

How To Shorten IoT Development Lead Time With HWTrek Online Collaboration Tools



Blog post by Petter Rian

As hardware becomes more complex, the more time and resource-consuming it gets to develop and deploy IoT products. Sourcing adequate resources from trusted supply chain partners, testing and integrating components, and developing prototypes always takes more time than anticipated. Issues will arise along the way that require reiteration and coordination with multiple partners.

Furthermore, the complexity of IoT projects requires expertise from a variety of professionals – including wireless connectivity, cloud services, data security, PCB manufacturing, etc. Finding the right partners to provide the required resources poses another hurdle.

There is an urgent need for time- and -cost effective tools to, not only tackle the complexities of IoT projects but to shorten the development cycle. Enormous pressure

is placed on development teams to pump out new products in record times and to keep up with the accelerating demand for IoT products.

What if development teams could tap into a platform that provides a large pool of vetted supply chain professionals and pre-configured online collaboration tools that significantly reduces the IoT development lead time? HWTrek is the answer.

The HWTrek Project Development Hub (the Hub) is a cloud-based platform where IoT Creators and supply chain Experts collaborate to accelerate product development.

The growing HWTrek community consists of 8,400+ Creators building 2,400+ IoT projects in collaboration with 1,700+ Experts offering 900+ solutions.

The Hub facilitates resource matchmaking and online collaboration to deliver IoT project. Creators effortlessly find specific resources and manage communication with multiple partners in one place. For Experts, the Hub provides opportunities to connect with prospects and tap into unique business leads.

This article shows you how to effectively utilize the HWTrek Hub to find and connect with resource matches, and how to use the HWTrek online collaboration tools to deploy IoT products.

“HWTrek bridges us to the right innovators based on our sales request and technical capabilities, facilitates our communication with various projects, and provides support from relevant supply chain partners. Such collaboration with HWTrek leads to successful product deliveries.” – Hunter Huang, Senior Program Manager at Flex

HOW TO JOIN HWTrek FOR RESOURCES AND SEIZE BUSINESS LEADS

The first step towards accessing the HWTrek Hub is to join the community of Creator and Experts who are actively collaborating on IoT projects. Joining HWTrek is quick and easy. Head over to the [Sign up page](#) to register, and fill out the required fields.

Registering for an account is quick and easy.

Signing up as an Expert

As an Expert, you can simply connect your LinkedIn account to complete the registration.

HOW TO TAP INTO DEVELOPMENT TOOLS ON THE HUB

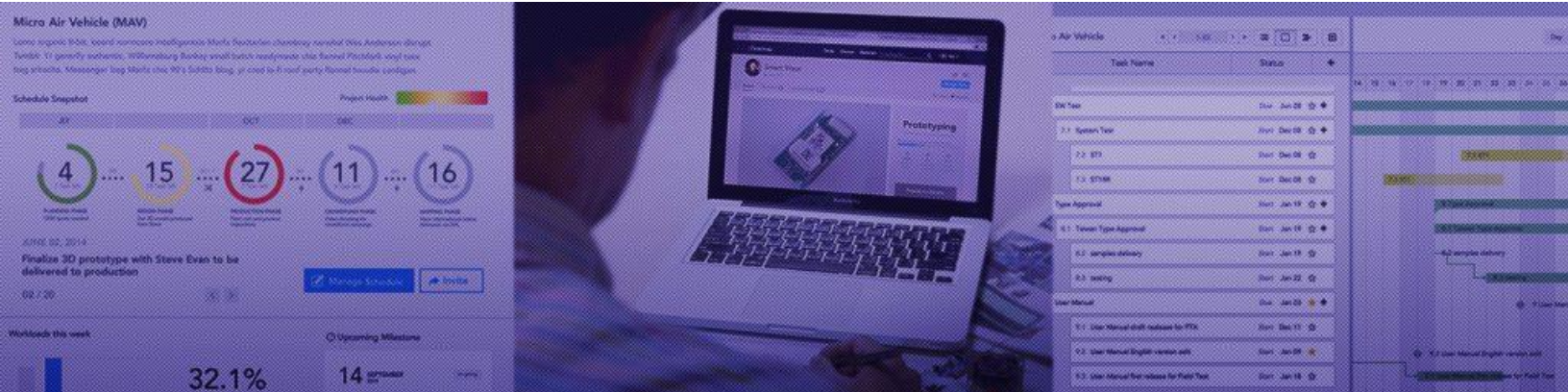
Once registered, you have access to the HWTrek Hub. Here you can use a range of preconfigured development tools that allows you to find matching resources and directly tap into business leads.

