# PLANNING AND CONTROL USING ORACLE® PRIMAVERA® P6 VERSIONS 8 to 22 PPM PROFESSIONAL

Planning and Progressing Project Schedules
With and Without Roles and Resources
in an
Established Database

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PAUL EASTWOOD HARRIS

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ISBN 978-1-925185-92-8 (1-925185-92-3) – Letter Paperback

ISBN 978-1-925185-93-5 (1-925185-93-1) - Letter/A4 Spiral

ISBN 978-1-925185-94-2 (1-925185-94-X) - eBook

23 January 2022

## INTRODUCTION

This publication is an upgrade of the authors original publication *Project Planning & Control Using Primavera P6 Version 7* and has been written to enable new users to learn the planning and scheduling functions of Primavera Version 8, 15, 16, 17,18, 19, 20, 21 and 22. Please note there are no versions 9 to 14 and Oracle changed their naming convention with the release of 15.1 so the name is the same as the year of the release. Due to the changes in the menus in release 8, it is not possible to make the book backward compatible to earlier versions of the software.

Many users will have prior experience with Elecosoft (Asta) Powerproject or Microsoft Project and the author explains where there are differences in the products' functionality.

The author would appreciate any constructive comments on how this publication may be improved.

#### **SUMMARY**

The publication may be used as:

- A training manual for a three-day training course, or
- > A self-teach pook, or
- > A reference manuai

The screen shots for this publication are taken from Primavera Versions 8.1 or 8.2 or 8.3 or 8.4 or 15.1 or 15.2 or 16.1 or 16.2 or 17 or 18 or 19 or 20 or 21 or 22.

One-day, two-day, or three-day training courses may be run using this publication and it includes exercises for the students to complete at the end of each chapter. After the course, students may use this publication as a reference book. Instructors' PowerPoint presentations are available from Eastwood Harris web sites.

This publication is ideal for people who would like to quickly gain an understanding of how the software operates and explains how the software differs from E'ecosoft Powerproject and Microsoft Project, thus making it ideal for people who wish to convert from these products.

## **CUSTOMIZATION FOR TRAINING COURSES**

Training organizations or companies that wish to conduct their own training may have this publication tailored to suit their requirements. This may be achieved removing, recidering or adding content to the publication and by writing their own exercises. Please contact the author in discuss this service.

#### **AUTHOR'S COMMENT**

As a project controls consultant, I have used a number of planning and scheduling software packages for the management of a range of project types and sizes. The first publications I published were user guides/training manuals for Primavera SureTrak, P3 and Microsoft Project users. These were well received by professional project managers and schedulers, so I decided to turn my attention to Primavera Enterprise, which is now called Primavera P6. This publication follows the same proven layout of my previous publications. I trust this publication will assist you in understanding how to use Primavera P6 on your projects.

#### **APPRECIATION**

I would like thank Michael Jack for his assistance in writing this book and Thomas Grant for his assistance in proof reading parts of the book.

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       項目級划和投刷 URACLE PRIMAVERA F6 应用 - 版本 8.1, 8.2 & 8.3 专业を刊述各产编
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## 8 FORMATTING THE DISPLAY

This chapter shows you how to set up the on-screen presentation so that the schedule will be easier to read and more consistent. This chapter covers the following display and customizing topics:

