

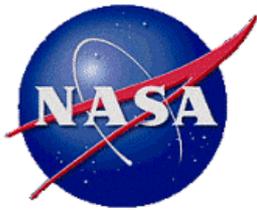


Leveraging Scheduling Productivity with Practical Scheduling Techniques

Presented By: William G. Paradis

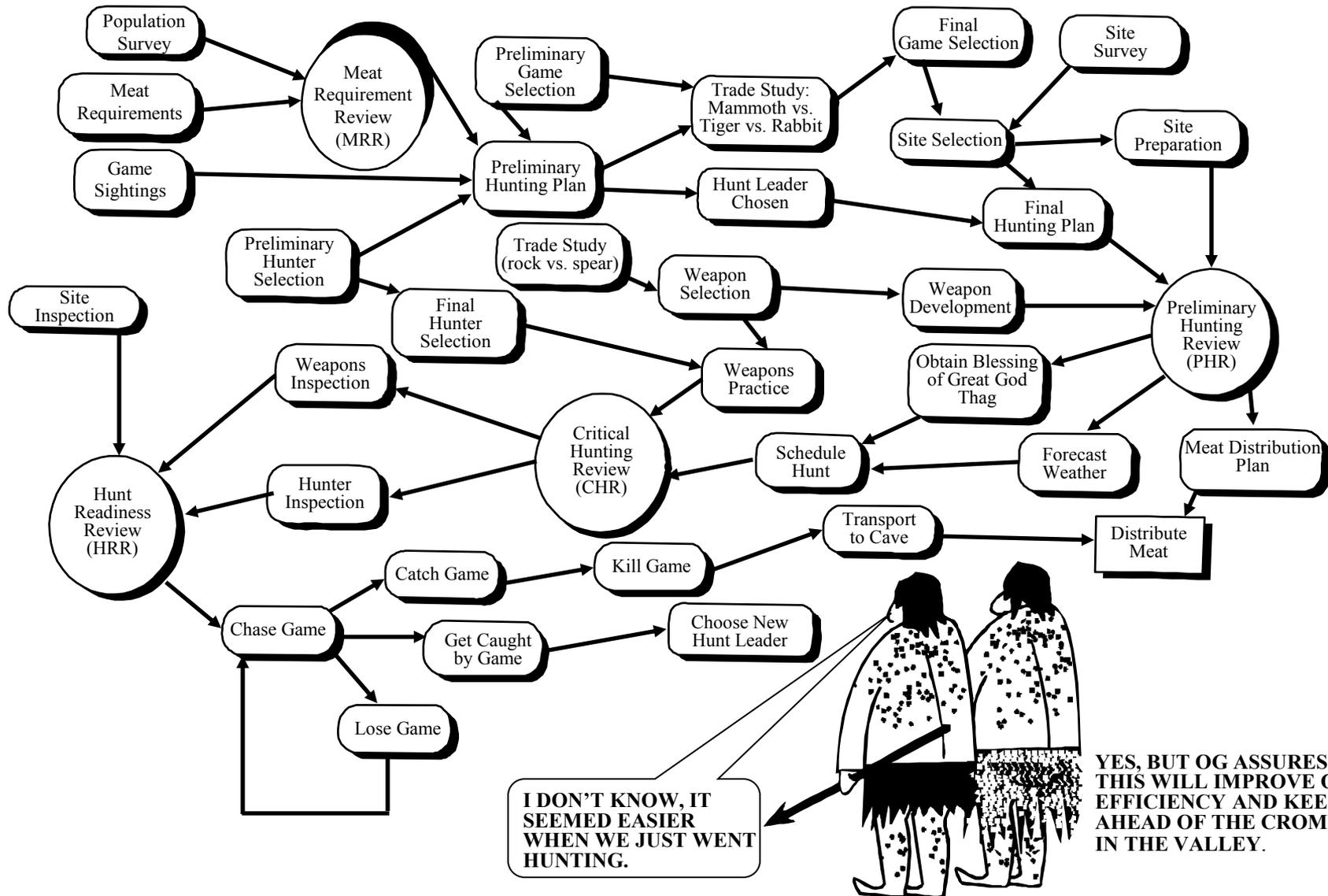
[ASRC/ARTS](#)

August 13, 2014



Can You Relate?

Why Neanderthals Became Extinct





Agenda

- Scheduling Issues - The Schedule Beast
- Taming the Schedule Beast
- Scheduling with the help of MS Excel
- Calculating Earned Value
- 2 New Concepts
- Questions



Scheduling Issues

- Unwieldy IMS Databases (1000s of lines)
- Faulty Logic/Missing Logic
- Critical Path Difficult to Id & Display
- Surprise Constraints
- Multiple Scheduling Tools used to present schedule
- Schedule Ownership
- Scheduling Tools More Powerful yet Resources Limited



Agenda

- Scheduling Issues – The Schedule Beast
- • Taming the Schedule Beast
- Scheduling with the help of MS Excel
- Calculating Earned Value
- 2 New Concepts
- Questions



Taming the Schedule Beast

- The Scheduler's Tool Kit
- Use of Templates
- Use of Codes to Manipulate and Display MS Project Data
- Common View, Filter, & Table Names
- Limiting the Use of Constraints in the Database
- Linking only Detail Activities
- Use Common Time Units for Duration (Stick to one; Days, Weeks, or Months)
- Meaningful Activity Descriptions
- Other Items of Interest



The Schedulers Tool Kit

Preformatted Templates

Training Material



Web Site Links

**Schedule
Check Lists**

**Linked Schedule
Libraries**

Housed on a Website or Network Drive

EVMS/MS Project Info

Lessons Learned

SW Bugs to Look Out For

Virtual Knowledge Sharing Site



The Schedulers Tool Kit

https://fpdsp3.gsfc.nasa.gov/stk/default.aspx

NASA Planning & Scheduling Community of Practice

View All Site Content

Surveys

Lists

- Other Voices
- Featured Websites
- NASA Schedule Milestone Database

P&S CoP

- Handbooks
- MS Project Help/Tools Tips
- NASA Policy and Guidance
- NASA STAT
- Featured Websites and Apps
- Webinars/Lunch & Learn Presentations
- SERRA
- Schedule Archive

Discussions

- Share Your Ideas Discussions
- MS Project Errors
- Code 400 Schedulers

Welcome to the NASA Planning & Scheduling Community of Practice (P&S CoP). The P&S CoP is sponsored by the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's Flight Projects Directorate in association with the Program Analysis And Control (PAAC) III contract. The CoP provides a virtual community for NASA planning & scheduling stakeholders to share ideas, information and best practices. Please contact Walt Majerowicz - 443.883.5267 or Zac Dolch - 301.286.0842 for more information about the P&S CoP.

