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How General Contractors Can Reduce Risk with Better Field Data

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Types of risk in construction

What is risk management?

From dangerous work to an ever-evolving environment, the construction industry is full of risk. Add in hiring subcontractors—and multiple jobsites—and there's a lot of risk involved for general contractors.

At the end of the day, risk management is project management. That's why it's key to know where (and how) to look for risk.

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Four common risks in construction

Financial

Safety

Legal

Project/ Technical

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1. Financial risk

Everything affects the project cost. When a project goes over budget, not only does your company have to pay out of pocket—your reputation (and bids) can take a hit.

Examples of financial risk:

- Schedule issues
- Payment delays
- Equipment maintenance/repair
- Design changes

- Inspection requirements
- Labor shortages
- Supply chain problems
- Inflation

2. Safety risk

Keeping workers and the surrounding public safe is a top priority during projects. Having a good EMR or MOD rating will help lower insurance costs, too.

Examples of safety risk:

- Worker accidents

- Poor working conditions (like weather)

- Rising insurance rates

3. Legal risk

Legal issues can damage—or even shut down—your business. That's why it's important to fulfill contract obligations, and stay compliant.

Examples of legal risk:

- Client disputes

- Subcontractor disputes

- Stakeholder disputes

- Compliance violations

4. Project/Technical risk

The smallest changes can throw a project off track. Sometimes, they're even out of your control. Adapting to change in a timely manner is essential.

Examples of project/technical risk:

- Schedule issues
- Labor shortages
- Lack of materials
- Design errors
- Project scope changes

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The goal:
Save and make money.

Risk takes away from profitability. Unexpected costs add up—and every expense makes your profit margins smaller.

How can general contractors reduce risk?

The key to reducing risk:

Timely documentation.

Project visibility helps you make smarter, faster business decisions. By staying informed, you can maximize profits and stay compliant.

That's where (good) field data comes in.

Why field data is important for risk management

Why does field data matter?

For general contractors, managing multiple projects is hard—especially when you're not out in the field.

Collecting field data ensures your crews document project progress every day. With better visibility, you can track and manage risk more efficiently.

The truth:

Good data helps you improve.

Detailed insights help you spot potential issues
and adjust projects in real time.

However...

Bad data sets you back.

Inaccurate or incomplete data doesn't show your
actual progress, meaning risk increases.

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Bad data can lead to more risks, like:

Safety incidents

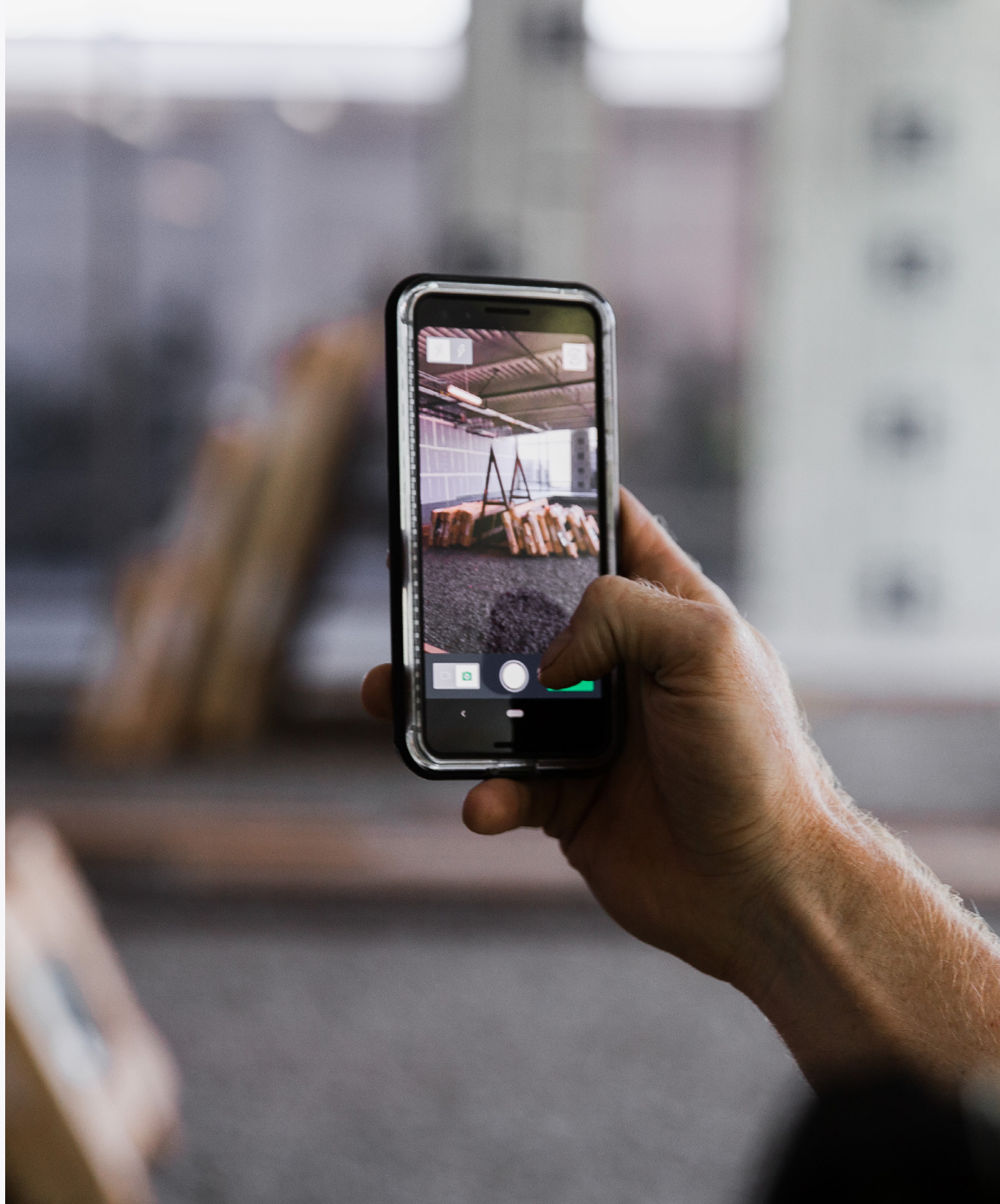**Misaligned schedules and budgets**

Not meeting client standards

Unexpected costs
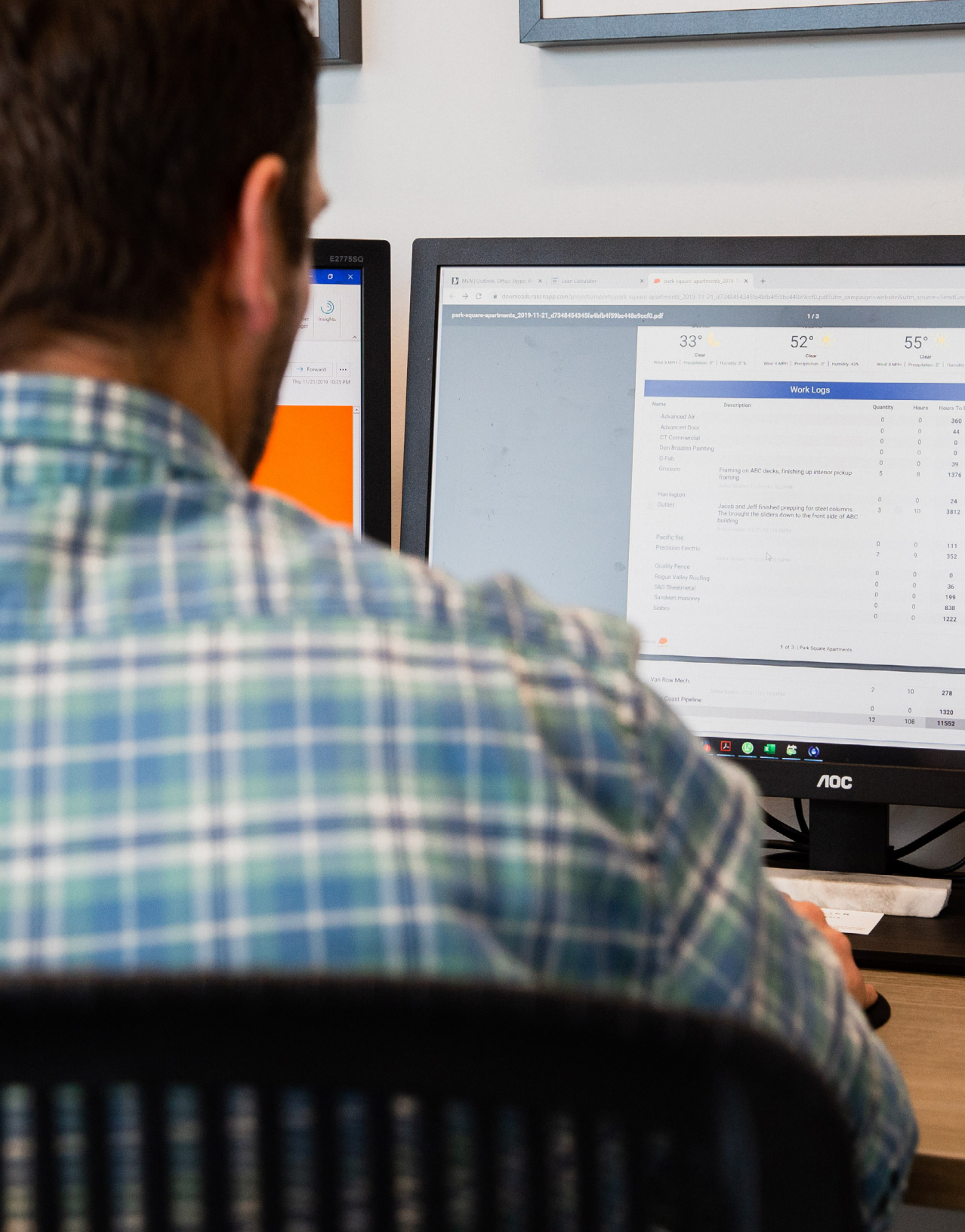
How do you get timely field data?

Jobsites are busy, paper reports take time, and things constantly change. But risk is always a factor—so field data can't wait.

So how can you ensure you get the best, up-to-date project info? Construction technology.

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How construction tech can reduce risk

What does tech mean for general contractors?

Construction tech (like field management software) makes it easy to collect reports from the field.

By giving your crews an easy-to-use tool, they can document more progress in less time. That means you get faster insights to reduce risk.

What can you track with tech?

Daily reports

Time cards

Equipment & materials logs

Safety & quality checklists

Toolbox talks

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How does tech reduce risk?

1. Field crews upload project data from their mobile devices.

2. Office teams get real-time insights to improve productivity.

3. Outside stakeholders get progress updates automatically.

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For field crews, tech means:

More time building—not documenting.

Tech (especially mobile apps) helps field crews keep everyone in the loop. They can quickly document throughout the day, rather than after hours or on the weekend.

For **office teams**, tech means:

More accurate project data.

With construction tech, office teams get faster, standardized insights—without having to chase it down. Clean documentation can also help back up your work in case of litigation.

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For **outside stakeholders**, tech means:

Better visibility, and more confidence in you.

Beyond your immediate team, tech also helps you share project data to clients. Clients will have visual proof of a project's progress, and get timely updates if something happens.

In short:

Construction tech reduces risk all around.

From the field to the office, there's less risk involved with tech. It's all about having the big picture, and the tools to manage risk efficiently.