Topic	Menu Command
Formatting	Open the Column form:
Columns	Select <u>View</u> , <u>Columns</u> , <u>Customize</u> , or
	Click on the icon.
Formatting Activity	Open the <b>Bar</b> form:
Bars	Select <u>View</u> , Bars, Options, or
	Click on the icon.
Format Gridlines	Bar Chart Gridlines are formatted in the <u>View</u> , Bar, options form, Sightlines tab.
Format Data Date	The Data Date is formatted in the Bar Chart Options form, Data Date tab.
Formatting Row	Open the Table, Font and Row form by:
Height	Selecting <u>Yiew</u> , Table Font and Row.
Formatting Colors	There are limited options for formatting colors:
	Text colors are for natted in the Color form accessed from the Table,     Font and Row form which is opened by selecting View, Table Font and
	Row, AaBbYyZz icon.
	Bar Colors are covered in the Formatting the Bars paragraph of this chapter.
	Band colors are selected as part of the formatting of the layout by
	selecting <u>V</u> iew, <u>G</u> roup and Sort by or clicking on theicon.
Formatting Fonts	There are limited options for formatting fonts:
	• Text fonts are formatted in the Font form accessed from the Table, Font and Row form which is opened by selecting View, Table Font and Row,  AABBYYYZZ icon.
	Notebook entries may be formatted when edited.
Format Timescale	Click on the icon, or
	Select <u>V</u> iew, Ti <u>m</u> escale, or
	Right-click in the Bar Chart area and select Timescale.

The formatting is applied to the current **Layout** and this formatting may be automatically saved as part of the Layout when another Layout is selected; the system will prompt. Views are covered in the **Group**, **Sort and Layouts** chapter.



Beware of clicking the button in any form; this does not save your edits, but re-sets the form back to the Primavera defaults, destroying your hard work.

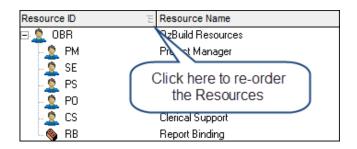
## 8.1 Formatting the Project Window

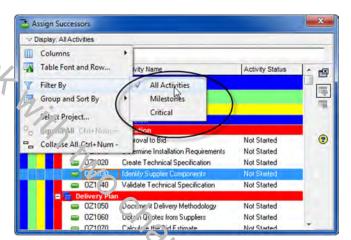
The formatting of the Project Window is very similar to the formatting of the **Activities Window** and will not be covered separately. Formatting, Filters and Layouts all work in the same way, except one is dealing with projects and not activities.

# 8.2 Understanding Forms

Unlike many software packages, Primavera has sorting and filtering functions in most forms and the principles are the same in most forms. This section will demonstrate some of the functions but you must be prepared to experiment with each form to see how they operate.

- Clicking in the Resource ID column of the Resources
   Window takes the formatting from hierarchical to alphabetical to reverse a or abetical and back to hierarchical. This function works in other rorn's with a hierarchical structure.
- The Assign Successors form has Filter By and Group and Sort By options that affect how data is grouped.





- The Assign Resource form has Columns, Filter By, and Group and Sort By options that affect what data is available.
- Ctl+F will also allow you to search for Resources matching a specific criterion.



## 8.3 Formatting the Bars

The bars in the Gantt Chart may be formatted to suit your requirements for display. Primavera does not have the option to format individual bars but is able to assign a filter to a bar style so that a style is applied to activities that meet a filter definition.

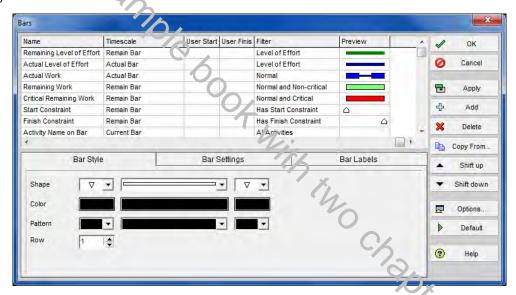


At the time of writing this book the author had placed a layout on www.primavera.com.au and www.eh.com.au under the Technical Papers page that has the bar formatting issues discussed below fixed. It is suggested that downloading this layout will save users a significant amount of formatting time.

## 8.3.1 Formatting Activity Bars

To format all the bars you must open the **Bar** form:

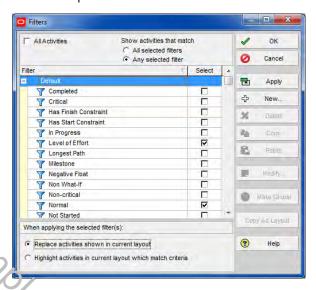
- Select <u>View</u>, Bars, or
- Click on the licen, or
- Right-click in the bars area and select **Bars** from the menu.