NASA Planning & Scheduling Community of Practice (P&S CoP)

Points Of Contact for Planning & Scheduling CoP

First Name	Last Name	E-mail Address	Title
Walt	Majerowicz	Walt.Majerowicz@nasa.gov	CoP Facilitator
Zac	Dolch	Zachary.M.Dolch@nasa.gov	Developer/Support Specialist

+ Add new item

NASA Breaking News

NASA Breaking News

- NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory Celebrates 15th Anniversary
- NASA Partners Punctuate Summer with Spacecraft Development Advances
- NASA Updates Apollo Anniversary, Next Giant Leap Events

NASA Watch

- OIG Dings NASA on IT Security - Again
- SpaceX F9 ORBCOMM 1st Stage "Soft" Landing Video
- Budget Stalled, Again
- Progress 55 Leaves the ISS

What's New!

GAO Issues Draft Schedule Assessment Guide 6/5/2012 10:25 AM
by Dolch, Zachary M. (GSFC-433.0)[ASRC RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS]
How long will this project really take? GAO Issues Draft Schedule Assessment Guide

Second Volume in Series to Help Manage Government Projects
Washington, D.C. (May 8, 2012) — The U.S. Secretion of Acquisition Policy Office today issued a draft manual...

P&S CoP Newsletter - Volume 13, March 03, 2012 3/20/2012 9:33 AM
by Dolch, Zachary M. (GSFC-433.0)[ASRC RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS]
Please see the attached.

PMI Practice Standard for EVM 3/19/2012 3:17 PM
by Dolch, Zachary M. (GSFC-433.0)[ASRC RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS]

Web Site Links

Templates

Lessons Learned & Training Material

Connecting

Virtual Knowledge Sharing Site



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Schedule Templates

No Templates

<input type="checkbox"/>	Set Up Calendars	1-2Hrs
<input type="checkbox"/>	Set Up Views	1-2 Hrs
<input type="checkbox"/>	Set Up Filters	1-2 Hrs
<input type="checkbox"/>	Set Up Tables	1-2 Hrs
<input type="checkbox"/>	Figure Out How Previous Schedule maintained	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Schedule Database	8-40 Hrs
<input type="checkbox"/>	Set Project Settings	<1Hr
<input type="checkbox"/>	Load Schedule Activities	Varies

With Templates

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Set Up Calendars	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Set Up Views	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Set Up Filters	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Set Up Tables	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Figure Out How Previous Schedule maintained	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Schedule Database	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Set Project Settings	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Load Schedule Activities	

12.5 Hrs Saved X 1400 Projects = 17,500 Hrs Saved
Times ~\$30 Hr = \$525,000



Schedule Templates – Reserved Fields

A Few of My Favorites

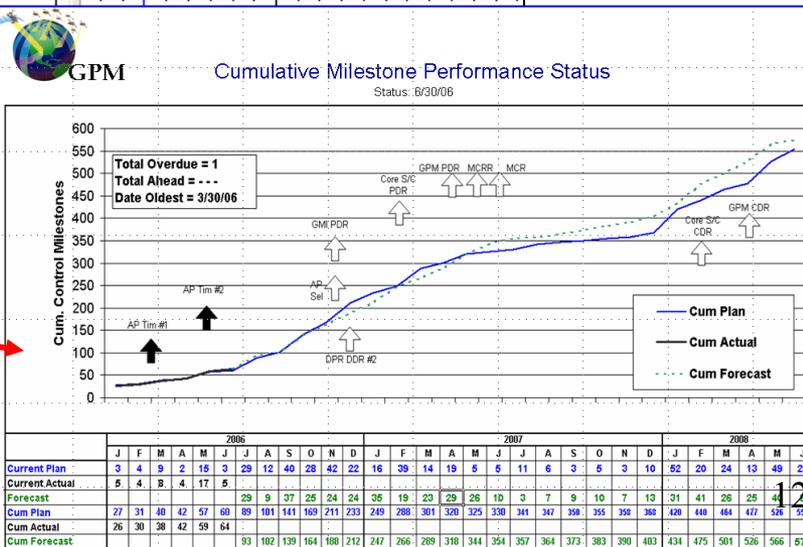
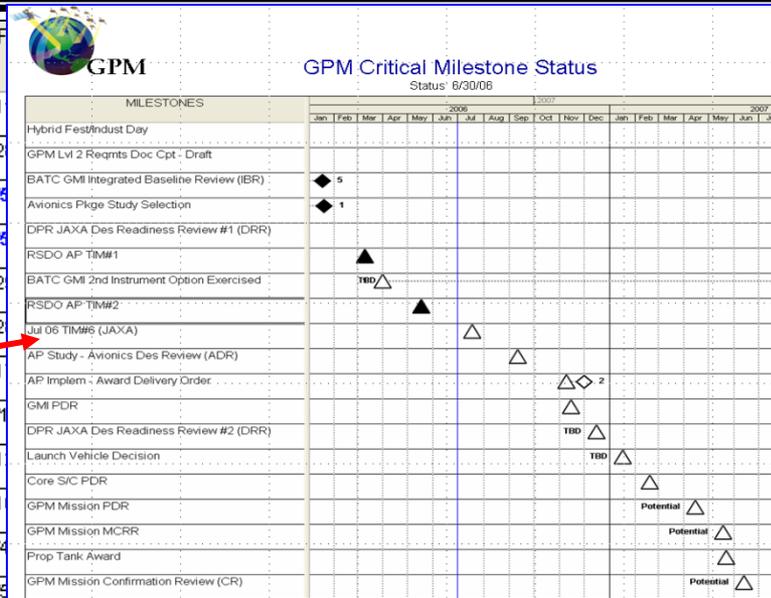
- Text 1 - IMP/IMS Code
- Text 2 - Sort Code
- Text 21 - Program Control Milestones
- Text 22 - Catalog Views Filter
- Text 26/27 - Top & Bottom Text on Bars & M/Ss
- Text 28 - IPT/Sub System Code
- Text 30 - Master/ Intermediate Code
- Finish2 - Summary Progress Lines



