Welcome to the Eastwood Harris Pty Ltd Primavera P6

P6 Date and Time Issue Presentation

Copyright of Eastwood Harris Pty Ltd
Aim

- The aim of this presentation shows how a P6 user may end up with a Actual Start and Actual Finish times at midnight,
- The problems when this happens,
- How to prevent this happening,
- Plus outlining some other P6 Date and Time issues,
- This will be done by demonstrating the steps in P6 that you may simply follow to recreate the same situation.
Setting the User Preferences

- From P6User Preferences form select **Do not show the Time**:
Create a New Project

- Create a project with a Start on Monday 6 Jan 2014 and a Finish on Friday 10 Jan 2014.
- The user does not know that P6 has picked by default P6 picks 00:00 as the Start time and Finish time:
Create One Activity

- Create a 5 day activity,
- Reschedule,
- You will notice 1 days Negative Float,
- If the Project Finish Date is the 10 Jan there should be a Total Float Value of 0:
Why One Day Negative Float?

- This is generated because when the time you will is displayed you will see the Finish Date and Time is midnight at the start of Thursday,
- Leaving the User one day less than they expected:
Shorten the Duration to One Day

- Change the task to 1 one day task,
- Schedule,
- Note 3 days Total Float is displayed, not 4 days Total Float as one would expect from the displayed dates and Project Finish Date of 10 Jan:
Update the Activity as Complete

- Assume the Activity actually started and finished on 2 Jan.
- Check the Actual Start box and then set to a date to the 2 Jan,
- Then check the Actual Finish Date to the 2 Jan,
- You will now have an activity that starts and finishes on midnight of the same day with an actual duration of zero days:
Show the Time using User Preferences

- Now go to the User Preferences and show the Time in 24 hour format:
Back to the Activity

- Now back to the activity,
- You will see that P6 selects 00:00 (Midnight at the Start of the Day) as a default time when updating tasks when the user does not show the time in the User Preferences:
Misleading Negative Float Calculations

- Add another 5 day activity, schedule, display the Total Float Column and Total Float bar using the Primavera Bar defaults.

- The Total Float value for Activity A1000 is Null but there is a Total Float Bar assigned to this completed activity which would not normally be expected.
Assign Suspend and Resume

- A similar problem occurs with Suspend and Resume,
- The picture below had the Suspend and Resume Dates set with the time hidden,
- One would expect the Actual Duration to be 2 days, not 1 day, from the Actual Start and Suspend Date:
Assign Suspend and Resume

- Now we can see the issue when the time is displayed,
- Suspend and Resume times have been selected at 00:00 when the time is hidden:
Other Suspend and Resume Issues

- When time is displayed you need to always check the Suspend and Resume times,
- Suspend is often set at 08:00 and should be 16:00, people do not go to work and go home straight away, as per the picture below,
- Resume is often set at 16:00 and should be 08:00, people do not go to work last thing in the afternoon to start work, which in the experience of the author sometimes happens:
Solution

- To prevent all these issues, a user must always display the time when scheduling.
- Also, I recommend that the user also displays the Duration Label and Sub-units so one may easily see if there are any non-round durations.
Questions

- Any Date and Time questions.
Thank you for attending the Eastwood Harris Pty Ltd Primavera P6 Version 7 P6 DATE AND TIME ISSUE PRESENTATION