CREATE PROJECTS AND REQUEST QUOTATIONS

If you have an idea for a new hardware product or you're already working a project, then you can set up a project on HWTrek.

- **Describe your project** – List project visions, product features, photos, project team, and resource requirements.

- **Control project privacy** – You have the option to keep your business as private as you wish.
- In *Expert mode*, your project is listed on the Discover page. Here Expert can access your project, while Creators must request permission to view your project.
- In *Private mode*, your project is not listed on the Discover page, and platform members can only view your project by invitation. You may invite up to ten collaborators to view and edit your project page.
- **Find resources and request quotes** – Once you've created a project, you can find resources matching your specific requirements. Head over to the Resources page to access HWTrek Experts and their offered Solutions. Simply click on a Solution page and the Get Quotation button to kick-start collaboration.
- **Follow a tailored development schedule** – Based on your provided project information, you'll get a tailored development schedule. Here you can follow a detailed plan that guides you each step of the way to product deployment. Simply share information with your project collaborators, organize and delegate tasks, and oversee the progress.



CREATE SOLUTIONS AND PROPOSE THEM TO PROJECTS

Setting up solutions on HWTrek enables you to showcase your unique products and services, and promote them to Creators on HWTrek. Describe the solution offering, potential applications, add photos, and features. Once completed, the solution is listed on the Resources page. Here Creators can access the solution and contact the Expert directly to start collaborating.

Listing your solutions on HWTrek enables you to:

- Get feedback on actual customer needs.
- Respond to business inquiries.
- Seize client opportunities.
- Lock target customers.

- Promote your resources directly to customers.
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“HWTrek is experienced in its collaboration with global startups and this enables us to locate our target clients effectively and to understand their demand as well as user scenario of our products. We are able to approach a huge number of overseas innovations through HWTrek.” – Daria Chen, Technical Manager at MCS.

TRACK USERS, SOLUTIONS, AND PROJECTS

Tracking allows you to follow and receive updates on your favorite Experts, Creators, Solutions, and Projects on HWTrek. All your tracks are neatly organized for quick access in the [Tracks section](#).

SEARCH AND BROWSE HARDWARE RESOURCES

On the [Discover page](#), you can browse all projects currently in development on HWTrek. As an Expert, you can access project pages to learn about the product and resources needed to advance the product development.

On the [Resources page](#), you can view all HWTrek Experts. The [Expert Solutions page](#) contains all listed Solutions offered by Experts. Use the search and filter functions to find specific resource offerings.

OFFER EXCLUSIVE PROGRAMS

Prestige Solution Programs are advanced solutions offered by selected Expert partners. With the help of the HWTrek design team, you'll get an optimized solution page tailored to your target customers.

Build with Exclusive Programs

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| GTP High precision manufacturing in a short time frame - Program Wizard | flex Ease into production with first-rate consulting - Program Blacksmith | NexPCB Get a 10% discount on quality PCB solutions - Program Pathfinder | LITEPOINT Get test solutions from a top Silicon Valley company - MangoFire | LKK An award-winning design service for taking your Project to China - Program Marco Polo |
| MEDIATEK Get a leading cloud service with dedicated support - Program Rainbow | Linkers Match & connect with your perfect partner in Japan - Seamless Partnering | CECport Superior engineering consulting for your Project - Program Faraday | 华强PCB Verify your PCB design in a very short time frame - Program Flash | KINGBROTHER Save time & money on getting your PCB - Program Rapid PCB |

Head over the [Resources page](#) to find available programs, or learn more about how to [get a customized solution page](#).

INVITE USERS TO COLLABORATE

Once you've created a project, you can invite users to collaborate on your project development journey. You have complete control of whom can access to your project, which can be found on the project page.