Schedule Templates – Reserved Fields Con't

Text 21 – Program Control Milestones

	WBS	MSs	Task	Dur	%	Strt	F
1345	6.1.11		Propulsion - Dev Therm HW Test Plan & Proceeds	40d	0%	6/15/08	8/1
1346	6.1.11		Propulsion - Dev Waterhammer Test Plan & Proceeds	30d	0%	6/15/08	7/2
1347	6.1.11		Prop Procurements	751d	1%	6/15/06	6/5
1348	6.1.11		Demisable Prop Tank	751d	2%	6/15/06	6/5
1349	6.1.11		Demis Prop Tank - Design Study	11d	100%	6/15/06	6/2
1350	6.1.11		Demis Prop Tank - SOW & Spec Dev	20d	0%	6/30/06	7/2
1351	6.1.11		Demis Prop Tank - SOW & Spec Dev Review	14d	0%	7/31/06	8/1
1352	6.1.11	MS	Demis Prop Tank - Release Spec SOW to Procurement	60d	0%	8/18/06	11/1
1353	6.1.11		Demis Prop Tank - Procurement Activity	81d	0%	11/14/06	3/1
1354	6.1.11	MMS	Demis Prop Tank - Procurement Award	4d	0%	3/13/07	3/1
1355	6.1.11		Demis Prop Tank - Procurement PHS	540d	0%	4/16/07	6/4
1356	6.1.11	MS	Demis Prop Tank - Delivery	1d	0%	6/5/09	6/5
1357	6.1.11		Thrusters	401d	0%	4/5/07	1
1358	6.1.11	MS	Thrusters - Draft SOW/Spec	20d	0%	4/5/07	5
1359	6.1.11		Thrusters - SOW/Spec to Proc'mt	40d	0%	5/3/07	6
1360	6.1.11	MS	Thrusters - Contract Award	1d	0%	6/29/07	6
1361	6.1.11	MS	Thrusters - Fit Unit Del	245d	0%	11/15/07	1
1362	6.1.11		Filters	181d	0%	8/24/07	5
1363	6.1.11	MS	Filters - Draft SOW/Spec	20d	0%	8/24/07	9
1364	6.1.11		Filters - Rel SOW/Spec to Proc'mt	40d	0%	9/24/07	11
1365	6.1.11	MS	Filters - Contract Award	1d	0%	11/21/07	11
1366	6.1.11	MS	Filters - Fit Unit Del	120d	0%	11/23/07	5
1367	6.1.11		Isolation Valves	181d	0%	8/24/07	5





Taming the Schedule Beast

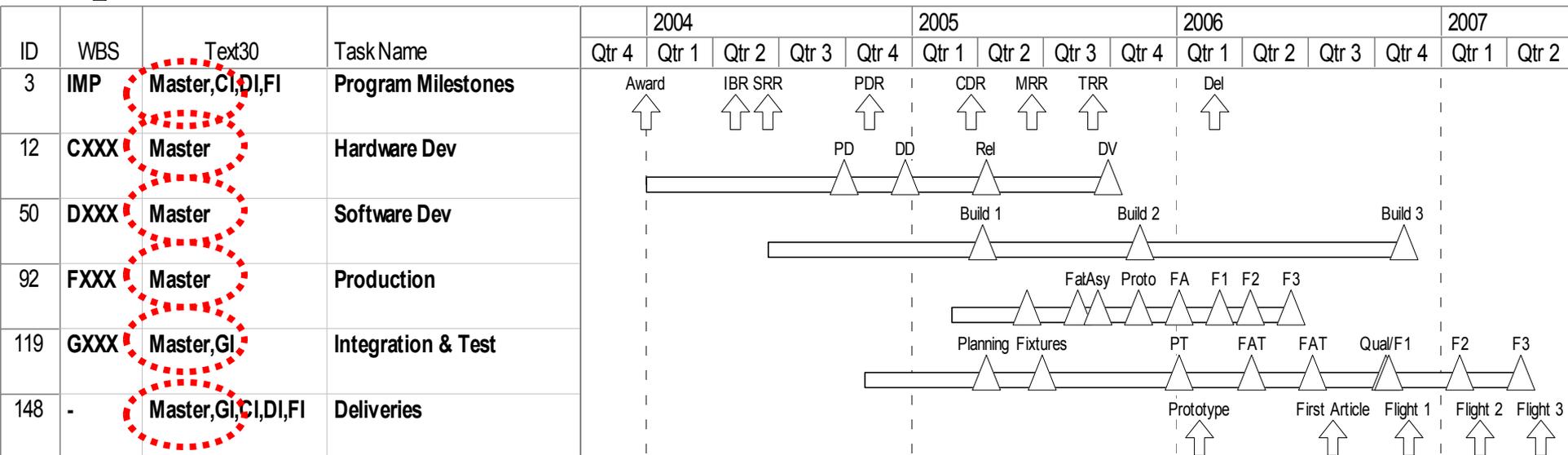
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Use of Codes to Manipulate and Display MS Project Data

MS Project Data

Top Level Schedules



Master Schedule Filter

And/Or	Field Name	Test	Value(s)
	Text30	contains	Master



Use of Codes to Manipulate and Display MS Project Data Con't

Intermediate Level Schedules

Intermediate Schedule View

ID	WBS	Text30	Task Name	2004			2005			2006						
				Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	
3	IMP	Master, CI, D, FI	Program Milestones		Award	IBR SRR		PDR		CDR	MRR	TRR		Del		
18	CAXX	CI	Widget Devolpment													
19	CABX	CI	Widget - Module 1			Reqmts	PD	DD		Rel				DV		
25	CACX	CI	Widget - Module 2			Reqmts	PD	DD		Rel				DV		
31	CADX	CI	Widget - Module 3			Reqmts	PD	DD		Rel				DV		
37	CBXX	CI	GizmoFlotchyDevelopment													
38	CBBX	CI	GizmoFlotchy- Module 1			Reqmts	PD	DD		Rel				DV		
44	CBCX	CI	GizmoFlotchy- Module 2			Reqmts	PD	DD		Rel				DV		
148	-	Master, G, CI, D, FI	Deliveries											Prototype		First Article

