

Oracle Primavera P6 PPM Version 21 Activity Critical Path Toolbar

1 Introduction

Oracle Primavera P6 Version 21 introduced a new toolbar titled **Activity Critical Path**. The help file does not explain how the options operate and some of the functions are not very intuitive.

I have documented these functions in my new P6 Version 21 book and this paper is an extract from this book.

2 Aim

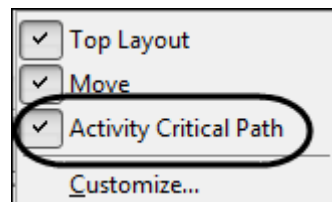
The aim of this paper is to explain how the new P6 **Activity Critical Path** toolbar functions operate.



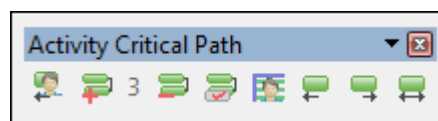
3 Activity Critical Path

There is a new toolbar in Version 21 titled **Activity Critical Path**.

- The Toolbar is displayed by right clicking on any toolbar and checking the **Activity Critical Path** option:



- This will display the toolbar below:



- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Clicking on a button will activate the command and clicking again will deactivate the command



The Oracle Cumulative Feature Overview file states:

To aid in the resolution of delayed critical paths before they become project over-runs, P6 Professional can show:



- Activities on up to 30 activity-driven critical paths, calculated on the forward pass, backward pass, or forward and backward passes (with or without resource leveling).
- The activities on up to 30 resource driven critical paths, calculated on the backward pass with resource leveling.





This Oracle description is not clear and I will work through the icons one at a time and explain how the functions work.