What tech should you look for?

Getting field crews on board with new workflows (especially technology) can be challenging. But when tech is easy to use, they're more likely to use it—meaning you get the field data you need.

That's why you should invest in field-first tech, like Raken.
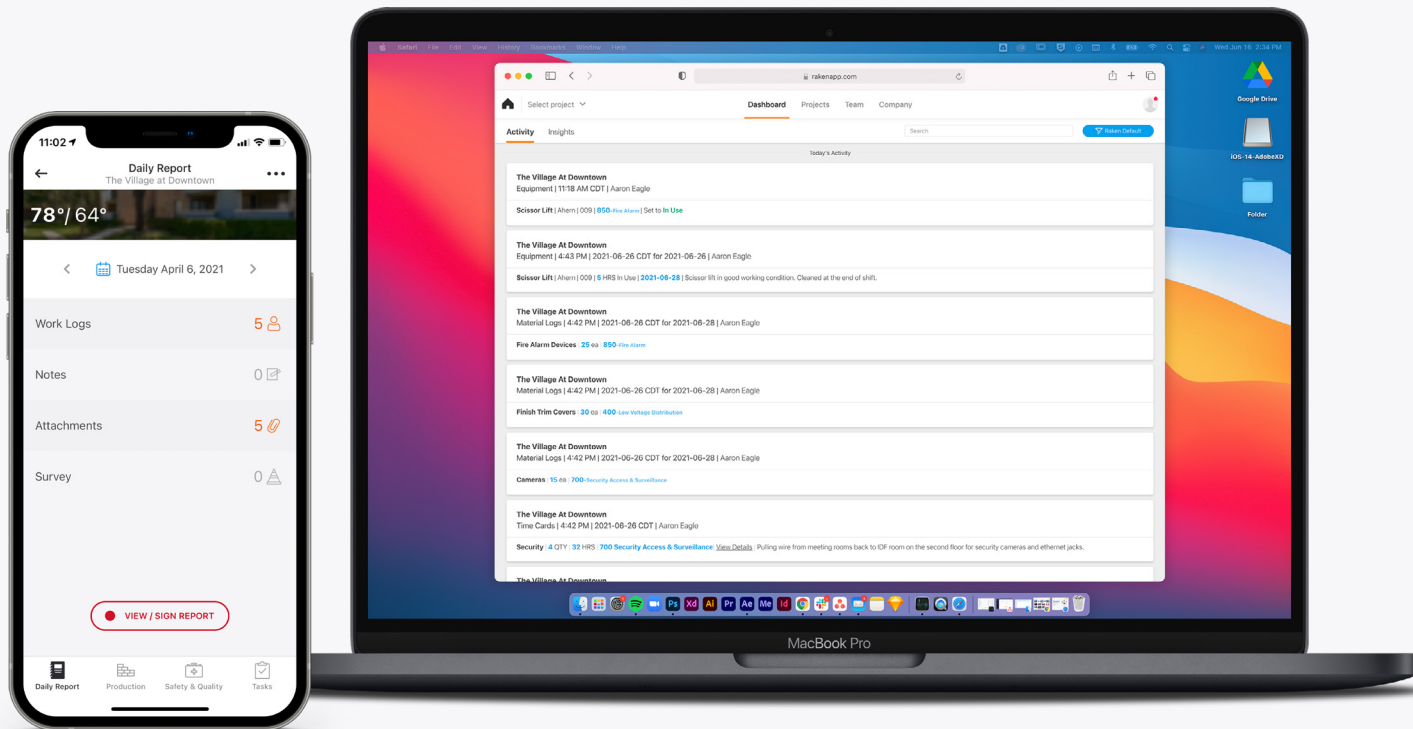
Improve risk management with Raken

Field-based software. Real-time results.

Raken is easy to use, so even the least tech-savvy members can comfortably document projects on the go.

