

Follow these best practices for using a network diagram in project management.

- **Only use one start point and endpoint.** If there's more than one start or end, you'll end up with multiple networks. But when you use a Gantt chart you don't face this problem,
- But when you ever have more than 1 output the easiest way to solve that problem is to draw separate network diagrams for each output so you can avoid using some advanced statistical calculations to find the critical path (so, if you use a network diagram remind to use only one start node and one end node), but the problem doesn't arise when you use a Gantt chart to solve your problems. If you have a complex project with simultaneous activities that aren't dependent on each other at all, simply create separate diagrams.
- **Don't overlap arrows.** As mentioned above, having multiple starts or ends will become confusing. In many cases, it would require you to crisscross arrows to reflect the relationships between nodes. Always aim to keep network diagrams visually straightforward and linear, organized left to right.
- **Find the critical path.** In a high-stakes project, use the critical path method to identify the chain of events with the greatest impact on the outcome. The task with the most dependencies and longest timeframe must be closely monitored to keep your project on track.
- **Stay consistent with the symbols.** Whatever method you choose for illustrating nodes, keep it consistent throughout the diagram, so there's no confusion.