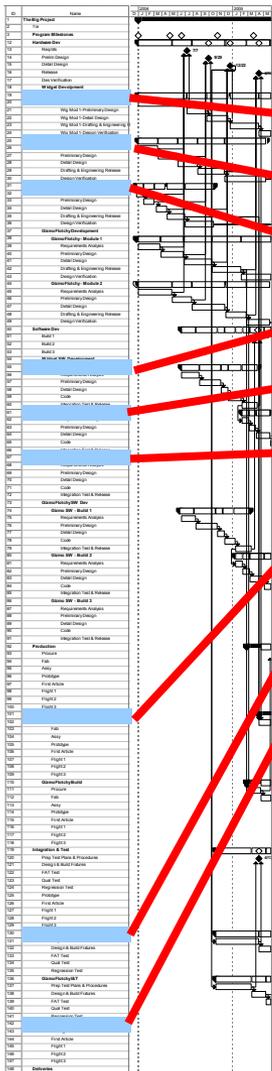
Intermediate Schedule Filter

And/Or	Field Name	Test	Value(s)
	Text30	contains	CI



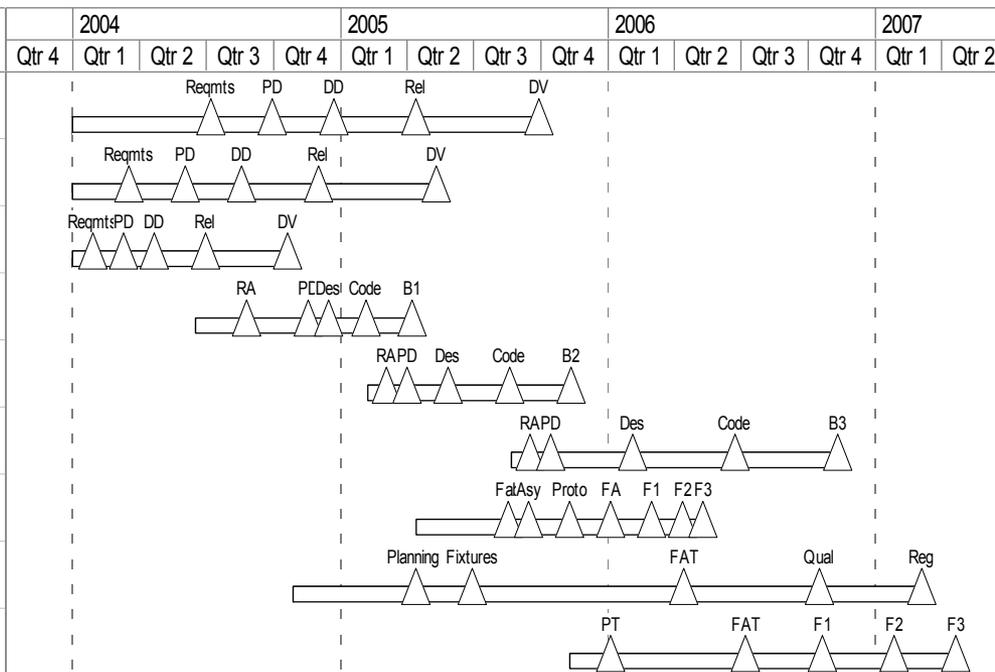
Use of Codes to Manipulate and Display MS Project Data Con't

Custom View Filtering

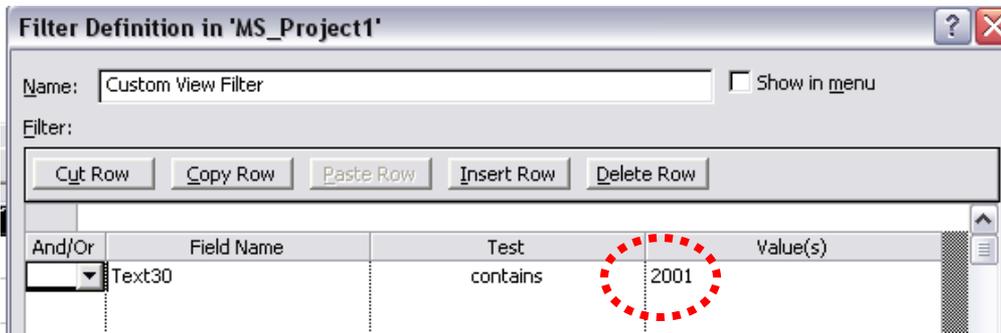


ID	WBS	Text30	Task Name
19	CABX	CI_2001	Widget - Module 1
25	CACX	CI_2001	Widget - Module 2
31	CADX	CI_2001	Widget - Module 3
55	DBAX	DI_2001	Widget SW - Build 1
61	DBBX	DI_2001	Widget SW - Build 2
67	DBCX	DI_2001	Widget SW - Build 3
101	FBXX	FI_2001	Widget Build
130	GBXX	GI_2001	Widget I&T
142	GDXX	GI_2001	System Level I&T

Custom Schedule View



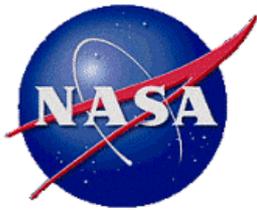
Custom Schedule Filter





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MS Project Views, Filters, & Tables

**Activity Selection
(Filter)
&
Sort**

ID	TaskName	Dur	Start	Finish	2005												2006						
					J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
1	The Big Project	796d	10/29/03	11/15/06																			
2	Program Milestones	660d	1/1/04	7/12/06																			
13	Program Mgmt	660d	1/1/04	7/12/06																			
84	System Engineering	706d	10/29/03	7/12/06																			
102	Hardware Dev	660d	1/1/04	7/12/06																			
103	Widget Dev	660d	1/1/04	7/12/06																			
104	Widget Lead	660d	1/1/04	7/12/06																			
105	Initial Planning for IBR	60d	1/1/04	3/24/04																			
106	SRR P.O.P.	80d	3/25/04	7/14/04	█																		
107	PDR P.O.P.	80d	7/15/04	11/3/04		█																	
108	CDR P.O.P.	80d	11/4/04	2/23/05				█															
109	MRR P.O.P.	50d	2/24/05	5/4/05						█													
110	TRR P.O.P.	50d	5/5/05	7/13/05								█											
111	1st Del P.O.P.	60d	7/14/05	10/5/05										█									
112	Lot 1 Dels P.O.P.	100d	10/6/05	2/22/06																	█		
113	Lot 2 Dels P.O.P.	100d	2/23/06	7/12/06																			█

Table

View

View Definition in 'Project1'

