

**CASE STUDY**

# **WHEN LIVES DEPEND ON DATA FLOW**

**ANCESTRY.COM SOLVES MASSIVE SCHEDULING  
PROBLEM TO PRODUCE FASTER AT LOWER COST.**

 **ancestry.com**

**planet**  **together**  
Production Scheduling Software

PLANNING / SCHEDULING / OPTIMIZATION / ANALYTICS

## CLIENT

Ancestry.com

## INDUSTRY

Online resource for family history

## CUSTOMER PROFILE

 In life, relationships show our humanity. In business, data shows us direction. No other company has mastered the art of relationships and the science of data better than Ancestry.com

Headquartered in Provo, Utah, Ancestry.com is the undisputed source for family histories and vital information, such as military, census, civil, ecclesiastical, and immigration records. Originally called MyFamily.com, Ancestry.com launched two decades ago as a publisher of genealogy products. Today, its enormous popularity as a respected repository of relationship data enables families to research long - hidden histories, share and publish stories, and stay connected to family members throughout the world. Ancestry.com depends on speed and agility to manage enormous volumes of incoming data on millions of relationships all over the world.

Given the volume of incoming data, its ability to schedule data from infinite sources into new projects determines customer satisfaction.

[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

## PLANETTOGETHER PROFILE

PlanetTogether was founded in 2004 as the culmination of decades of academic research at Cornell University. Combined with over 20 years of industry experience, we focus on making manufacturers more successful by applying software that solves production planning and scheduling problems. With our powerful, easy to use, integrated software tools and education, manufacturers can attract and retain customers by delivering faster —and do it more profitably by minimizing resource and inventory costs. PlanetTogether is on a mission to make the planet more productive, one manufacturer at a time.

## PLANETTOGETHER INC.

662 Encinitas Blvd.  
Encinitas, CA 92024

1-888-317-8807

[planettogether.com](http://planettogether.com)

# NO MORE SPREADSHEETS

Like so many companies, Ancestry.com managed planning and scheduling functions with standard Excel spreadsheets. The company's phenomenal growth soon outstripped this antiquated system of scheduling; every minor change to the schedule required manual data entry -- in some instances, to more than a hundred at a time. Spreadsheets looked like a Rube Goldberg contraption. Ancestry's lone planner feared human error and struggled with long hours and the mounting cost of inefficiency.

That planner, Eric Horne, interviewed more than a dozen production scheduling systems providers. Most did not understand his specialized need for data scheduling,

especially the cataloguing of historical data. Some simply laughed and shook their heads: "We schedule production, we don't schedule data." Faced with a growing list of inadequate or unwilling solutions providers, Horne continued his search.

Finally, he found PlanetTogether and began to test a trial version of its advanced planning and scheduling system (APS). Horne quickly saw solutions in PlanetTogether's what-if impact analysis, real-time scheduling updates, visual scheduling board, delivery date forecasting and more.

"PlanetTogether listened carefully and offered to create a fully configured version that directly catered to our production

scheduling needs,” explains Horne. Integration went smoothly and led to a significant improvement in Ancestry’s operations scheduling. **“THERE WAS AN IMMEDIATE ONE HUNDRED-FOLD CHANGE IN VISIBILITY,”** Horne said. “In addition to scanning and indexing documents, we were also able to use PlanetTogether’s Key Performance Indicators to forecast project completion dates.”

Horne now meets daily with internal customers as a unified team. They review scheduled projects and make needed schedule adjustments with ease. Horne rejoices that PlanetTogether’s support team is “phenomenal.” **“IF I HAVE A QUESTION, IT’S ANSWERED WITHIN SECONDS.** PlanetTogether’s staff manages our relationship in a flexible, friendly and knowledgeable way.”

Today, Ancestry.com predicts outcomes based on real and experimental schedules, then confidently compares the impact of changes. The company checks into its global operations throughout the day in real time. “PlanetTogether’s APS is quickly accessible

to plant workers, who can login to the database for monthly work assignments, and to customers, who want to check on the project status,” Horne explains.

“Customers enjoy the freedom and ability to go in and do a visual check on our operations. **INFORMATION IS QUICKLY COMMUNICATED WITHOUT THE BOTTLENECK OF THE SCHEDULER AND ALL JOBS ARE COMPLETELY VISIBLE.**” He emphasizes that smart scheduling enables **Ancestry.com** to give better service to customers and increases their own operational efficiency.

When asked if the decision to go with PlanetTogether was a wise one, Horne beams:

***“Absolutely! One hundred percent! It saved my job. What can I say. I’ve planted my roots in PlanetTogether.”***

## ☰ ABOUT PLANETTOGETHER

PlanetTogether is known for stellar performance in production scheduling for multi-plant manufacturers. Founded in 2004 by Cornell University engineers, this San Diego-based software developer thrives on the challenge of algorithms to drive manufacturing efficiency. Planet’s showcase product is the **PlanetTogether’s APS production scheduling**

**platform**, whose muscular functionality cuts inventory and labor costs in half, boosts productivity by double digits, and connects multi-plant operations with precision. Fully customizable, PlanetTogether integrates to virtually all ERP systems, typically in four months, and pays for itself in six.



# WANT TO OPTIMIZE THE **PERFORMANCE** OF YOUR BUSINESS?