baclog from an MS Excel file, and upload the changes to commit them in TFS. Not sure the commercials, but was a feature rich product ripe for customization as well.	https://www.visualstudio.com/tfs/
Project Management	Atlassian JIRA Agile	At a high level, JIRA Agile provides issue tracking, and project management capabilities, such as product backlog maintenance, sprint management (i.e. Kanban / Scrum board), and reporting. According to one ranking method, as of June 2017, Jira is the most popular issue management tool.	I typically don't 'love' things, but I have to say I am enamored with JIRA Agile. I've worked in several organizations that used JIRA Agile. The 'price point' is relatively very reasonable. You can customize the product to fit almost any company's process / workflows if you don't want to leverage the 'out of the box' workflows. In additon, the Kanban/Scrum board is a breeze to use, and you will most likely use a fraction of this tool's capabilities. Makes Sprint management extremely easy, and has a wealth of reporting. I highly recommend this product for issue and product lifecycle management.	https://www.atlassian.com/software/jira
Collaboration	Atlassian Confluence	Confluence is content collaboration software. Confluence is sold as either on-premises software or as a software as a service.	Confluence is essential to any project. As soon as I'm assigned a project, I create a "Landing Page" for all things project ABC. I create tables with a list of stakeholders, and I'm able to 'tag' users for notifications. I can link or attach documentation to the page. Meeting Minutes? I can push them onto a Confluence page (e.g. searchable content), or place a link or attach docs. Confluence is extremely intuitive, and very little time is required to understand and create your own Confluence 'objects', such as a Confluence Blog.	https://www.atlassian.com/software/confluence
Collaboration	Microsoft SharePoint	SharePoint is a web-based, collaborative platform that integrates with Microsoft Office. Launched in 2001, SharePoint is primarily sold as a document management and storage system, but the product is highly configurable and usage varies substantially between organizations. "SharePoint empowers teamwork with dynamic and productive team sites for every project team, department, and division. Share files, data, news, and resources. Customize your site to streamline your team's work. Collaborate effortlessly and securely with team members inside and outside your organization, across PCs, Macs, and mobile devices."	I've used SharePoint for ages, way before Confluence. It too is a collaborative platform, and most anything Confluence can do, SharePoint can probably do as well. As your would expect, integrates well with MS Office 365 suite. Lots of advantages, such as version control of documentation. You can also create highly complex workflows to mirror manual processes within your organization. In one organization, we used it for project pipeline transparency for our PMO and our business clients.	https://products.office.com/en-us/sharepoint/collaboration
Project Management	Microsoft Project	Microsoft Project is a project management software product, developed and sold by Microsoft. It is designed to assist a project manager in developing a plan, assigning resources to tasks, tracking progress, managing the budget, and analyzing workloads.	MS Project was the first tool I used decades ago to manage my projects. MS Project is as easy or complex as you need it to be, boasting resource managemnt, budgeting (forcast v. actuals), etc. Leverage Project Server to have that view across projects, with capabilites such as resource leveling accross the matrix organization. Can't go wrong with project, unless of course you're trying to figure out predecessors/dependencies when your tasks are moving 'inexplicably', but that can be said about any project management tool.	https://products.office.com/en-us/project/project-and-portfolio-management-software
Collaboration	Microsoft OneDrive	OneDrive is a file-hosting service operated by Microsoft as part of its suite of online services. It allows users to store files as well as other personal data. Files can be synced to a PC and accessed from a web browser or a mobile device, as well as shared publicly or with specific people.	Although I've used several document collaboration and sharing tools, beyond SharePoint and Confluence, I've used OneDrive in organziations where our clients are external so sharing becomes much easier, and has similar document version control capabilities.	https://onedrive.live.com/about/en-us/
Collaboration	Google Drive	Google Drive is a file storage and synchronization service developed by Google. Launched on April 24, 2012, Google Drive allows users to store files in the cloud, synchronize files across devices, and share files. In addition to a website, Google Drive offers apps with offline capabilities for Windows and macOS computers, and Android and iOS smartphones and tablets.	Similar to OneDrive, I've used Google Drive in an organization which was working with an "outside party". In this case, it was an outside consultant with no access to our internal network. Google Drive was selected by the team as our collaborative platform for things like collaboration on our requirements spec documentation.	https://www.google.com/drive/