Name: 1- SW Intermediate Schedule

Screen: Gantt Chart

Table: 1- SW Intermediate Schedule

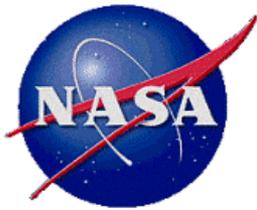
Group: No Group

Filter: 1- SW Intermediate Schedule

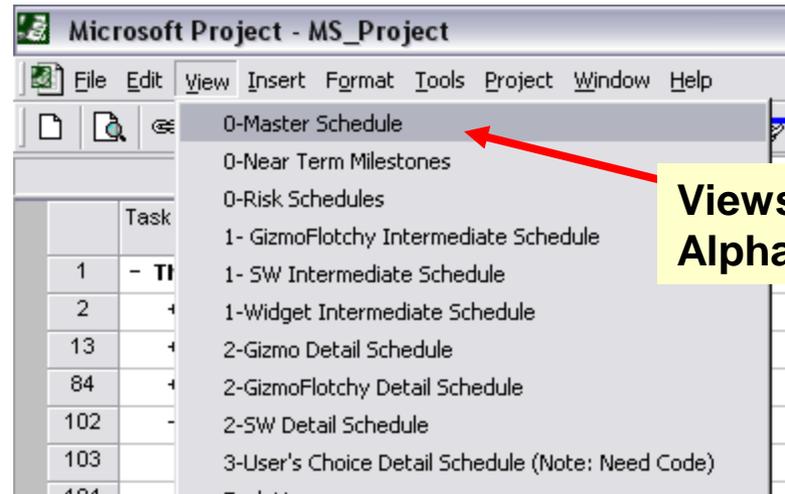
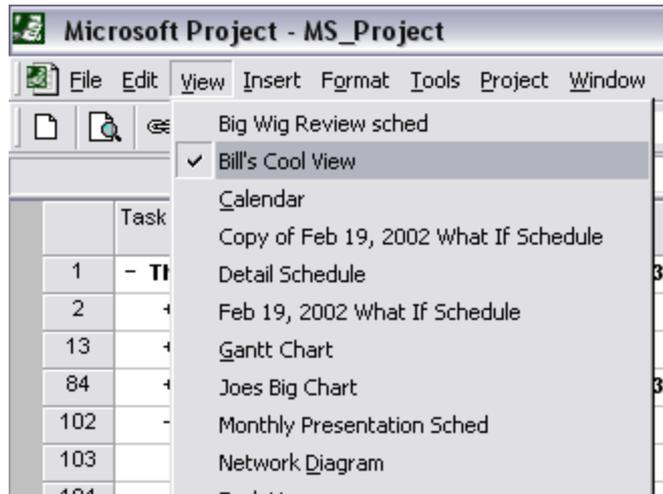
Highlight filter

Show in menu

OK Cancel



MS Project Views, Filters, & Tables Con't



- Un-Organized
- Confusing View Names
- Time is wasted looking for or Recreating Views

- Organized
- View Names Easy to Understand
- Standard Set of Views; Saves Time

Work Smarter....Not Harder!!!

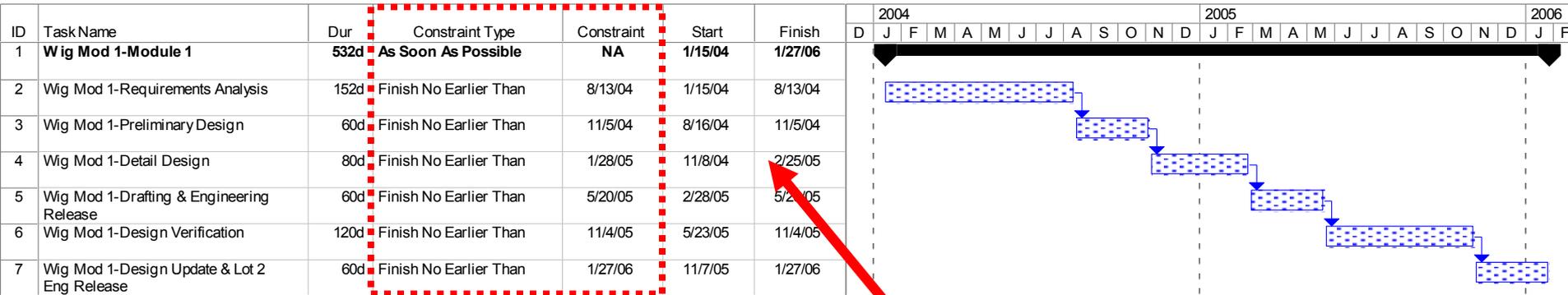


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Limit the Use of Schedule Constraints



Set when manually inserting Start & Finish dates, many times Unintentionally

Task Information

General | Predecessors | Resources | **Advanced** | Notes

Name: Wig Mod 1-Preliminary Design Duration: 60d Estimated

Constrain task

Deadline: NA

Constraint type: **Finish No Earlier Than** Constraint date: 11/5/04

Task type: Effort driven Scheduling ignores resource calendars

Calendar: Mark task as milestone

WBS code:

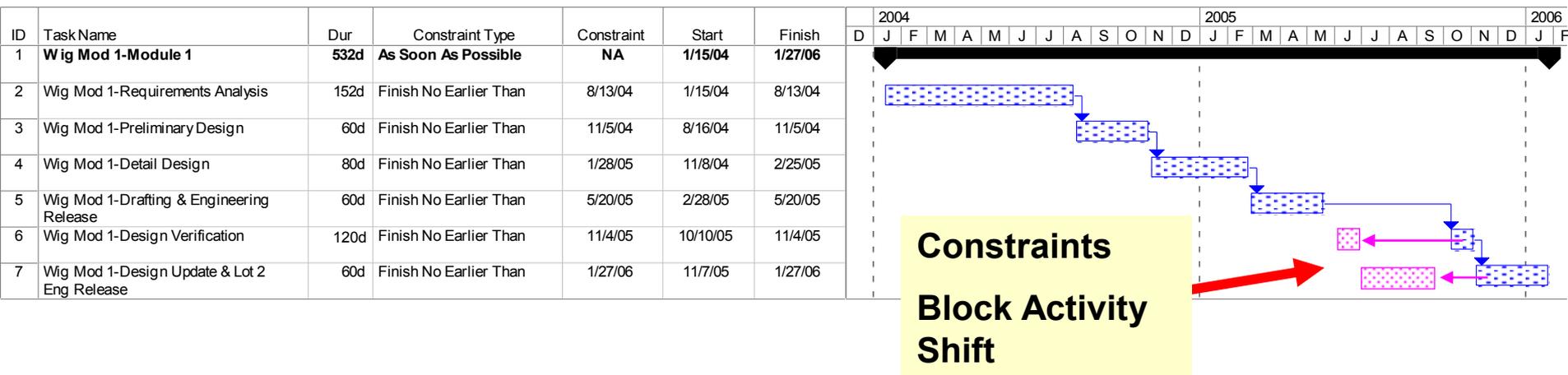
- As Late As Possible
- As Soon As Possible
- Finish No Earlier Than
- Finish No Later Than
- Must Finish On
- Must Start On
- Start No Earlier Than
- Start No Later Than

Set by the user





Limit the Use of Schedule Constraints Con't



- Schedule Tool Can not Calculate Dates
- May Lead to Faulty Critical Path Identification
- Constraints, Sometimes Hard to Spot, Once Set
- Let The Scheduling Tool Work For You !

