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PCE424

‘INTRODUCTION TO PRIMAVERA P6’

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This is the introduction to Primavera P6

Oracle Primavera P6 is a project, program and portfolio management tool that is used for planning, managing and executing your project work. It is designed to handle large and small projects in a number of diverse industries, such as construction, manufacturing, energy, and IT.

There are a lot of project management software tools to choose from, and there are a few that truly seem to dominate the space, like Oracle's Primavera P6. How can you find the project management solution that fits your organization, project and the way your team works? The first thing to do is understand what these tools are and the feature set they offer.

Primavera P6 is the product of the multinational computer technology corporation Oracle. For such a well-known brand, it's a product that doesn't have great name recognition, even among those in the industry.



Primavera is an enterprise project portfolio management software. It includes project management, scheduling, risk analysis, opportunity management, resource management, collaboration and control capabilities, and integrates with other enterprise software such as Oracle and SAP's ERP systems.

Primavera P6 also has these following features:

- Timelines: A traditional gantt chart to schedule tasks on a bar graph.
- Risk Management: Identify, track and resolve risks before they become issues.
- Information Dashboard: A dashboard to track key project metrics.
- Reporting & Analytics: Ability to generate status reports for stakeholders

Oracle Primavera P6 gives unparalleled control, monitoring, and insight to planners, project managers, schedulers, employers, stakeholders, and any others who are involved in a given project.

Many tend to think of Oracle Primavera P6 as useful in large-scale projects exclusively. However, the software has been employed in projects of any size and across every industry. The software may be used to help monitor IT process, determine the rate of completion of Telecom projects, define risk in aerospace engineering, and enable stronger control in manufacturing processes. The scope of Primavera is an ever-changing, ever-growing tool for making activities and tasks easier to complete.

Here are some if not all of the advantages of Primavera P6:

1. PRIMAVERA P6 REDUCES RISK

When your schedule has inconsistencies, errors, or overrun issues, project expenses will grow. This could mean cutting more vital aspects of the project to compensate for the excess costs. Using Primavera P6 helps identify and mitigate risks in the course of planning, managing, and completing a project.

2. EASY TO USE SOFTWARE

Primavera P6 offers many complex analyses and processes; however, accessing and managing the schedule remains simple. Simply input your information, and wait for the software to determine if any problems exist. For example, worker shifts may be uncovered, have too many employees, or additional raw materials may be needed. P6 may be used throughout an entire project, even large, multi-tier projects.

3. OPTIMIZED RESOURCES

Primavera P6 allows all involved in a project to carefully monitor resource availability and adjust such resources to meet project demands. Furthermore, the software can help identify areas where resource costs may be reduced by analyzing resource trends and costs.

4. ENHANCED VISIBILITY

Visibility and compliance with political and environmental regulations are among the top priorities for project managers and business executives. Since Oracle Primavera P6 allows all data to be entered, tracked, and analyzed in one location, you can ensure your project does not pose any possible violations.

5. FORECASTING OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

As a project evolves, the project may require additional resources, activities, and tasks to meet stakeholder demands. Within Oracle Primavera P6, project managers can create forecasts for resources, activities, and other project needs.

6. TRACKING FEATURES

The tracking features of Primavera P6 allow users to rapidly generate reports, ensure all projects are completed as requested, and maintain baseline adherence.

7. ENHANCED COMMUNICATION

Some project may span large geographic areas, require hundreds of workers, and involve many different parties. Primavera P6 enables executive-level staff to communicate with other workers, project managers, and planners easily. Furthermore, notes can be made to the schedule in the software to ensure all users see the message.

8. IMPROVED COLLABORATION

Since communication is enhanced throughout a project, it's easy to see how improved communication translates into improved collaboration. This is especially important when projects span large areas. For example, projects in the energy production industries may require collaboration between many different parties.

9. GIVES EMPLOYEES RESPONSIBILITY IN SCHEDULE CREATION

Primavera P6 makes the scheduling and planning process easier by allowing users access to the schedule. Additionally, you may allow workers to create their schedules within the software from their location. Workers may also make schedule requests within the software, turn in time sheets, and perform other scheduling functions.

10. BREAKDOWN COMPLEX PROJECTS

The size of a project can be overwhelming. Oracle P6 allows project managers to break large projects into smaller, achievable projects, tasks, and activities.

