

Lab – Project Data (Zomalex Zephyrs)

The Zomalex Zephyrs (ZZ) company manages several projects and has several resources (people) working on them. Resources either are project managers (PMs) or business analysts (BAs).

ZZ allocates resources to work on a project each month. For example, Mary, a resource, may work 50% of her time, on project Alpha between May and November 2021 inclusive. Resources may work on several projects each month.

ZZ runs projects in a waterfall fashion. It splits projects into four stages; Concept, Design, Delivery and Run. Each stage has to complete before the next stage can start. There may be a gap between the end date of one stage and the start date of the next stage.

ZZ has provided you with its data. The data consists of the project details, resource details and allocations of resources to projects. The company runs on Excel naturally.

ZZ has commissioned you to build a dashboards to provided insight into the status of its projects and anticipate any issues with resourcing them. It paid a very expensive BA to come up with the following business requirements.

Business Requirements

The report viewer should be able to:

- see a list of the projects in the pipeline with the most important details immediately visible and all the other details easily accessible,
- choose a project in the pipeline and see all details of the project including the stage dates and a list of resources allocated to each project with their monthly allocations,
- choose a resource from the list above and see all the details of the resource including all the other projects that they are working on. Highlight visually if a resource is overallocated (i.e. allocated more than 100%) during any month.
- see a Gantt-style chart that shows the start and end dates of each stage of the project. The ZZ marketing team have supplied the official corporate colours for project stages. These are specified in the Excel data file

You may find the following helpful.

- All projects start and end in this this year (2021) or the next. The data contains a suitable calendar table.
- ZZ have some strange HR policies. Resources are only known by their first name and HR never hire a resource with the same name as an existing resource. This means you can be sure that resource first names are unique