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• Timeline charts

A timeline is a visual representation of a chronological sequence of events along a drawn line that helps a viewer understand time relationships. The term can be used to refer to things in the past or future, or that are purely conceptual. Increasingly, timelines combine text and graphics as infographics.

Timelines are useful for documenting any type of development, providing a clear history and assisting viewers in understanding past and current trends. The tools can also help with management tasks. In project management, for example, a timeline depicts milestones, deadlines and other significant dates and events throughout the project's lifecycle, clearly tying goals to specific dates. Annotations to the timeline can be used to track progress.

Types of timelines

Three types of timelines include chronological, roadmaps and Gantt charts:

- Chronological timelines put events into the order that it occurred. They usually deal with past events that can be tied to a specific time. Depending on the scale it can be done by year, day, or even down to the second.
- Roadmaps are a timeline of expected releases or decommissions. These are often publicly available to inform customers of upcoming releases or changes.
- Gantt charts are a project management timeline that uses bars to signify the phases of a project. These bars can be of various lengths to show how long a phase will take and may overlap.

• WBS

A Work Breakdown Structure includes dividing a large and complex project into simpler, manageable, and independent tasks. The root of this tree (structure) is labeled by the Project name itself. For constructing a work breakdown structure, each node is recursively decomposed into smaller sub-activities, until at the leaf level, the activities become undividable and independent. It follows a Top-Down approach.

Steps Work Breakdown Structure:

Step 1: Identify the major activities of the project.

Step 2: Identify the sub-activities of the major activities.

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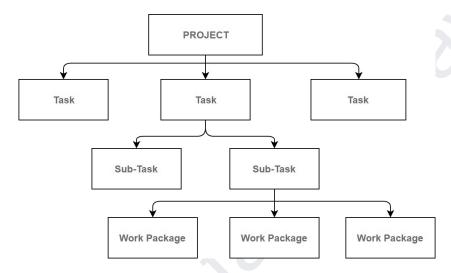


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Step 3: Repeat till undividable, simple, and independent activities are created.



Construction of Work Breakdown Structure

- Firstly, the project managers and top level management identifies the main deliverables of the project.
- After this important step, these main deliverables are broken down into smaller higher-level tasks and this complete process is done recursively to produce much smaller independent tasks.
- It depends on the project manager and team that up to which level of detail they want to break down their project.
- Generally the lowest level tasks are the most simplest and independent tasks and take less than two weeks worth of work.
- Hence, there is no rule for up to which level we may build the work breakdown structure of the project as it totally depends upon the type of project we are working on and the management of the company.
- The efficiency and success of the whole project majorly depends on the quality of the Work Breakdown Structure of the project and hence, it implies its importance.

Uses of Work Breakdown Structure

• Cost estimation: It allows doing a precise cost estimation of each activity.

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- Time estimation: It allows estimating the time that each activity will take more precisely.
- Easy project management: It allows easy management of the project.
- Helps in project organization: It helps in proper organization of the project by the top management.