Also Primavera P6 has the following key features:

- Timelines: A traditional gantt chart to schedule tasks on a bar graph
- Risk Management: Identify, track and resolve risks before they become issues
- Information Dashboard: A dashboard to track key project metrics
- Reporting & Analytics: Ability to generate status reports for stakeholders
- Resource Analysis & Allocation: Keep track and reallocate resources as needed
- Calendar & Activity Views: View project tasks set over a calendar view
- Portfolio & Program Management: Able to manage multiple projects in a program or portfolio at once
- Contract Management: Manage multiple projects, get info from database fast
- Scheduling Alerts: Keep the project on track by always knowing what's due when

We must also keep in mind that it has pros and cons much like any other software;

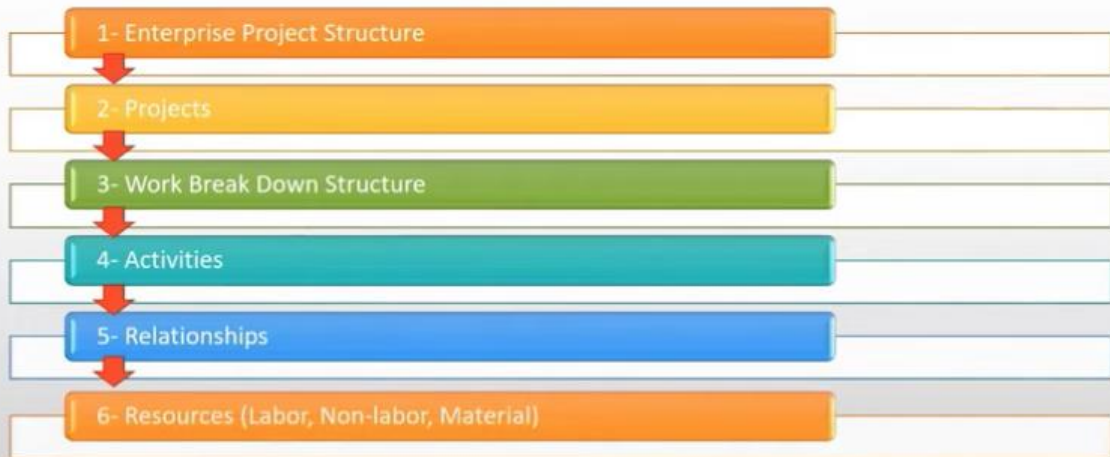
Pros of Using Primavera P6

- It's flexible when it comes to organizing lots of activities, with one platform that allows users to prioritize, execute and monitor their work
- A multiuser system lets teams work at the same time on the same project across the organization.
- Real-time reporting provides meaningful data delivered fast, either on-demand or scheduled.
- The dashboard allows users to manage a single project or even a portfolio, with great flexibility.
- Primavera P6 integrates with Oracle and other third-party products.
- P6 can be used on multiple devices, such as tablets and mobile devices for access anywhere and at any time.
- P6 works on Windows as a desktop (or web app with the Enterprise option).

