



# Pendulum Swings to Embedded Practices

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**Trends in software design** have been to build bigger, better, best. The emphasis has been on providing the client with more options, better access and empowerment of users. The end result has been employees with a multitude of choices and the flexibility to transfer data for manipulation on their own desktops, empowering individual “programmers” with the ability to work outside the scope of company protocol.

From the owner’s viewpoint, it is essential to maintain control over output and data input within the company. The future of software design will be in the

direction of embedded business practices where the technology of tomorrow will “enforce” users to follow company practices. Any manipulation must be within the guidelines of the software as opposed to the dictates of the individual user. Spreadsheets should be trackable not just by the individual, but also by supervisory personnel. Data entry should be available to all, not just one. In order to be effective, accounting software needs to require full transparency.

Best business practices embedded into industry-specific software increases the likelihood that a project will stay on schedule and be completed as designed.

**Best business practices embedded into industry specific software will help projects stay on schedule.**

The question for owners and project managers to ask themselves is how well does our software meet our needs and allow our company to maintain best business practices? If the answer is less than satisfactory, perhaps other avenues should be explored. ■