Button	Title	Function																																																																																																																				
	<p>Backward Resource Driven Critical Path</p>	<p>The schedule below has no relationships between activities and has been levelled.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="639 465 1382 672"> <thead> <tr> <th>Activity ID</th> <th>Resources</th> <th>Dec 09</th> <th>Dec 16</th> <th>Dec 23</th> <th>Dec 30</th> <th>Jan 06</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A1000</td> <td>Paul Harris</td> <td>█</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>A1010</td> <td>Paul Harris</td> <td></td> <td>█</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>A1020</td> <td>Paul Harris</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>█</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>A1030</td> <td>Paul Harris</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>█</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>A1040</td> <td>Paul Harris</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>█</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="639 683 1382 929"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Display: Current Project's Resour...</th> <th colspan="2">Display: Open Projects Only</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Resource ID</th> <th>Resource Name</th> <th>Dec 09</th> <th>Dec 16</th> <th>Dec 23</th> <th>Dec 30</th> <th>Jan 06</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PEH</td> <td>Paul Harris</td> <td>█</td> <td>█</td> <td>█</td> <td>█</td> <td>█</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>When selecting A1040 and Backward Activity Critical Path you will see the result below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="639 1041 1382 1131"> <thead> <tr> <th>Activity ID</th> <th>Resources</th> <th>Dec 09</th> <th>Dec 16</th> <th>Dec 23</th> <th>Dec 30</th> <th>Jan 06</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A1040</td> <td>Paul Harris</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>█</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>When selecting A1040 and Backward Resource Driven Critical Path you will see the result below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="639 1232 1382 1422"> <thead> <tr> <th>Activity ID</th> <th>Resources</th> <th>Dec 09</th> <th>Dec 16</th> <th>Dec 23</th> <th>Dec 30</th> <th>Jan 06</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A1000</td> <td>Paul Harris</td> <td>█</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>A1010</td> <td>Paul Harris</td> <td></td> <td>█</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>A1020</td> <td>Paul Harris</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>█</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>A1030</td> <td>Paul Harris</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>█</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>A1040</td> <td>Paul Harris</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>█</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Note: Revie the Backward Activity Critical Path now and then come back and review this one.</p>	Activity ID	Resources	Dec 09	Dec 16	Dec 23	Dec 30	Jan 06	A1000	Paul Harris	█					A1010	Paul Harris		█				A1020	Paul Harris			█			A1030	Paul Harris				█		A1040	Paul Harris					█	Display: Current Project's Resour...		Display: Open Projects Only		Resource ID	Resource Name	Dec 09	Dec 16	Dec 23	Dec 30	Jan 06	PEH	Paul Harris	█	█	█	█	█	Activity ID	Resources	Dec 09	Dec 16	Dec 23	Dec 30	Jan 06	A1040	Paul Harris					█	Activity ID	Resources	Dec 09	Dec 16	Dec 23	Dec 30	Jan 06	A1000	Paul Harris	█					A1010	Paul Harris		█				A1020	Paul Harris			█			A1030	Paul Harris				█		A1040	Paul Harris					█
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<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 30px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 10px;">2</div>	<p>Maximum Critical Path Count</p>	<p>This is not a command button but displays the number of Maximum Critical Paths that has been set by the user.</p> <p>Selecting one Maximum Critical Path Count:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="643 376 1385 495"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Activity ID</th> <th rowspan="2">Activity Name</th> <th colspan="3">2011</th> <th colspan="3">2012</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Q2</th> <th>Q3</th> <th>Q4</th> <th>Q1</th> <th>Q2</th> <th>Q3</th> <th>Q4</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>EC1290</td> <td>Fabricate and Deliver Heat Pump and Controls</td> <td colspan="6" style="background-color: red;"></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC1650</td> <td>Set Heat Pump</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC1660</td> <td>Connect Equipment</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Selecting two Maximum Critical Path Count:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="643 577 1385 958"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Activity ID</th> <th rowspan="2">Activity Name</th> <th colspan="3">2011</th> <th colspan="3">2012</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Q2</th> <th>Q3</th> <th>Q4</th> <th>Q1</th> <th>Q2</th> <th>Q3</th> <th>Q4</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>EC1290</td> <td>Fabricate and Deliver Heat Pump and Controls</td> <td colspan="6" style="background-color: red;"></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC1650</td> <td>Set Heat Pump</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC1660</td> <td>Connect Equipment</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC1350</td> <td>Concrete Foundation Walls</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC1360</td> <td>Form and Pour Slab</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC1370</td> <td>Backfill and Compact Walls</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC1390</td> <td>Erect Structural Frame</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC1420</td> <td>Floor Decking</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC1430</td> <td>Concrete First Floor</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC1540</td> <td>Structure Complete</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC1480</td> <td>Concrete Second Floor</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC1550</td> <td>Brick Exterior Walls</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC1620</td> <td>Building Enclosed</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC1600</td> <td>Insulation and Built-up Roofing</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC1640</td> <td>Install Wiring and Cable</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Thus this command determines how many chains of events you wish to see.</p>	Activity ID	Activity Name	2011			2012			Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	EC1290	Fabricate and Deliver Heat Pump and Controls								EC1650	Set Heat Pump							EC1660	Connect Equipment							Activity ID	Activity Name	2011			2012			Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	EC1290	Fabricate and Deliver Heat Pump and Controls								EC1650	Set Heat Pump							EC1660	Connect Equipment							EC1350	Concrete Foundation Walls							EC1360	Form and Pour Slab							EC1370	Backfill and Compact Walls							EC1390	Erect Structural Frame							EC1420	Floor Decking							EC1430	Concrete First Floor							EC1540	Structure Complete							EC1480	Concrete Second Floor							EC1550	Brick Exterior Walls							EC1620	Building Enclosed							EC1600	Insulation and Built-up Roofing							EC1640	Install Wiring and Cable						
