Manual vs. automatic scheduling usage will deliver very different results. The amount of information concerning the project that is available to the scheduler when the schedule is created might lend the scheduler to select one method over the other when creating the initial schedule. It may be advantageous to use both scheduling methods within a schedule switching between scheduling methods when needed.

### Use Manual scheduling when

* Minimal information is available about the project and you need to put your ideas (tasks and durations) into an initial schedule.
* Tasks are assigned to specific dates and you are not comfortable with the schedule moving as other tasks are entered or as resources are assigned.
* Using top-down planning – entering duration values for summary tasks followed by detail tasks and milestones to complete the work of the summary tasks.
* Using free form planning of tasks and durations to produce a Gantt chart.
* Need to build a rough schedule for a future project
* Relationships between tasks are not known.

### Use Automatic scheduling when

* More complete information is known about the goals of the project.
* Using bottom up planning. Enter the summary tasks and create WBS structure. The detail tasks within the summaries will calculate the duration of the summary tasks.
* You want the schedule to be dynamic. Tasks will be adjusted reacting to changes within the schedule.
* You want the scheduling engine to calculate dates in the schedule.
* Resource allocations, resource assignments based on hours, earned value and more accurate metrics are needed.

### Consider using a combination of both methods when

* Initial planning may be in manual mode. As decisions are made and more detail is known, tasks may be converted to automatic mode.
* Consider converting to automatic mode when project execution begins. This may be done for the entire project, by phase or range of tasks.