Assignment 2 – Microsoft Project Plan Analysis

**Answer Sheet: [Alexander Cannell]**

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| **Questions** | **Your Answer** |
| Question 1) On the Project tap, select Project Information, then click Statistics, what is the duration, work, and costs for this current “Baseline” set? | Duration = 58 days  Work = 1128 hours  Cost = $92240.00 |
| Question 2) What is the DURATION for the “Baseline 1”? Is it longer or shorter than the “Baseline”? Explain why? Also, what is the COST for the “Baseline 1”? Is it a greater or lesser cost than the “Baseline”? Explain why? | Duration = 77days. Which is longer than the original baseline. I believe it is because we messed with the work week.  Cost = $91600.00 less because we did with the std rate |
| Question 3) What does “crashing the project” mean? (Check the book, slides, Google, etc.) | A technique used to shorten the schedule duration for the least incremental cost by adding resources |
| Question 4) Can we shave two weeks off the duration by outsourcing the QA function to Brazil? Why or why not? (hint: don’t worry about the cost of outsourcing, consider only the schedule and look at the critical path) | No because Function Quality Assurance has predecessors. Specifically Run Environment confirmed and hand off to validation testing. By adjusting to two weeks cut (8.67 days) we start see stuff looking problematic and makes the whole Quality Assurance tasks critical. |
| Question 5) Do you see any opportunities for crashing in our project to shave off two weeks utilizing our outsourced partner? If so, provide a few sentences on how you would go about doing this. If not, explain why not. Keep in mind the following:   * Work under the assumption that by utilizing our outsourced partner, we can reduce the duration by half. * Remember the budget requirements above and the cost of utilizing our outsourced partner. |  |
| Question 6) What is the first task on the critical path in each of these phases? (Please reference using the WBS indicator)   * Execution - Construction (WBS 3.1) * Execution - Functionality Quality Assurance (WBS 3.2) * Execution - Scalability & Performance Testing (WBS 3.3) * Closeout / Transition (Launch) Phase (WBS 4) | Execution - Construction (WBS 3.1) = Bulk Programming  Execution - Functionality Quality Assurance (WBS 3.2) = Install Handoff in QA  Execution - Scalability & Performance Testing (WBS 3.3) = Run Performance Estimate  Closeout / Transition (Launch) Phase (WBS 4) = Internal Announcement Promotion |
| Question 7) Assuming we can crash the project and reduce our critical path, is it possible that another critical path could present itself? Is it possible to have more than one critical path? Answer yes or no, and provide a brief explanation. | Yes, by reducing our critical path it is possible that another critical path could present itself. Yes you can have more than one critical path in one project, so that several paths run in parallel. |
| Question 8) Look at the project statistics now, how many more days were added to the duration over the baseline as a result of leveling? | None, but current work hours were increased to 144 hours, and current cost increased to $92800. |
| Question 9) Were any over-allocations unresolved? Which resources are still over-allocated? What is the reason for this over-allocation? (Hint: there is a mistake made in the MS project file) | Yes, Install Hand Off in Quality Assurance (3.2.6), Quality Assurance Validation Testing (3.2.7), Functionality Test Report (3.2.9), and Scalability and Performance Tuning (3.3). Joanne Fitch on the following dates 05/02/01, 04/30/01, 05/01/01, and 05/09/01 is over scheduled. |
| Question 10) What are the advantages of manual resource leveling and automatic resource leveling? (Check Google, etc.) | Automatic Resource leveling is a continuous process (updating all the time) we shouldn’t use automatic leveling unless we are skilled at understanding what will happen with the automatic leveling function. What could happen is task will be adjusted when one change is made throwing the project off course manual from what I have been reading is a better and safer option. |
| Question 11) What is the SPI? Are we ahead or behind schedule? How do you know? |  |
| Question 12) What is the CPI? Are we over or under on cost? How do you know? |  |
| Question 13) Pick two EVA terms other than SPI and CPI and explain what they tell us about a project. |  |