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	<p>Select Maximum Multiple Critical Path Counts</p>	<p>This opens a form allowing the setting of the Maximum Multiple Critical Path Counts:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 10px; margin: 10px;"> <p>Select Maximum Multiple Critical Path Count</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <input style="width: 50px; text-align: center; border: 1px solid gray;" type="text" value="2"/> <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <input type="button" value="Select"/> </div> </div> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td> </tr> </table> </div>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20																																																																																																																																																												
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	<p>Enable Group and Sort</p>	<p>Clicking this button hides and displays the current applied Group and Sort bands. Hiding the bands enables the user to see the chain of events as an uninterrupted single chain of activities:</p> <p>Group and Sort enabled:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="667 450 1358 678"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Activity ID</th> <th rowspan="2">Activity Name</th> <th colspan="3">2012</th> <th colspan="3">2013</th> <th colspan="3">2014</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Q2</th> <th>Q3</th> <th>Q4</th> <th>Q1</th> <th>Q2</th> <th>Q3</th> <th>Q4</th> <th>Q1</th> <th>Q2</th> <th>Q3</th> <th>Q4</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="12">Harbour Pointe Assisted Living Center</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC2430</td> <td>Substantial Completion - All TCO</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="12">Building 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC2440</td> <td>Complete Building 1</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="12">Envelope</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC2140</td> <td>Shell Complete</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="12">Roads, Utilities & Pavers</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC2260</td> <td>Entry Feature/Sign Wall</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Group and Sort disabled:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="667 763 1358 898"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Activity ID</th> <th rowspan="2">Activity Name</th> <th colspan="3">2012</th> <th colspan="3">2013</th> <th colspan="3">2014</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Q2</th> <th>Q3</th> <th>Q4</th> <th>Q1</th> <th>Q2</th> <th>Q3</th> <th>Q4</th> <th>Q1</th> <th>Q2</th> <th>Q3</th> <th>Q4</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>EC2140</td> <td>Shell Complete</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC2260</td> <td>Entry Feature/Sign Wall</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC2430</td> <td>Substantial Completion - All TCO</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC2440</td> <td>Complete Building 1</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Activity ID	Activity Name	2012			2013			2014			Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Harbour Pointe Assisted Living Center												EC2430	Substantial Completion - All TCO												Building 1												EC2440	Complete Building 1												Envelope												EC2140	Shell Complete												Roads, Utilities & Pavers												EC2260	Entry Feature/Sign Wall												Activity ID	Activity Name	2012			2013			2014			Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	EC2140	Shell Complete												EC2260	Entry Feature/Sign Wall												EC2430	Substantial Completion - All TCO												EC2440	Complete Building 1											
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	<p>Backward Activity Critical Path</p>	<p>This option displays the chain of events before a selected activity that has the least amount of Float. If there is a critical path it will display this and if there is not, then it will find the chain of events with the lease amount of float to the start of the project and display this as the Backward Activity Critical Path.</p> <p>The picture below displays the Backward Activity Critical Path from activity EC1500, which is a chain of events that is on the schedule Critical Path.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="639 1339 1353 1597"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Activity ID</th> <th rowspan="2">Activity Name</th> <th colspan="3">2011</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Q2</th> <th>Q3</th> <th>Q4</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>EC1240</td> <td>Third Floor Masonry Structure</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC1250</td> <td>Fourth Floor Slab & Collar Beam</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC1300</td> <td>Fourth Floor Masonry Structure</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC1310</td> <td>Roof Slab</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC1340</td> <td>Stair and Elevator Masonry Structure</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC1350</td> <td>Roof Slab/Collar Beam</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC1410</td> <td>Install Exterior Windows and Sliding Glas:</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC1470</td> <td>Install Exterior Windows and Sliding Glas:</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC1500</td> <td>Install Exterior Windows and Sliding Glas:</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Activity ID	Activity Name	2011			Q2	Q3	Q4	EC1240	Third Floor Masonry Structure				EC1250	Fourth Floor Slab & Collar Beam				EC1300	Fourth Floor Masonry Structure				EC1310	Roof Slab				EC1340	Stair and Elevator Masonry Structure				EC1350	Roof Slab/Collar Beam				EC1410	Install Exterior Windows and Sliding Glas:				EC1470	Install Exterior Windows and Sliding Glas:				EC1500	Install Exterior Windows and Sliding Glas:																																																																																																																																																		
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	<p>Forward Activity Critical Path</p>	<p>This option displays the chain of events after a selected activity that has the least amount of Float. If there is a critical path it will display this path and if there is not, then it will find the chain of events with the least amount of float to the end of the project and display this as the Forward Activity Critical Path.</p> <p>The picture below displays the Forward Activity Critical Path from activity EC1840, which is a chain of events that is not on the schedule Critical Path.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="639 562 1385 790"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Activity ID</th> <th rowspan="2">Activity Name</th> <th colspan="4">2012</th> <th colspan="4">2013</th> <th colspan="3">2014</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Q1</th> <th>Q2</th> <th>Q3</th> <th>Q4</th> <th>Q1</th> <th>Q2</th> <th>Q3</th> <th>Q4</th> <th>Q1</th> <th>Q2</th> <th>Q3</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>EC1840</td> <td>Caulk</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC1900</td> <td>Stucco Band Trim</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC1980</td> <td>Paint Exterior</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC1990</td> <td>Install Railings</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC2140</td> <td>Shell Complete</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC2260</td> <td>Entry Feature/Sign Wall</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC2430</td> <td>Substantial Completion - All TCO</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC2440</td> <td>Complete Building 1</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Activity ID	Activity Name	2012				2013				2014			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	EC1840	Caulk												EC1900	Stucco Band Trim												EC1980	Paint Exterior												EC1990	Install Railings												EC2140	Shell Complete												EC2260	Entry Feature/Sign Wall												EC2430	Substantial Completion - All TCO												EC2440	Complete Building 1																
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Paul E Harris
 Director Eastwood Harris Pty Ltd
 13 May 2022