The following notes are the main points for using this function. Detailed information is available in the Help facility by searching for "Bar styles dialog box."

- Each bar listed in the table may be displayed on the bar chart by checking the box in the Display column.
- New bars may be added by clicking on the
   icon and deleted by clicking on the
   icon.
- The bar at the top of the list is placed on the screen and the one below drawn over the top of it, so it would be simple to hide one bar with a second. The and and shift up and shift down icons are used to move the bars up or down the list and therefore determine which bar is drawn on top of the next.
- The Name is the title assigned to the bar and may be displayed in the printout legend.
- The **Timescale** option is similar to the **Show For** ..., **Tasks** option in the Microsoft Project **Bar Styles** form and enables the nomination of a predefined bar which is selected from the drop-down box.

Double-clicking on a cell in the Filter column opens the Filters form where you are able to select the
filter/s which will determine which activities are displayed with the assigned bar format. Filters will be
covered in detail in the Filters chapter.



- Negative Float is displayed in a similar way as in Microsoft Project and requires another bar in addition to the Positive Float par with both the Timescale and Filter selected as Negative Float.
- The **Float** bar shows **Total Float**; there is no **Free Float** bar available, as in Elecosoft (Asta) Powerproject and Microsoft Project.
- The % Complete bar is linked to the Activity % Complete.

#### 8.3.2 Formatting Bars Issues

There are a number of issues with the Primavera standard bar formatting that need to be understood so the user may display the activity bars logically:

## Actual, Remaining Critical and Remaining Critical Bars

It is recommended that you use the Primavera default bar display critical displaying the Actual Work (this bar is displayed from the Start date to the Data Date), Remaining Work bars (these bars are displayed from the Data Date to the Finish date with the appropriate filter). This is because the Early bar will not display actual progress as in other software packages. Please read the Understanding Dates section in the Tracking Progress chapter to understand how the dates are calculated that are used to draw each bar.

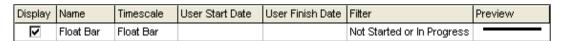
#### **Total Float Bar**

The Total Float Bar is called the Float Bar in the Bars form which is inconsistent terminology.

By default a Total Float bar is displayed on a completed activity but the Float value is set to "Null" (which is displayed as a blank). It is not logical to display a float bar when there is no float value:

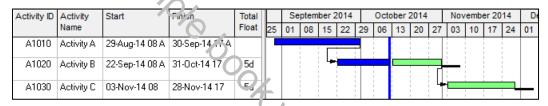
Activity ID	Activity	Start	Finish	Total		September 2014		October 2014				November 2014				De			
	Name			Float	25	01	80	15	22	29	06	13	20	27	03	10	17	24	01
A1010	Activity A	29-Aug-14 08 A	30-Sep-14 17 A					Г			4		•						
A1020	Activity B	22-Sep-14 08 A	31-Oct-14 17	5ď 🔪				L <b>p</b> e-						7	_				
A1030	Activity C	03-Nov-14 08	28-Nov-14 17	5d	`		_	_	_			1		+					-

• To prevent this from happening you should edit the total **Float Bar Filter** in the **Bars** form so it is only displayed for Not Started or In Progress activities:





This is what it should look like now:



#### Free Float Bar

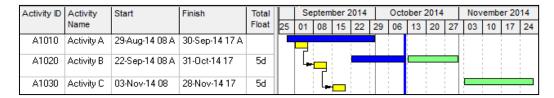
This may not be easily displayed.

# A Baseline Bar is Displayed when NO Project Baseline set

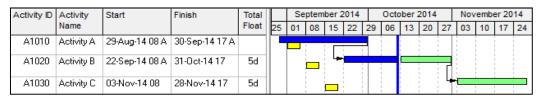
A Project Baseline Bar and Primary User Baseline Bar is displayed when a Baseline has not been assigned in the **Assign Baseline** form. The Planned Dates are displayed as the Baseline Bar. Therefore, you must ensure you have a Baseline set before displaying a Baseline Bar. The Secondary and Tertiary Baselines bars are not displayed until a baseline has been assigned.

