



SETTING PRIMAVERA P6 INDICATOR COLUMNS TO SHOW GOOD OR BAD VARIANCES

1 Introduction

P6 Used Defined Fields has an Indicator option that allows four indicators to be displayed.

These may be used in conjunction with a Global Change to indicate the status of an activity in respect to a Baseline.

The picture below displays the following:

- A Green indicator shows A1000 activity is ahead of time,
- A Red indicator shows A1010 is behind time and
- A Blue indicator shows A1020 is on time,



Activity ID	Activity Name	Variance - BL Project Finish Date	Activity Progress Indicator	Jul 03					Jul 10									
				S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	Fri	S	
A1000	Activity ahead of plan	-5d		[Gantt bar showing activity ahead of plan]														
A1010	Activity behind plan	2d		[Gantt bar showing activity behind plan]														
A1020	Activity on plan	0d		[Gantt bar showing activity on plan]														

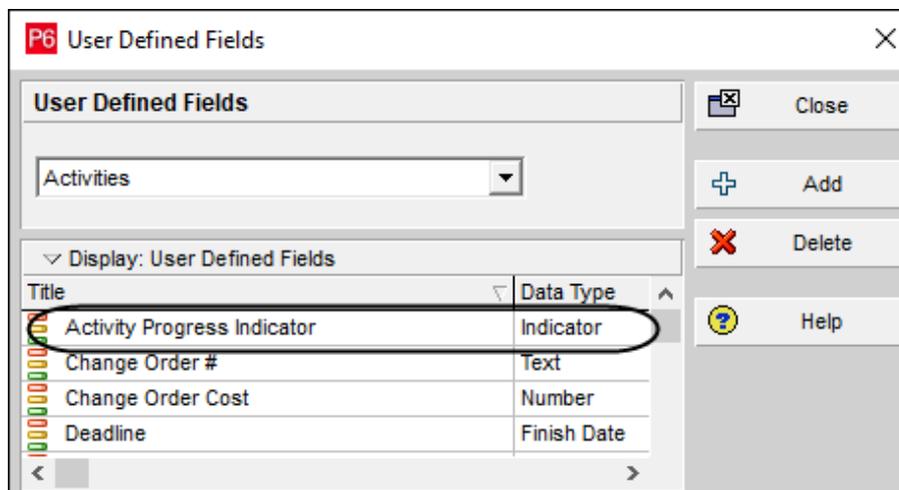
There is also a Yellow indicator available.

To set and display these indicators you should follow these steps:

- Create the UDF
- Display the UDF column in the Activities window
- Create the required Global Changes
- Run the Global Changes.

2 Create the UDF

To create the UDF select **Enterprise, User Defined Fields** and create one that displays a **Data Type of Indicator** with a meaningful **Title**:

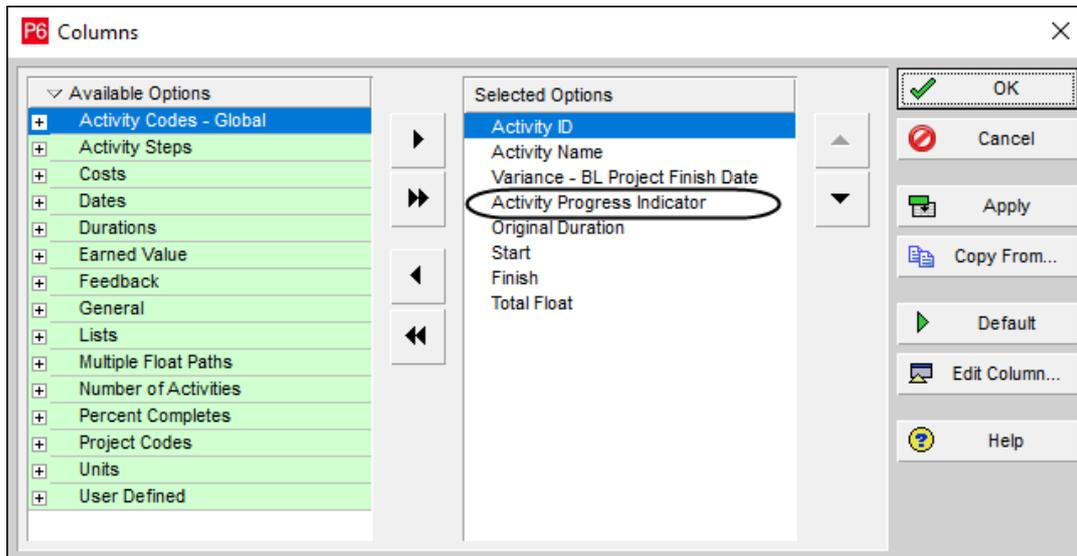




3 Display the UDF Column

From the **Columns** form you need to select and display the UDF that you have just created and any other relevant column that supports the UDF column.

Thus, in the picture below the **Baseline Finish Date Variance** supports the **Activity Progress Indicator** UDF field.

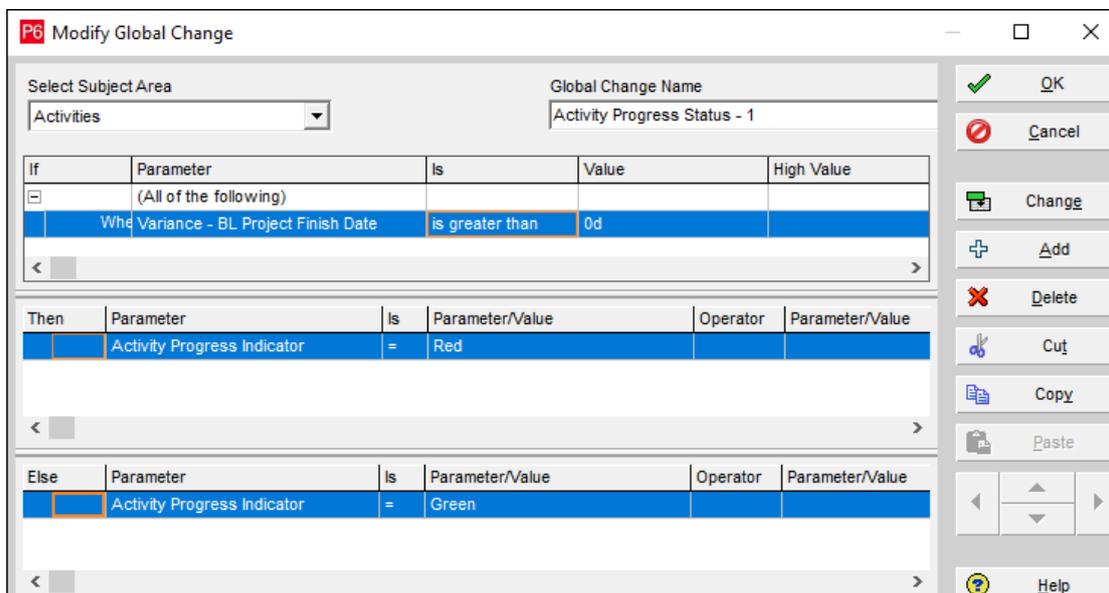


4 Create the required Global Change

Select **Tools, Global Change** to open the **Global Change** form. You will normally have to create multiple Global Changes as normally one may normally only set one or even two values when you get creative with a Global Change.

The pictures below demonstrates how the **Activity Progress Indicator** in the picture above which indicates which activities are ahead, behind or on time compared with the **Project Baseline Finish Date**.

The first Global Change sets **late** activities as **Red** and the remainder as **Green**:





The second Global Change sets the **on time** activities to **Blue** and so at this point in time all the indicators would be correct:

Modify Global Change

Select Subject Area: Activities | Global Change Name: Activity Progress Status - 2

If	Parameter	Is	Value	High Value
(Any of the following)				
Where	Variance - BL Project Finish Date	equals	0d	

Then	Parameter	Is	Parameter/Value	Operator	Parameter/Value
	Activity Progress Indicator	=	Blue		

Buttons: OK, Cancel, Change, Add, Delete, Cut, Copy, Paste, Help

5 Run the Global Changes

After you have created the Global Changes then you must run them both from the **Global Change** form in the right order or some values will be incorrect.