Managing Your Project Settings

COLLABORATORS

- ✓ Invite New
- ✓ Accept Requests
- ✓ Change Permissions

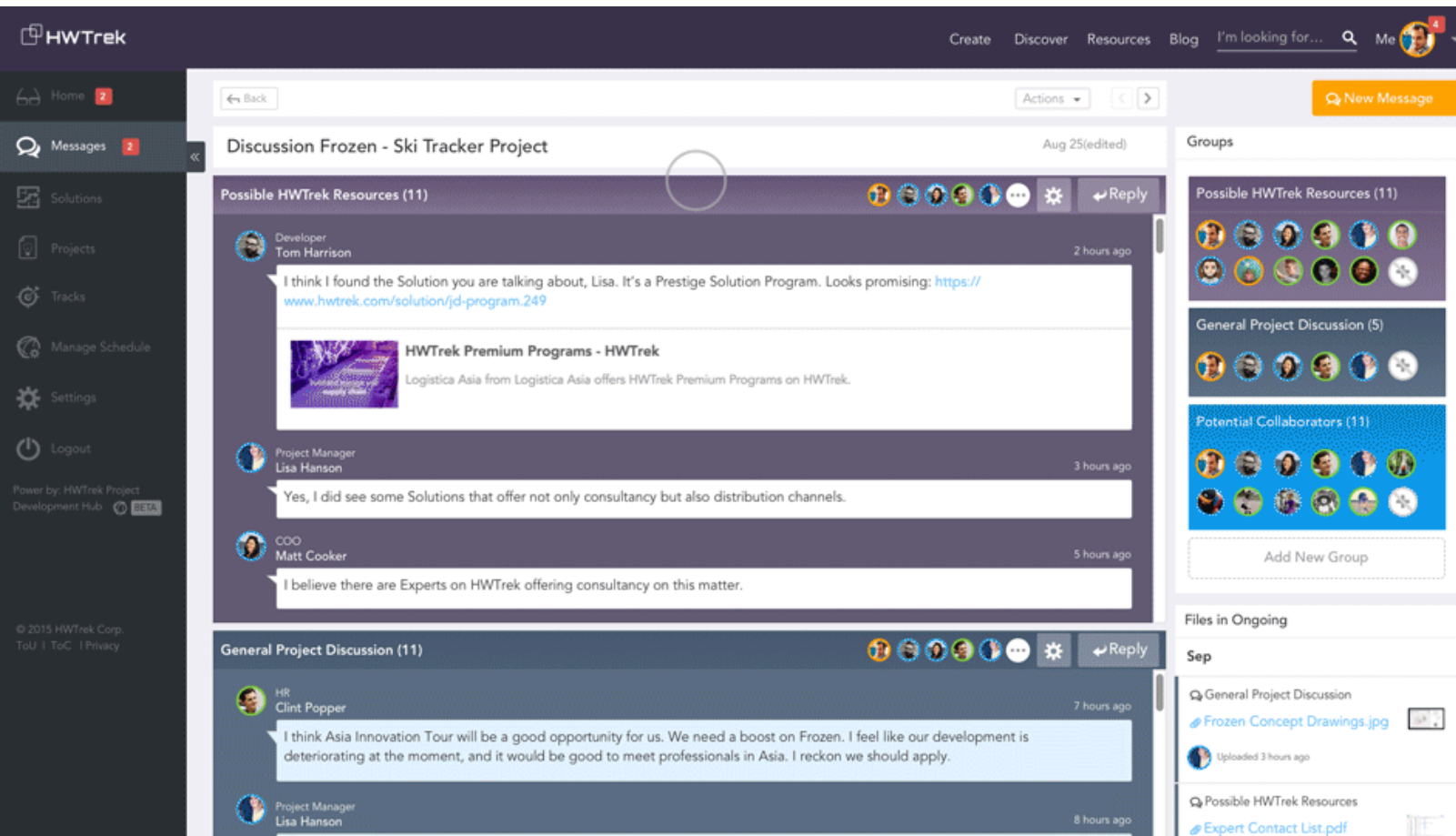
HOW TO USE THE HWTrek ONLINE COLLABORATION TOOLS

We want to make sure online collaboration is as effortless as possible. We've achieved this by giving you online collaboration tools to smoothly manage communication with multiple users at once. All your messages and discussions are organized on the HWTrek Hub.

SEAMLESS ONLINE COLLABORATION TO DELIVER IoT PROJECTS FASTER

In your Messages section, you can create topics. Here you invite users to have discussions and enter "@" to tag specific users for quicker response time. This makes it easy to assign tasks and monitor progress. Delegate tasks instantly without the need to schedule meetings or calls. Monitor and review the progress on the go, and get notified about any new developments. While emails and scheduling meetings slow the

development process, the new messaging feature enables prompt communication and feedback.



Create specialized groups based on the tasks at hand.

PROBLEM-SOLVING WITH MULTIPLE PARTNERS

Within a topic, you can create groups to separate discussions based on the tasks at hand. For instance, when you're working on an IoT project, there might be an issue with the connectivity. The main topic or task is, therefore, connectivity, which will require the involvement of multiple teams, including the RF team, hardware team, cloud support, project leader, system integrators (SI), and so on. The new feature allows you to create a multitude of groups to facilitate discussions and task assignments in order to solve issues related to the main task.