#### Relationships displayed on Baseline Bars

By default, the relationships are displayed on the Baseline Bar, this is not the normal method:



To remove relationships from the Baseline Bar and put them on the current bars, move all the Baseline Bars and Baseline Milestones to the bottom of the Bars form:



## Remaining Level of Effort and Actual Level of Effort Bars

These are by default hidden and when these Activity Types are used then the activity bar will disappear. You should check both these bars so they are always displayed.

#### **Baseline Bar Formatting**

After you have moved all the baseline bars to the bottom:

- There is no Project Baseline Milestone; this will need to be added,
- The Project Baseline and Primary Baseline bars are both narrow yellow bars, the same as the Negative Float,
  - ➤ It is suggested you make them a different color and put them as thicker bars on the top and bottom of row 2,
  - ➤ Then change the **Baseline Milestone** colors to match,
  - Change the shape so one may be seen behind the other, and
  - > Change the descriptions so they make sense,
- There are no Secondary Baseline or Tertiary Baseline Milestones. If you are not using these then delete the Secondary Paseline or Tertiary Baseline bars:

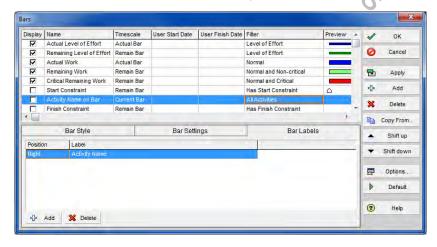
Display	Name	Timescale	User S	User F	Filter	Preview
	Project Baseline Bar	Project Baseline Bar			Normal	
	Project Baseline Milestone	Project Baseline Bar			Milestone	▽
	Primary Baseline	rrimary Baseline Bar			Normal	
	Primary Baseline Milestone	Primer Baseline Bar			Milestone	Δ Δ

#### **Text on Bars**

There is text on many bars and it is difficult to add or remove text from bars with the current configuration. It is suggested that text be removed from all bars, exccpt from the **Current Bar Labels** bar by:

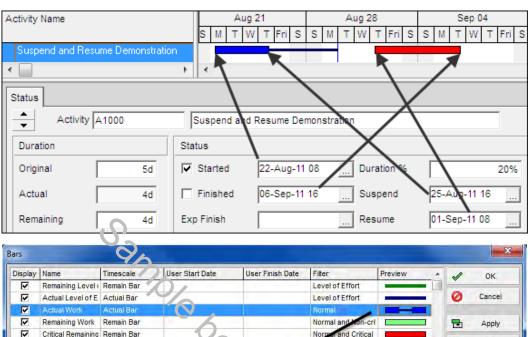
- Clicking on the Bar Labels tab at the bottom,
- Clicking on one bar at a time and using the but on 2 the bottom (NOT SIDE) of the screen to delete the text line,
- Changing the Current Bar Labels bar filter to read All Activities.

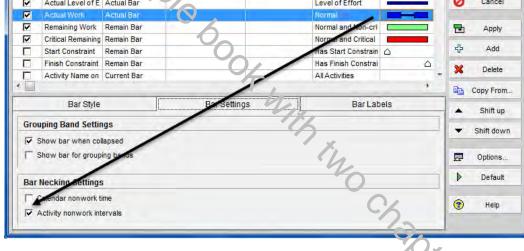
Now if you display the **Current Bar Labels** bar then text will be displayed on all bars and when this bar is hidden then all text will be removed from bars, thus making it simpler to add or remove bar text:



## **Suspend Date Display**

To ensure a **Suspend** date is displayed on the bar the Activity nonwork intervals should be checked:





## Creating a Summary Baseline Bar

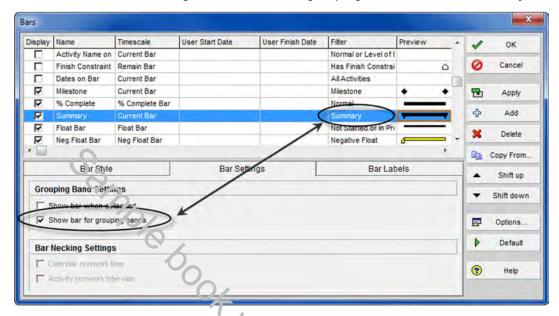
The default formatting also has no bar to display a Baseline Summary bar. To create a Summary Baseline bar, you must add and format a bar as per the picture below:

Display	Name	Timescale	Filter	Preview
	Primary Baseline	Primary Baseline Bar	Summary	

### Creating a Summary Bar

It is not obvious how to create a Summary Bar:

- To create a new Summary Bar you will see that you may not select Summary from the filter dropdown box,
- You must check the **Bar Settings** tab, **Show bar for grouping bands** to create a Summary Bar:



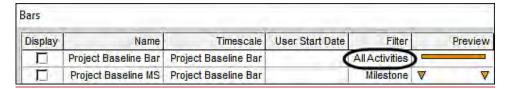


At the time of writing this book the author had placed a layout on www.primavera.com.au or www.eh.com.au under Technical Papers that has these bar formatting issues fixed. It is suggested that downloading this layout will save users a significant amount of formatting time.

The formatting of any existing layout may be set to the same as another layout, such as the www.primavera.com.au\_layout, by using the copy From... function.

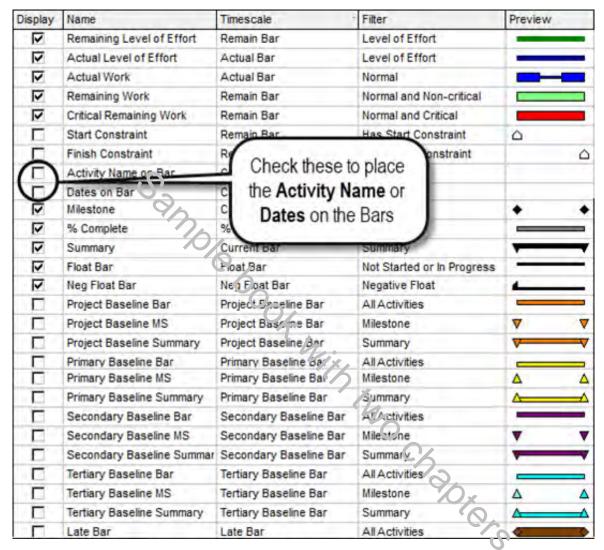
#### Baseline Bar Disappearing when an Activity is made an LOE

Often after a Baseline has been set, it is required to add more detail to a baselined activity but retain a view of the original Baseline bar. This may be achieved by converting the original Activity to an LOE and adding the detailed activities below the LOE and linking the new activities to it. If the original Baseline activity disappears the you need to open the bars form and set the filter to **All Activities** and the Baseline bar will be displayed:



#### www.primavera.com.au\_Layout

This layout may be downloaded from www.primavera.com.au or www.eh.com.au under Software and Downloads page, unzip it and place it on your desktop. Layouts created from later software versions may be identified from the file name. This has had the bars formatted as per the pictures below and resolves all the issues with the Primavera P6 defaults discussed above:





Administrators must check all their P6 Layouts to ensure the bars formatting is good and ensure all users are aware of the issues of using the **Bars** form **Default** button. One option is to just replace all the Oracle bar formatting with the formatting from the www.primavera.com.au\_Layout.

#### 8.3.3 Bar Style Tab

The appearance of each bar is edited in the lower half of the form. The bar's start, middle, and end points may have their color, shape, pattern, etc., formatted.