Since all field reports are stored on the cloud, you'll see everything in real time. And faster insights mean better risk management.

Collect (and share) more details.

Our Super Daily combines all external subcontractor daily reports into one master report. Time-stamped photos, videos, and notes included.

Need to report an incident? One-click compliance notifications update everyone automatically.

SUBCONTRACTOR REPORTS
Thu 12/16/2021

Downtown Commons: 4141 North Scottsdale Road Scottsdale, Arizona 85251

Name	Description	Quantity	Hours	Hours To Date
1. Electric	Finished wiring installations for the circuit boards on 2nd and 3rd levels.	5	48.0	171.00
2. Plumbing	Set sleeve around mop sink on levels 1 through 3. Spent half the day cleaning up f	4	32.0	32.00
3. Mechanical	Cleaning tools and material and getting ready for a job clean off. Jake will help wit	5	44.0	195.00
4. Roofing	Finished wiring installations for the circuit boards on 2nd and 3rd levels.	5	44.0	44.00
Subtotal		19	168	442.00
Grand Total (Includes Really Good Building Work Log Total)		46	309	7447.75

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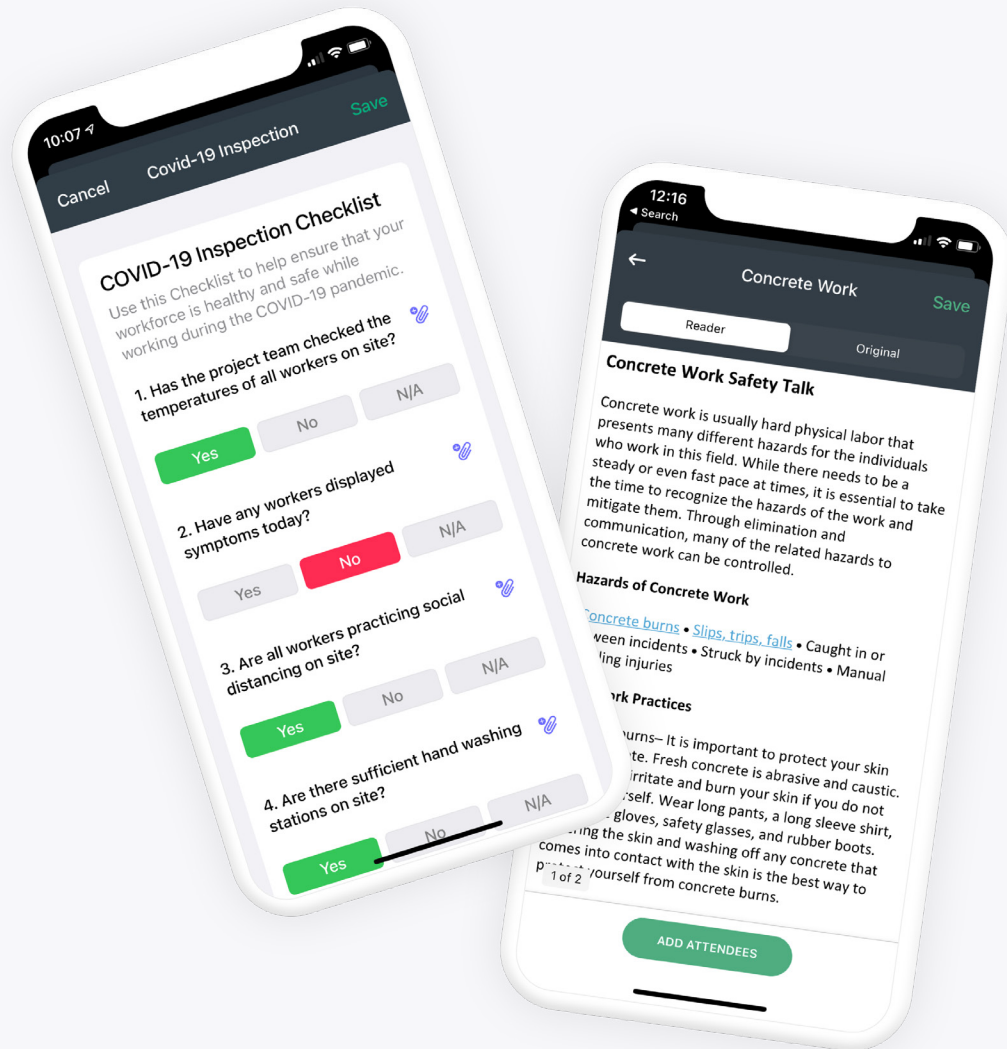
Streamline your safety.