EASTWOODHARRIS

CREATE AND UPDATE AN UNRESOURCED PROJECT USING ELECOFT (ASTA) POWERPROJECT VERSION 16

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE – The course objectives are to teach participants how to create projects without resources, formatting, printing, creating a baseline and updating an unresourced project. Successful completion of all the course workshops will confirm that the objectives have been met.

<p>Day 1 - Create an Unresourced Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Introduction to Asta ➤ Project Setup ➤ Navigation and Setting Options ➤ Creating and Editing Columns ➤ Creating and Editing Tasks ➤ Summary Tasks ➤ Linking Tasks to create a Critical Path Schedule ➤ Rescheduling ➤ Constraints 	<p>Day 2 - Formatting, Reports and Updating an Unresourced Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Other Task Types ➤ Formatting the Display ➤ Code Libraries ➤ Filters ➤ Grouping and Sorting Tasks ➤ Printing and Reports ➤ Baselines ➤ Updating an Unresourced Project ➤ User-Defined Fields and WBS
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 Telephone: +61 (0)4 1118 7701
 Email: harrispe@eh.com.au

PLANNING AND CONTROL USING MICROSOFT® PROJECT 365 and 2021 Including Microsoft Project 2013, 2016 and 2019

This book is aimed at showing project management professionals how to use the software in a project environment. It is designed for users of earlier versions to upgrade their skills and for new planners to learn how to use the software. It starts with the basics required to create a schedule, then setting a baseline and updating a schedule. It then covers resource planning and some of the more advanced features.

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For users who understand the basics and want a brief text to demonstrate the less intuitive functions.

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PAUL E. HARRIS

PLANNING & CONTROL USING ORACLE® PRIMAVERA® P6 VERSION 8 TO 21 PPM PROFESSIONAL

A user guide and training manual written for Project Management Professionals who wish to learn how to plan and control projects in an established Primavera Enterprise environment with or without Resources and Roles.

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