The bars may be placed on one of three rows numbered from 1 to 3, from top to bottom, one bar above the other. If multiple bars are placed on the same row, the bar at the top of the list will be drawn first and the ones lower down the list will be drawn over the top.

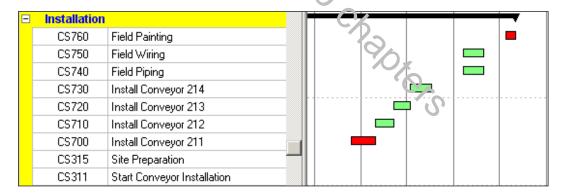


## 8.3.4 Bar Settings Tab



## Show bar when collapsed

- Show bar when collapsed option displays the detailed bars on a single line when the WBS Node has been summarized; see the two pictures following:
  - ➤ Before summarizing:



After summarizing:



This is similar to the Microsoft Project Always roll up Gantt bars option in the Layout form.

### Show bar for grouping bands

This shows a summarized bar all the time and converts the filter automatically to "Summary" bars only.



When formatting the **Bar Settings** for Milestones it is important to take note of the checked boxes and Filter format. If the box **Show bar for grouping bands** is checked, Milestones will appear at the ends of Summary Bars and not in line with the actual activities they belong to. The filter in this case will read **Summary** and not **Milestone**.

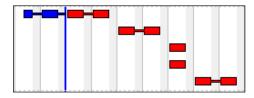
## **Bar Necking Settings**

Bar Necking displays a thinner bar during times of inactivity such as weekends and holidays and applies only to the Current Bar setting column in the **Bars** form:

Un-necked bars



Necked bars



- Calendar nonwork time necks the bar pased on the activity's calendar.
- Activity nonwork intervals necks the bar when Out of Sequence Progress options of Actual Dates
  or Retained Logic causes a break in the work. See the Advanced Schedule Options paragraph.



There is no Resource Bar available and Primavera will not neck on the resource calendar. When an activity is Resource Dependent and the resource is on a calendar different from the activity, then the bar may neck when the resource is working or not neck when the resource is not working.

#### 8.3.5 Bar Labels Tab

This tab enables the placement of text with a bar above, below, to the left, and to the right. The following pictures show how the start and finish dates are formatted and displayed on the par chart:

- Select the bar that you wish to add the label to.
- Click on the Add and the Delete icons at the bottom of the Bars form to add and delete a Label item.



Select the Position and Label from the drop-down boxes in the Bar Labels tab.



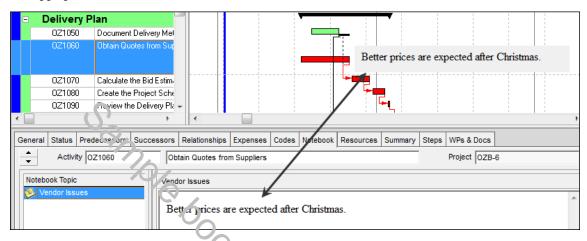
This publication is only sold as a bound book, no parts may be reproduced by any means, e.g., electronic, video or print.

 The dates on the bar chart are adopted from the User Preferences and may not be formatted separately.



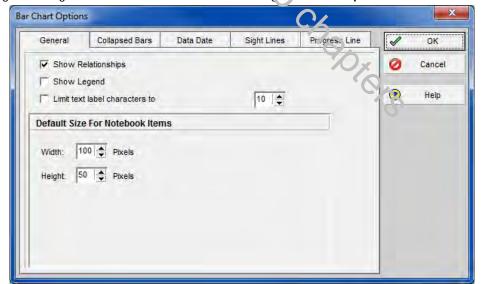
It is often useful to create a bar that only displays the text. This bar may be displayed or not displayed as required, which is much simpler than reformatting a bar to show text

Each Notebook Topic may be displayed on a bar one at a time by selecting the topic in the Bar
 Labels tab. After the box containing the label is displayed on the screen it may be adjusted in size by
 dragging.

