

Best Practices – DOVICO Timesheet™

Audience and Context

This document is intended to assist clients and potential clients plan the configuration and use of DOVICO Timesheet. It is to be used as a guideline since the diversity of circumstances and infrastructures may provide reason to deviate.

Standard Installation

Setup DOVICO Timesheet and database on a dedicated server, which meets optimal requirements and that has a static connection to the Internet. This will in turn enable DOVICO Timesheet for remote access.

Standard Use

Assignments

Assignments should be kept very specific to allow the software to run at peak performance. By assigning all projects/tasks to all employees, the performance of the application could possibly decrease depending on the amount of employees, projects and tasks.

Assignments should also be specific to allow the employee simple selections for Timesheet and Expense entry. Assign employees to only the projects and tasks that are applicable to those specific employees. The Quick Assign feature can be used to accelerate this process.

Approvals

By default, DOVICO Timesheet approval workflows are not assigned to employees or projects. Therefore, unless approval workflows are created and assigned, time or expenses submitted by employees are immediately available for reporting, costing, payroll, billing, etc. When creating approval workflows, the absolute minimum number of approving managers should be used. Experience has shown that when more than 2 approving managers are assigned, there is considerable delay in getting time/expense entries approved. This is especially the case when employees submit at the very last minute.

Reporting – Job Scheduler

Any report can be set to be automatically e-mailed to any employee. However diligence should be used when selecting which reports to send as some reports contain sensitive information. The total number of reports e-mailed (and their frequency) should be kept to a reasonable minimum. Otherwise recipients may consider these junk.

New Employee

When adding new employees, use this checklist to ensure that everything is ready for time and expense entry.

- ✓ Check for **available licenses** to make sure you have enough licenses to use for the new employee(s). Click the **About** button on any toolbar to find out how many licenses have been purchased and how many are used.
- ✓ From the Project Assignments view, **add the new employee**. Take note of the employee's User ID and Password (case sensitive).
- ✓ Make certain the **Software Access** field is set to at least 'Time and Expense Entry only' and that the **Security level** is at least set to 'Time and Expense Entry'. This will ensure that the employee can enter time and expenses.
- ✓ If cost reporting is used, apply the proper **Rate of Wages** (Pay rate) and **Rate Charged** (Billing Rate) to the employee.
- ✓ From the employee's properties window, click the **Additional tab**;
 - Set applicable **Approval Workflows** for time and expenses.
 - Select a **Leave/Absences** rule and adjust the Accrual Start date if necessary.
- ✓ **Assign projects and tasks** for the new employee. If the new employee will have similar assignments as an existing employee, you can use the Copy Employee Assignments function and then edit individual assignments as necessary.
- ✓ Review **Assignment Budgets** (Budgeted Time and Costs) for the new employee and make any required modifications.
- ✓ Add the new employee to any applicable **Project Approval** workflows.
- ✓ Add the employee to relevant **scheduled reporting or notification** jobs (Job Scheduler).
- ✓ Use the **Timesheet Options** view to customize to the employee's time and expense entry screens.
- ✓ Send the new employee, his/her User ID, Password and the URL or path to login to DOVICO Timesheet.
- ✓ **Train** the employee how to use DOVICO Timesheet to enter time and expenses (or use our On Demand Training: <http://www.dovico.com/client.html>).

Time Entry Methods

Employees may enter time using more than one method. The following are the more common ways to enter time:

- **Bulk Time Entry** – normally used by employees to enter time (durations) at the end of the day/week. This is the most common method of time entry.
- **Timer Entry**– the most accurate method of tracking time; employees attentively start and stop the timer while working. Effort and commitment by employees is required to use the timer function effectively.
- **Start/End times (In/Out Entry)** – used by employees who don't use the timer function but still require reasonably accurate Start and End times for each time entry.

Employee Leaves

When an employee leaves the company and will not be using the software any longer the license that is in use for this employee can be freed by setting the 'Software Uses' field in the employee record to none. (For more information, search for "Free a license" in the Help system's Index tab).

Project Ends

When a project ends, it is recommended that the status of the project be set to Finished, Terminated or Rejected to prevent employees from tracking time against completed projects.

Ideal data entry order

When entering data into DOVICO Timesheet, the data does not have to be entered in any particular order. Although due to the way the software is setup, it may help to enter it in a certain way. The following is the recommended order in which data should be entered.

1. Regions
2. Clients
3. Overtime rules
4. Rates
5. Teams
6. Security Groups
7. Employees
8. Task Groups
9. Tasks
10. Project Groups
11. Projects
12. Expense Categories

Custom Terminology

Depending upon the company's usual project structure, different terminology may be used. For example, a "Project" may be called an "Entity" or a "Task" may be called a "Job". In this case the terminology in DOVICO Timesheet can be changed to better suite the company or profession. The Custom Terminology may be changed at any time under Database Options. (For more information, search for "Terminology" in the help system's Index tab).

Security

Security requirements can vary depending upon the organization's structure. It is not recommended to give all users Administrator security level access. It is recommended that the organization's structure be reviewed and an assessment be made to determine to which views or tools each employee requires access. The built-in security groups may be sufficient to accommodate most organizations' needs. However, if the built-in security groups are not adequate, new security groups may need to be created. (For more information, search for "Internal Security Groups" or "Security Groups" in the help system's Index tab).

Audit Trail

DOVICO Timesheet's powerful Audit Trail logs additions, changes or deletions in numerous types of records in the database. Its usage is critical if your company must adhere to regulatory standards and quality control guidelines for the collection of timesheet information. Audit trails are not only useful in recording what changes have been made, who made them and when they were made, but can be beneficial in recovering lost transactions or even to troubleshoot problems.

Archive/Deleting

As excessive amounts of data begin to increase in a database, it is recommended that unused data be periodically archived. This unused data includes projects/tasks that are finished and/or employees who have left the company. When this data is no longer needed on a regular basis for reporting, this data should be archived. Should the need arise to report on this historical data, reports can be printed from the archive database at any time.

Projects are usually archived after they are complete and the reporting cycle to which they apply is concluded. Employees, no longer using DOVICO Timesheet, can be archived when all the projects to which they have time and expenses recorded have been or are to be archived. Tasks, no longer used by non-archived projects, can also be archived.

Backup

A scheduled backup plan should be created to ensure that your DOVICO Timesheet database is safe and recoverable in the event of a disaster. These Backups should be performed after regular business hours and may be automated by the Job Scheduler. It is recommended that at least one backup per week be performed. It is further recommended that a sequence of backups are maintained over a period based upon their business cycle. For example, if a monthly business cycle, maybe four or five different sets of back up media are required to ensure that a problem encountered anywhere in the cycle can be recovered.

A more comprehensive backup plan may be required for larger companies (100 or more employees). Because of the amount of data being tracked in an organization of this size, it is necessary to perform several backups a week. In this case, if SQL Server were available it would benefit the organization as it can be configured to perform both full backups (all information) and Incremental backups (only changed information). This will give the DOVICO Timesheet Administrator more flexibility in creating a more comprehensive backup plan.

Designating an Administrator

The optimum DOVICO Timesheet Administrator is someone who will be a significant management tool user with an Information Technology background. For technically challenging installations, they should be supported within their installation by an appropriate Information Technology Professional. This individual should assist the Administrator with installations, roll-outs (if necessary) and upgrades.

If at all possible, the DOVICO Timesheet Administrator should also be the primary support contact for DOVICO. It is best for all other employees using the software to route any support questions or problems through the Administrator.

If practical within the organization, a backup Administrator should also be named to cover for the Administrator as required.