Stay OSHA-compliant—and recall past topics and attendees—with our digital toolbox talks. Bulk schedule them and collect digital sign-in sheets, too.

You can also customize safety and quality checklists to fit every project.

Project management software

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Cloud storage

Accounting solutions
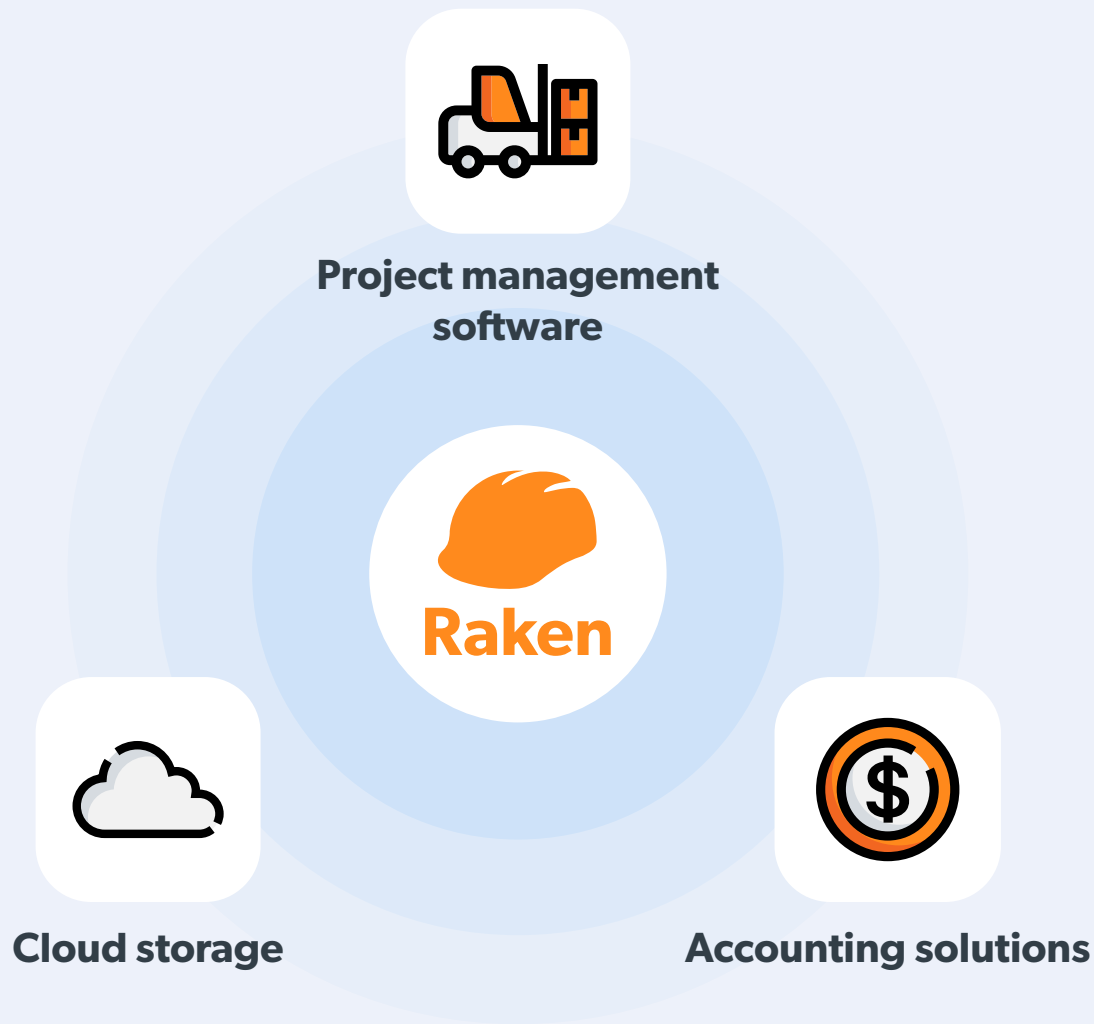
Connect to your favorite apps.