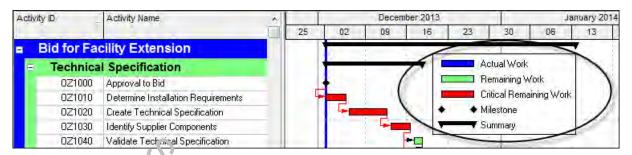


## 8.3.6 Bar Chart Options Form

- The Bar Chart Options form is displayed by:
  - Clicking on the options... icon from the bars form, or
  - ➤ By selecting View, Bar, ☐ Options... , or
  - ➤ Right-clicking in the Gantt Chart area and selecting Bar Chart Options...:



- The General tab has a variety of options for formatting the bar chart which are mainly selfexplanatory.
  - ➤ Show Relationships has the same result as clicking on the ☐ icon and displays the relationships.
  - ➤ Show Legend displays a legend on the bar chart in the Activities View; see the following picture:



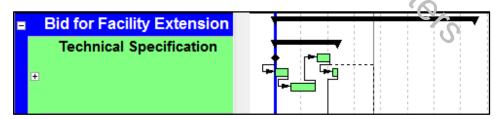
- The default size of the lock displaying a **Notebook** topic may be set in the **Bar Chart Options** form, **General** tab, which is displayed by clicking on the options... icon from the **Bars** form.
- The **Collapsed Bar** tab formais the bars when a WBS band has been collapsed and displays a summarized bar.
  - Collapse to grouping bars:



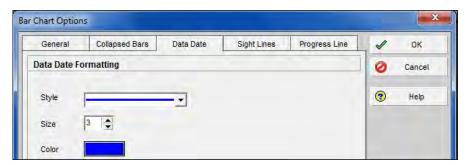
Collapse individual bars to minimize space.



> Collapse individual bars to minimize space and Allow overlapping of bar labels:



The **Data Date** tab formats the Data Date, its style, color and size:



Primavera Version 5.0 introduced the Sight Lines tab which enables the specification of both Major and Minor vertical and horizontal Sight Lines, which brings this functionality up to match Microsoft Project, but nowhere near the graphical functionality of Elecosoft (Asta) Powerproject.



Primavera P6 Version 7 introduced the Progress Line Display on the Gantt Chart which is covered in PORORS detail in the next paragraph.

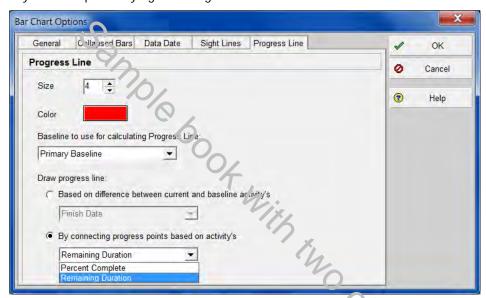
# 8.4 Progress Line Display on the Gantt Chart

A progress line displays how far ahead or behind activities are in relation to the Baseline. Either the Project Baseline or the Primary User Baseline may be used and there are four options:

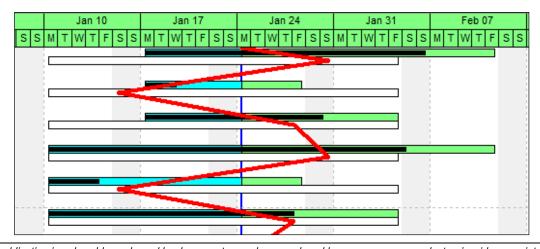
- Difference between the Baseline Start Date and Activity Start Date,
- Difference between the Baseline Finish Date and Activity Finish Date,
- Connecting the progress points based on the Activity % Complete,
- Connecting the progress points based on the Activity Remaining Duration.