Project Management	clarizen	Cloud based project management software	It took a bit of understanding how the platform functioned, and it's limitations, but before long, it became an excellent companion tool for project management. Our organization created project plan templates, which reporting leveraged across our organization. In addition, many 'out of the box' features, such as Risk and Issue tracking were really intuitive and easy to use. My one complaint was column header sorts seem odd, and if mistakenly selected a column header, the user could not revert to the previous sort order. Minor in the scheme of things. I would not highly object to using this software again.	https://www.clarizen.com/product/
Financials (and pseudo Project Management)	Microsoft Excel	Microsoft Excel is a spreadsheet developed by Microsoft for Windows, macOS, Android and iOS. It features calculation, graphing tools, pivot tables, and a macro programming language called Visual Basic for Applications.	In some cases, I've been required to use MS Excel for listing out Milestones and Tasks in an Excel spreadsheet, especially in organziations that lack other tools specifically designed for Project Management. In addition, it's been said that 'non technical' people prefer MS Excel (i.e. over MS Project). Even for the sole reason that there are no dependencies / predecessors functionality availble in Excel, I would choose almost any other product over MS Excel for project management. However, I would definately use MS Excel for things like managing a budget and forecasting. Drill down to the expenditure line items, or abstract to an areas such as 'Total Infra Costs'	https://products.office.com/en-us/excel
Collaboration	Word Adobe PDF	1. Microsoft Word Processor. 2. The Portable Document Format (commonly referred to as PDF) is a file format used to present documents in a manner independent of application software, hardware, and operating systems. Each PDF file encapsulates a complete description of a fixed-layout flat document, including the text, fonts, graphics, and other information needed to display it.	Microsoft Word is used to compose the documents you may use in your project lifecycle, such as requirements specifications. However, the output to these Word documents would be PDFs, such as Statements of Work (SOWs) required to be consumed and captured in the product backlog. Advantages to using PDFs for distributing documentation is the content may be 'locked down', i.e. no changes could be made, a requirement for solidifying project scope.	https://products.office.com/en-US/word https://www.adobe.com/devnet/pdf/pdf_reference_archive.html
Project Management: Requirements Management; Defect and Test Management	HP Quality Center	HP Application Lifecycle Management (HP ALM) is a set of software tools developed and marketed by the HP Software Division of Hewlett Packard Enterprise for application development and testing. HP Quality Center is a quality management platform that can be used for a single project or across multiple IT projects to manage application quality across the entire application lifecycle. The solution provides requirements management, release and cycle management, test management, defect management and reporting from a single platform.	Earlier in my career when projects were classically waterfall, I used the Requirements Management, and Defect Tracking components of Test Director, now called HP Quality Center. Requirements correlating to test coverage, and defects raised to correlate to requirements was 'the cycle of life'. HP has other products, such as Agile Manager, which as the term suggests, follows an agile methodologies; however, I've never used it.	https://saas.hpe.com/en-us/software/application-lifecycle-management https://saas.hpe.com/en-us/software/quality-center
Communication	Microsoft PowerPoint 2016	Microsoft PowerPoint is a presentation program currently developed by Microsoft, for use on both Microsoft Windows and Apple Macintosh operating systems. PowerPoint, initially named "Presenter", was created by Forethought Inc.. Microsoft's version of PowerPoint was officially launched on May 22, 1990, as a part of the Microsoft Office suite. PowerPoint is useful for helping develop the slide-based presentation format and is currently one of the most commonly used slide-based presentation programs available. Microsoft has also released the PowerPoint mobile application for use on Apple and Android mobile operating systems.	If you ever have to present your project on a macro level, you're going to need a way to create presentations. I've used MS PowerPoint for most of my career. If you can get a hold of the company's PowerPoint template for colors, styles, etc., makes the difference. PowerPoint forces those technical folks to abstract their project in terms a more general audience can understand. In order for slides to be readable, you may need to compromise on providing details to explain things like scope and project status.	https://products.office.com/en-US/powerpoint