Global Change

Name	Available To	User
Activity Progress Status - 1	Current User	admin
Activity Progress Status - 2	Current User	admin
Assign Resources to Roles	All Users	
Increase Cost by 10% for Resource	All Users	
Increase Durations	All Users	
Top Down - Decrease Units	All Users	
Top Down - Increase Units	All Users	

Buttons: Close, Apply Change, New..., Delete, Modify..., Copy, Paste, Import

6 Import and Export

You may export the values to Excel using the Excel export function and the spreadsheet fields are populated with values of:

- Green
- Blue
- Red
- Yellow



You may also import and set or change these values as from a spread sheet that has been exported:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	task_code	status_code	wbs_id	user_field_1518	delete_record_flag
2	Activity ID	Activity Status	WBS Code	Activity Progress Indicator	Delete This Row
3	A1000	Not Started	UDF	Yellow	
4	A1010	Not Started	UDF	Red	
5	A1020	Not Started	UDF	Green	

I found an incorrect value was not imported and there was an error listed in the log file:

```
prn_xlsximport.log - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
Excel Import log started : 21-Apr-21
INFO: Importing Global Data...
INFO: Importing Project Data...
INFO: Importing:
ERROR: Column Activity Progress Indicator: Invalid value Orange not present in the mapped list
INFO: Saving:
INFO: Saving Data to Database...
INFO: Deleting Unreferenced Data...
```

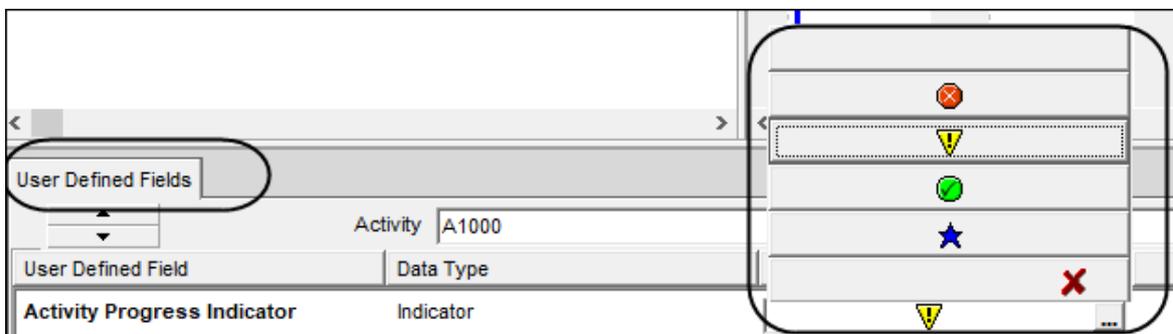
Note: I found that a spreadsheet from Excel with a blank cell did not change a cell value back to a blank, so I was unable to remove an Indicator with a spreadsheet import.

7 Manually Setting the Indicators

You may use the drop-down box in the appropriate column to set the Indicator:

Activity ID	Activity Name	Variance - BL Project Finish Date	Activity Progress Indicator	Jul 03					Jul 10													
				S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	Fri	S	S				
A1000	Activity ahead of plan	-5d		[Gantt chart bars]																		
A1010	Activity behind plan	2d		[Gantt chart bars]																		
A1020	Activity on plan	0d		[Gantt chart bars]																		
A1030	New Activity	0d		[Gantt chart bars]																		

In later versions of P6 there is also a UDF tab in the Details Window that you may use to set the Indicator value:



8 Other Uses

The indicators may be used at Project or Activity level to show if resource costs or units, activity percentage completes, dates or durations are above or below a baseline value.

Paul E Harris
Director Eastwood Harris Pty Ltd
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