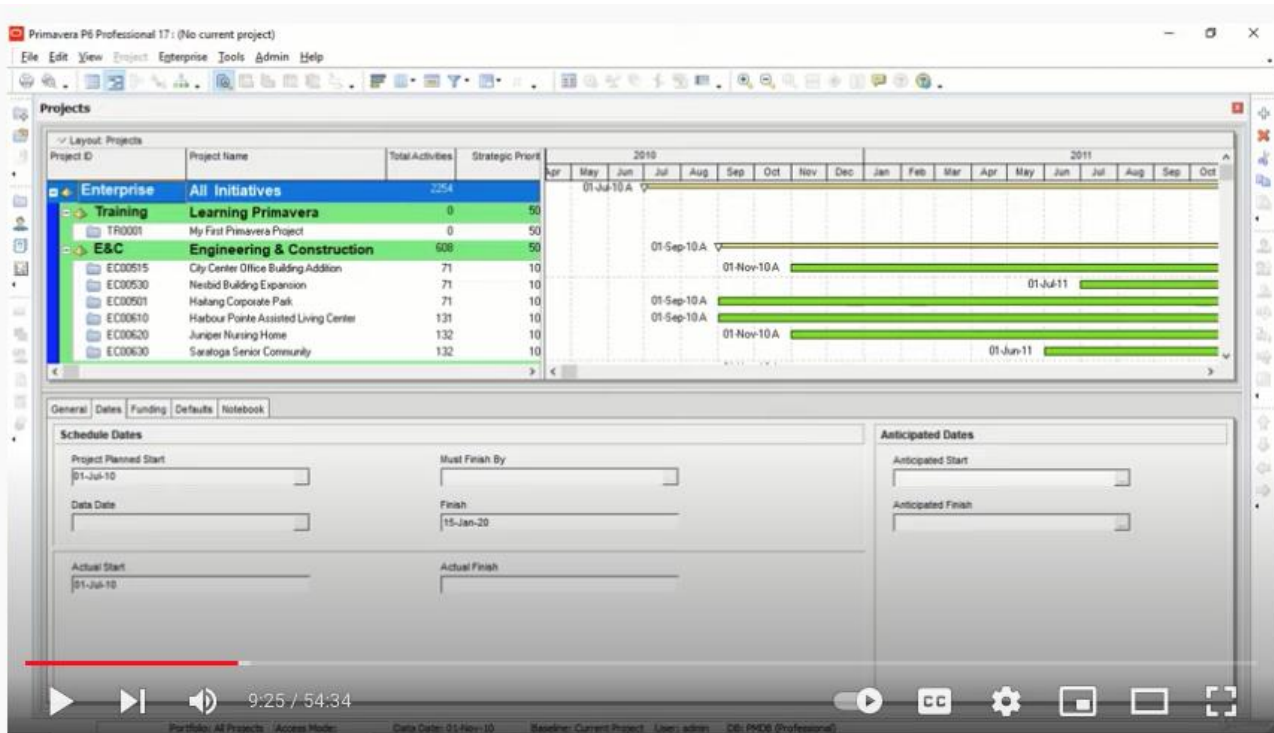
Cons of Using Primavera P6

- The complicated interface of Oracle's Primavera P6 also looks outdated and not up to the design and ease of use of its competition.
- There's a steep learning curve; unlike other tools it can take up to 40 hours to get comfortable on the device and that's with the use of specialized trainers.
- Primavera P6 is for Windows only, which puts Mac users out in the cold, making the tool immediately limited and denying whole industries that run on Apple products.
- P6 is cumbersome for smaller and simpler projects, seemingly interested only in the larger project sector.
- Primavera P6 lacks a portfolio roadmap, which is a problem for managing portfolios, even though the product does have some features directly targeting this market.

Schedule Building process in Primavera



Project portfolio management (PPM) is the centralized management of the processes, methods, and technologies used by project managers and project management offices (PMOs) to analyze and collectively manage current or proposed projects based on numerous key characteristics. The objectives of PPM are to determine the optimal resource mix for delivery and to schedule activities to best achieve an organization's operational and financial goals, while honoring constraints imposed by customers, strategic objectives, or external real-world factors. Standards for Portfolio Management include Project Management Institute's framework for project portfolio management and Management of Portfolios by Office of Government Commerce.



PPM provides program and project managers in large, program/project-driven organizations with the capabilities needed to manage the time, resources, skills, and budgets necessary to accomplish all interrelated tasks. It provides a framework for issue resolution and risk mitigation, as well as the centralized visibility to help planning and scheduling teams to identify the fastest, cheapest, or most suitable approach to deliver projects and programs.

Understanding EPS and WBS

Enterprise Project Structure

EPS enables us to manage multiple projects from the highest levels of the organization to the people that performs the specific project tasks, summarizes all the projects in the organization

EPS helps us to manage all our projects in the organization from top to bottom

Pipeline management involves steps to ensure that an adequate number of project proposals are generated and evaluated to determine whether (and how) a set of projects in the portfolio can be executed with finite development resources in a specified time. There are three major sub-components to pipeline management: ideation, work intake processes, and Phase-Gate reviews. Fundamental to pipeline management is the ability to align the decision-making process for estimating and selecting new capital investment projects with the strategic plan.



In conclusion,

P6 is used by project managers who are in charge of delivering a project, program or portfolio of projects.

It's not only used by project managers, though. Any project professional can benefit from P6, such as engineers, schedulers and others who are instrumental in planning, management and reporting on the project. Whoever uses the software, it is usually recommended that they take a training course. The tool is built to help manage complex projects and therefore using it can be complicated as well.