Raken integrates with other industry favorites. That way, all your bases are covered—especially when it comes to field data.

What about self-performing GCs?

We make it easy to visualize (and improve) productivity.

Track, categorize, and compare cost codes over time with:

- ✓ Time cards
- ✓ Equipment logs
- ✓ Materials logs
- ✓ Production insights trends
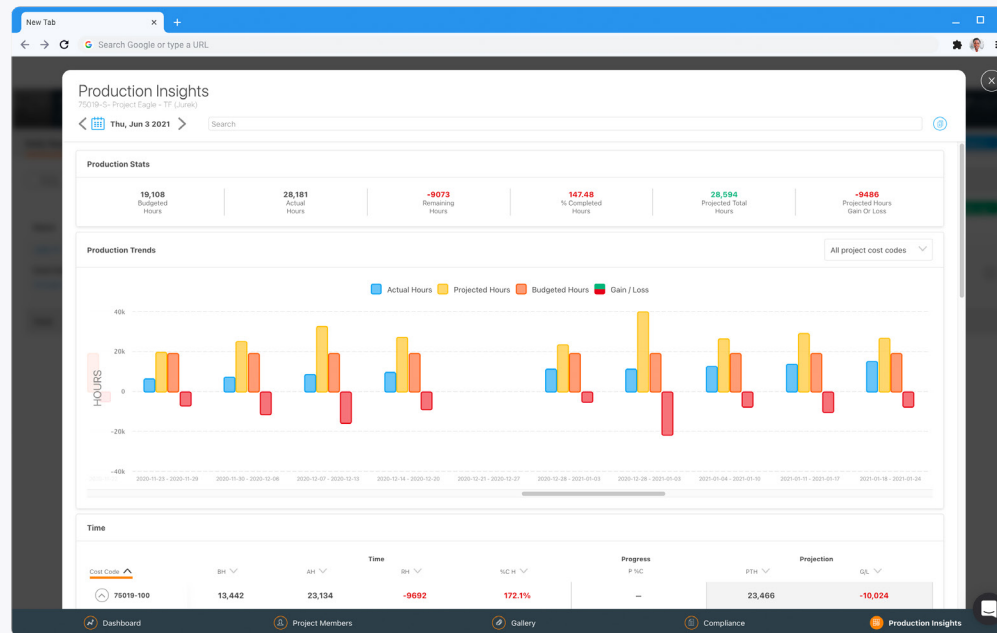
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Ready to improve your field communication?
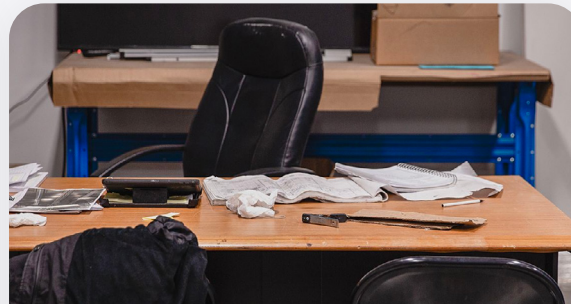
Schedule Demo

rakenapp.com | 866-438-0646

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