Work Smarter....Not Harder!!!



Taming the Schedule Beast

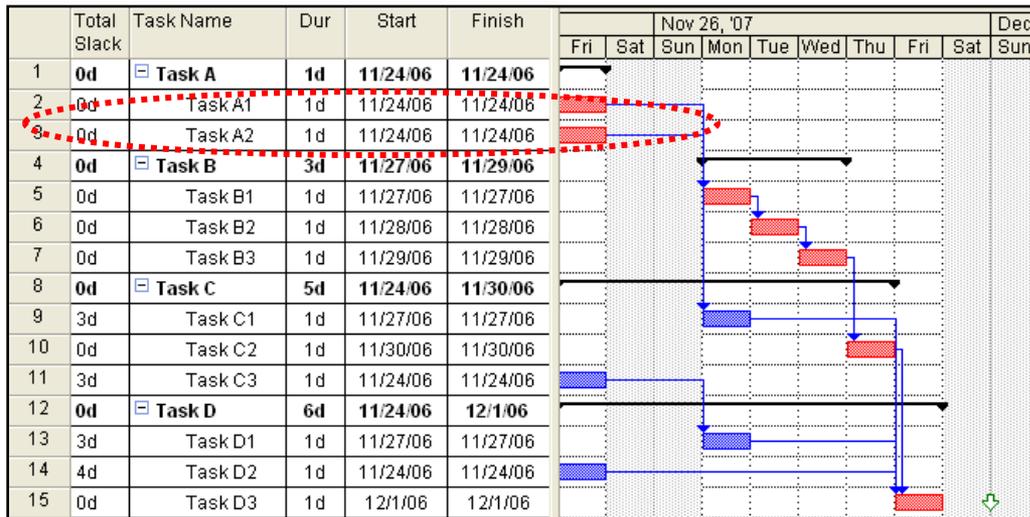
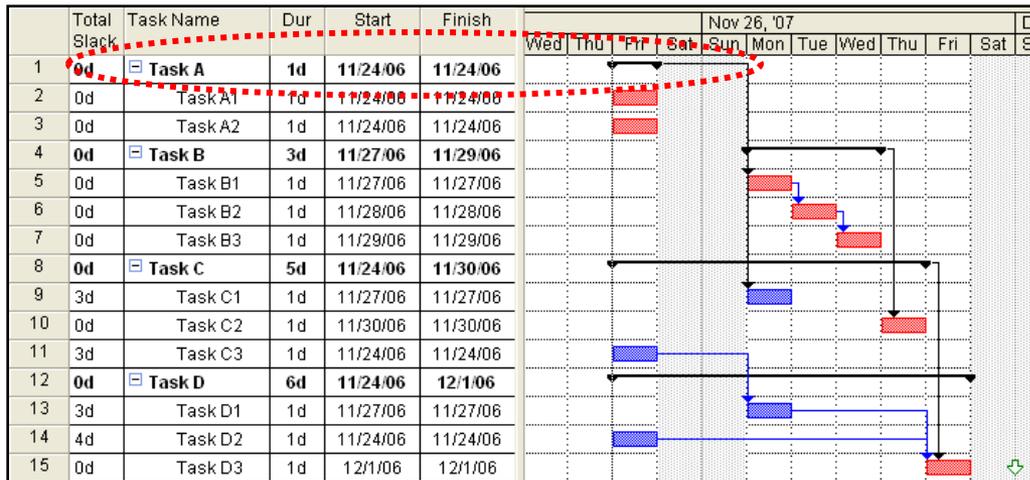
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Linking only Detail Activities

- Linking Summary Activities
 - Only Able to Identify the Critical Area

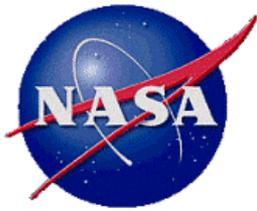
- Linking Detail Activities
 - Able to Identify the Critical Activities