Furthermore, you can create a variety of groups with the diverse expertise needed for the project task. Broadly defined tasks require a variety of expertise, while narrowly defined tasks require specific expertise. You can also bring different users together to get fresh perspectives on a task or to tackle a problem with a different angle. Creating groups within a topic gives you the freedom and opportunity to solve issues with ease.

ALL WORK STORED IN ONE PLACE

You can also to send documents, pictures, videos, presentations, and any other materials. All your sent and received files are saved in one place and accessible by all group members. This allows you to access documents anytime, anywhere. All files get time stamps, so you can easily access the latest versions.

Once tasks are completed, you can close the discussion topic to move it to the 'Closed' tab. This means that system notifications are muted and the topic is archived. However, you can still view the discussions, access sent files, and reactive the topic at any time.

BUILD YOUR EXCLUSIVE CONTACT LIST

The HWTrek platform helps you to build an exclusive contact list based on your activities. The users you track, frequently contact and collaborate with are considered when building a pool of your closest partners. This makes it convenient for you to initiate conversations and set up groups to solve project tasks with suitable partners, and thus making online collaboration effortless.

The screenshot displays the HWTrek platform interface. On the left is a dark sidebar with navigation icons for Home, Messages, Solutions, Projects, Tracks, Manage Schedule, Settings, and Logout. The main content area shows a list of discussions under the 'Ongoing' tab, with filters for 'Unread', 'Closed', and 'All Status'. The list includes messages from Tom Harrison, Richard Dickson, Lisa Hanson, Matt Cooker, Tom Harrison, Clint Popper, Richard Dickson, Clint Popper, Matt Cooker, Lisa Hanson, and Tom Harrison. Each entry shows the sender's name, the discussion title, a snippet of the message, and the time or date. On the right side, there are several widgets: 'To-do Items' showing 3 unreplied and 2 follow-up items; 'Contact Suggestions' listing Tom Harrison, Lisa Hanson, and Richard Dickson with their roles and project statistics; 'Files in Ongoing' showing a file named 'Frozen Concept Drawings.jpg'; and 'Sep' showing a 'General Project Discussion' with a file 'Expert Contact List.pdf'.

Discuss business opportunities.

EVALUATE BUSINESS PROPOSALS

Whether you're proposing your solutions or interested in a solution or project, all communication is conducted through the new messaging feature. Once you evaluate a business proposal, you'll be able to view user identity and track records in one place, including a summary of the solution or project, information about the sender and their activity on HWTrek.

NEVER MISS AN OPPORTUNITY

We made sure that communicating with multiple partners on many tasks at once is painless by alerting you of messages in need of follow-up. The To-do list collects all messages in need of your urgent attention. Unreplied messages remind you of received messages awaiting your reply. Follow up messages reminds you of sent messages that are still waiting for the respondent's reply. Simply pick up the conversation to ensure that the opportunity is not lost.

The screenshot displays the HWTrek messaging interface. The top navigation bar includes 'Create', 'Discover', 'Resources', 'Blog', and a search bar. The left sidebar contains navigation icons for Home, Messages, Solutions, Projects, Tracks, Manage Schedule, Settings, and Logout. The main message list is organized into sections: Unread, Ongoing, Closed, and All Status. The 'Ongoing' section is active, showing a list of messages with sender names, subject lines, and timestamps. The right-hand panel features a 'New Message' button, a 'To-do Items' section with 'In Ongoing: 5' (3 Unreplied, 2 Follow-up), 'Contact Suggestions' for Tom Harrison, Lisa Hanson, and Richard Dickson, and 'Files in Ongoing' including 'Frozen Concept Drawings.jpg' and 'Expert Contact List.pdf'.

All messages neatly organized in one place.

“HWTrek brings us closer to creators, and enable us to deliver better services. Through the new innovative collaboration channel that HWTrek provides, we’ve obtained lots of business opportunities and latest info on projects in the global market.” – Kwok Tsun, Technical Sales at HQPCB

We at HWTrek know that launching an IoT project is a challenging journey. There will be obstacles along the way. This may seem daunting, but the HWTrek platform is specifically built to make the product development journey as stress-free as possible.

On the Hub, Creators and Experts engage in matchmaking to establish collaborative partnerships to deploy IoT products. HWTrek offers a range of development and online collaboration tools that are specifically designed for IoT makers and industry professionals.

Power your IoT journey with the HWTrek Hub, find your resource match and use online collaboration tools to communicate with clients – [sign up now!](#)

If you have any questions or anything else on your mind, visit the [Help Center](#) or [Contact us!](#)



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