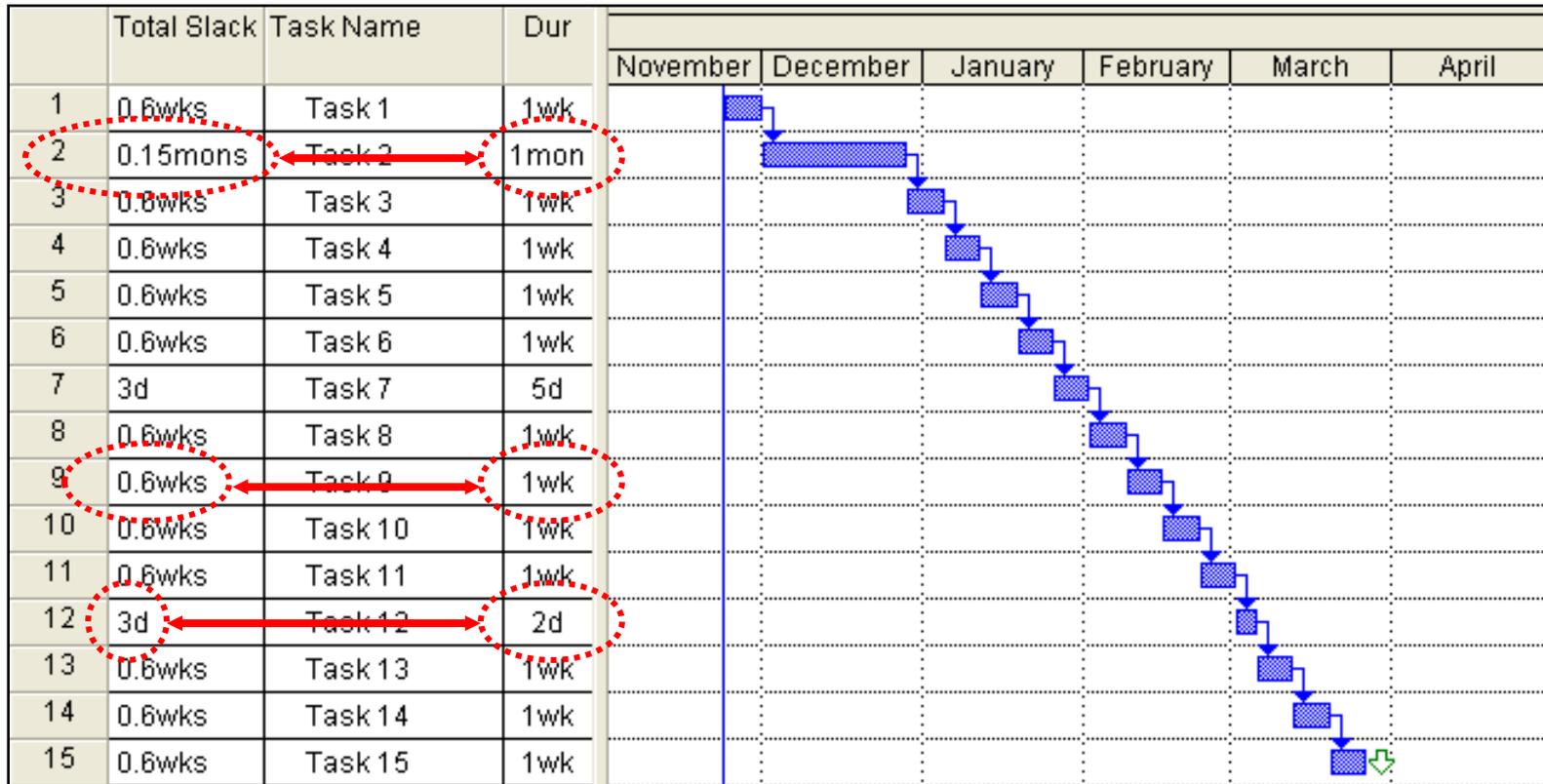


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Use Common Time Units for Duration



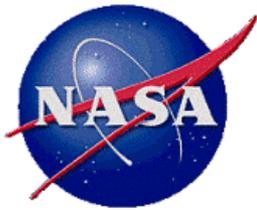
Total Slack Becomes Confusing using different time units for the Duration

Work Smarter...Not Harder!!!

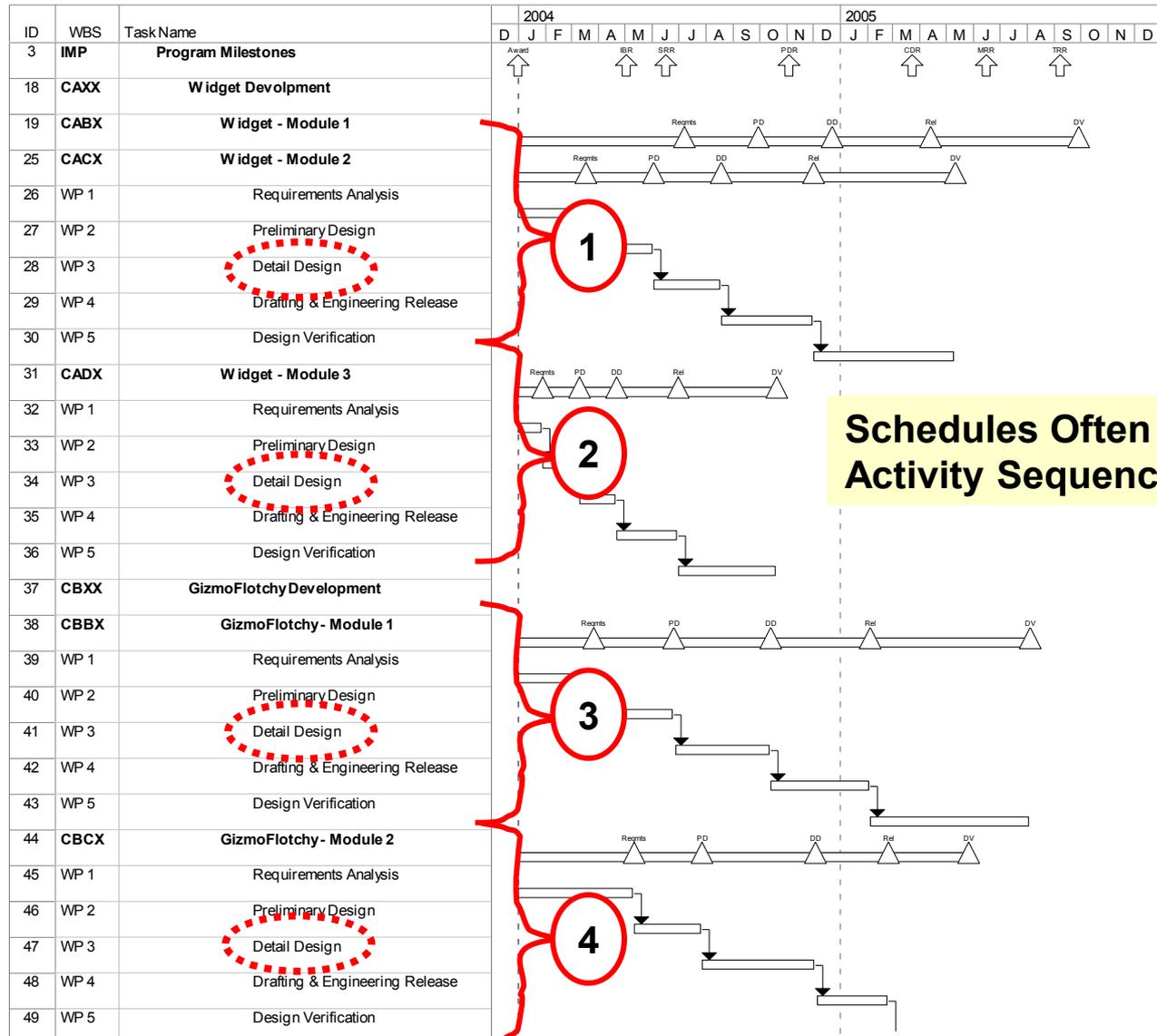


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Meaningful Activity Descriptions



1

2

3

4

Schedules Often Repeat Activity Sequence



Other Items of Interest

- 3rd Party Schedule Checking Software
- Use of Schedule Check Lists
- Use of Schedule Frag-net libraries
- Scheduler's Interview Standard Question Lists



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MS Excel - Concatenation

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1												
2		Col 1 Data	Col 2 Data	Col 3 Data	Col 4 Data	=concatenate(b3,c3,d3,e3)						
3	Example	Con	cat	en	ate	Concatenate						
4												
5												
6	Real Life Example											
7												
8		Widget -	Award Contract			Widget - Award Contract						
9		Widget -	Prelim Design			Widget - Prelim Design						
10		Widget -	PDR			Widget - PDR						
11		Widget -	Detail Design			Widget - Detail Design						
12		Widget -	Fabrication			Widget - Fabrication						
13		Widget -	Assy			Widget - Assy						
14		Widget -	Test			Widget - Test						
15		Widget -	Deliver			Widget - Deliver						
16		Widget -	Check-out			Widget - Check-out						
17		Widget -	Sign-Off			Widget - Sign-Off						
18												
19												
20												
21												
22												
23												
24												
25												

Then Copy Column F Cells
Directly into MS Project Cells

Work Smarter...Not Harder!!!



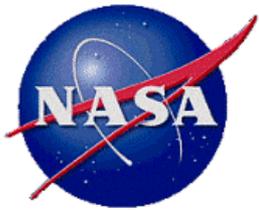
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Calculating Earned Value Weighted Milestones Con't

ID	Task Name	Hours	-1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Widget Detail Design	564											
2	PDR Action Items	24	24Hrs / 564Tot Hrs = .05%Wgt										
3	Design Routings	182	182Hrs / 564Tot Hrs = .32%Wgt										
4	Drafting	70	70Hrs / 564Tot Hrs = .12%Wgt										
5	Thermal Analysis	40	40Hrs / 564Tot Hrs = .07%Wgt										
6	Structrual Analysis	70	70Hrs / 564Tot Hrs = .12%Wgt										
7	Reliability Study	50	50Hrs / 564Tot Hrs = .09%Wgt										
8	Eng Review (CDR)	40	40Hrs / 564Tot Hrs = .07%Wgt										
9	Artwork	60	60Hrs / 564Tot Hrs = .12%Wgt										
10	Final Drafting	8	8Hrs / 564Tot Hrs = .01%Wgt										
11	Assy Drawing	8	8Hrs / 564Tot Hrs = .01%Wgt										
12	Drawing Package Rel	12	12Hrs / 564Tot Hrs = .02%Wgt										



Calculating Earned Value Weighted Milestones Con't

ID	Task Name	WP Wgts	Hrs	%	-1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Widget Detail Design	0	564	22%											
2	PDR Action Items	0.04	24	25%											
3	Design Routings	0.32	182	80%											
4	Drafting	0.12	70	0%											
5	Thermal Analysis	0.07	40	10%											
6	Structrual Analysis	0.12	70	2%											
7	Reliability Study	0.09	50	0%											
8	Eng Review (CDR)	0.07	40	0%											
9	Artwork	0.12	60	0%											
10	Final Drafting	0.01	8	0%											
11	Assy Drawing	0.01	8	0%											
12	Drawing Package Rel	0.02	12	0%											

Detail Design 22% Complete

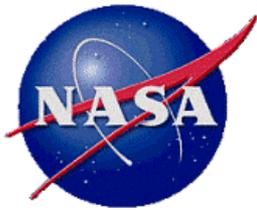


Calculating Earned Value Weighted Milestones Con't

ID	Task Name	Real % C	WP Wgts	%	-1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Widget Detail Design	27.84	0	0%											
2	PDR Action Items	1.06	0.04	25%											
3	Design Routings	25.82	0.32	80%											
4	Drafting	0	0.12	0%											
5	Thermal Analysis	0.71	0.07	10%											
6	Structural Analysis	0.25	0.12	2%											
7	Reliability Study	0	0.09	0%											
8	Eng Review (CDR)	0	0.07	0%											
9	Artwork	0	0.12	0%											
10	Final Drafting	0	0.01	0%											
11	Assy Drawing	0	0.01	0%											
12	Drawing Package Rel	0	0.02	0%											

- MS Project % Complete is Based on Duration Not Weights
- Embedding Equations Directly in MS Project Saves Time and Displays Status More Accurately

Work Smarter...Not Harder!!!



Calculating Earned Value Weighted Milestones Con't

1 Click

Microsoft Project - project weigh...

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Project Window Help

Spelling... F7

Workgroup

Change Working Time...

Tracking

Customize

Options...

1 2 3 4 8 9 10 11

3 Click

Task Name			
1	- Widget Detail Design		
2			
3			
4	Drafting		
5	Thermal Analysis		
6	Structural Analysis		
7	Reliability Study	0	0.09 0%
8	Eng Review (CDR)	0	0.07 0%
9	Artwork	0	0.12 0%
10	Final Drafting	0	0.01 0%
11	Assy Draw		
12	Drawing P		

2 Click

4 Click

Customize Fields

Field

Task Resource Type: Number

Real %C (Number1)

Number2

Number3

Number4

Number5

Number6

Number7

Number8

Number9

Number10

Number11

Rename... Define Outline Code...

Custom attributes

None Value List... Formula...

Calculation for task and group summary rows

None Rollup: Sum Use formula

Values to display

Data Graphical Indicators...

OK Cancel

5 Click

8 Click

9 Click

6 Insert Formula

Formula for 'Real %C'

Edit formula

Real %C =

[Number11]*[% Complete]

+ - * / & MOD \ ^ () = <> < > AND OR NOT

Insert: Field Function Import Formula...

Help OK Cancel

7 Click



Agenda

- Scheduling Issues – The Schedule Beast
- Taming the Schedule Beast
- Scheduling with the help of MS Excel & MS Access
- Calculating Earned Value
- • 2 New Concepts
- Questions



BPSCI

Bill Paradis Schedule Completion Index

Project Level	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
- Planned	47	49	56	62	73	74						
- Actual	19	23	32	34	44	45						
- BPSCI	0.40	0.47	0.57	0.55	0.60	0.61						
SubSystem 1												
- Planned	22	23	23	26	29	25						
- Actual	10	11	15	17	22	22						
- BPSCI	0.45	0.48	0.65	0.65	0.76	0.88						
SubSystem 2												
- Planned	15	15	18	19	23	24						
- Actual	1	1	1	1	2	1						
- BPSCI	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.09	0.04						
SubSystem 3												
- Planned	10	11	15	17	21	25						
- Actual	8	11	16	16	20	22						
- BPSCI	0.80	1.00	1.07	0.94	0.95	0.88						

- The BPSCI Assigns a schedule completion rating to the schedule by period
- This helps to the scheduling team and the project determine the level of schedule commitment to completing activities in the schedule and improves schedule completion estimates

The End

Questions?

Thank You !!!

William Paradis

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