There are several main components of displaying a Progress Line in P6:

• First the progress line is formatted using the <u>View</u>, Bar, <u>Progress Line</u> tab, which may also be opened by right-clicking in the Gantt Chart area:



- Selecting View, Progress Line to hide or display the Progress Line
- If you use either of the options of Percent Complete or Remaining Duration then you must display the appropriate Baseline Bar that has been selected as the **Baseline to use for calculating Progress**Line:
- The picture below shows the option highlighted above of **Percent Complete**:



# 8.5 Formatting Columns

## 8.5.1 Selecting the Columns to be Displayed

The columns are formatted through the **Columns** form which may be opened by:

- Select View, Columns, Customize, or
- Click on the icon, Customize, or
- Right-click in the Columns to open a menu and select **Columns**:

The columns may be sorted by **List** of **Category** and they may be added or deleted either by:

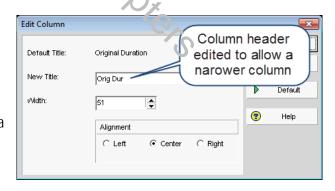
- Using the black arrows or
- By dragging the description left of right and up or down.
- When a Baseline is set then many more Baseline schedule column fields become available.

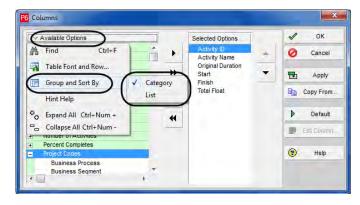
The Column form may be resized by dragging the edges.

- The available columns are discayed in the left window and may be listed under **Categories** or as a single **List**.
- To select how the column titles are displayed, click the **Available Options** drop-down box and then select **Group and Sort By** to choose either **List** or **Categories**, as per the picture above.
- The columns to be displayed are listed in the right Selected Options Window and are copied from Available Options to and from Selected Options using:
  - > The icons (4) or
  - > Dragging, or
  - Double-clicking
- The Default icon sets the columns back to the Primavera default column display.

## 8.5.2 Column Header Alignment

- Select View, Columns, Customize, or
- Click on the icon, Customize, then

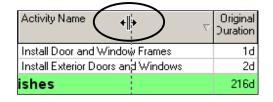




## 8.5.3 Adjusting the Width of Columns

You may adjust the width of the column in two ways:

 By dragging the column title separator: move the mouse pointer to the nearest vertical line of the column. A mouse pointer will then appear and enable the column to be adjusted by click, hold and dragging.



• From the Column form select to open the Edit Column form and enter the width of the column in pixels.

### 8.5.4 Setting the Order of the Columns from Left to Right on the Screen

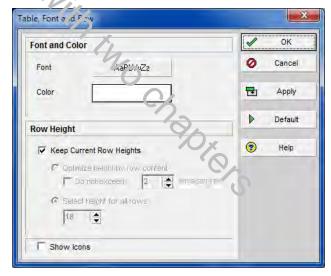
The order of the columns on the screen, from left to right, is the same as the order in the **Columns** form **Selected Options Window** from top to bottom. The order of the columns may be altered:

- Highlight the column in the Columns form Selected Options Window and use the and icons, or
- Click and hold the column title in a window and drag the column.

# 8.6 Row Height and Show Icon

Row heights may be adjusted to display text that v ould otherwise be truncated by a narrow column.

- The height of all rows may be formatted by selecting <u>View</u>, <u>Table</u>
   <u>Font</u> and Row to open the <u>Table</u>,
   <u>Font</u> and Row form. The options in this form are self-explanatory.
- The Show Icons option will display a different icon in front of the Activity and WBS.
  - ➤ In the Projects Window Projects indicates a What-if project, and an Opened project.
  - In the Activities Window indicates a WBS Node, a blue a complete activity, a blue and green an in-progress activity, and a green an un-started activity.





• The height of a single row may be manually adjusted in a similar way to adjusting row heights in Excel. Click the row; the pointer will change to a double-headed arrow ♣; then drag the row with the mouse. These manually adjusted rows are not saved with a Layout.

#### 8.7 Format Timescale

## 8.7.1 Moving and Rescaling the Timescale

To display hidden parts of the schedule the timescale may be grabbed and moved by placing the cursor in the top half of the Timescale. The cursor will turn into a time; left-click and drag left or right.

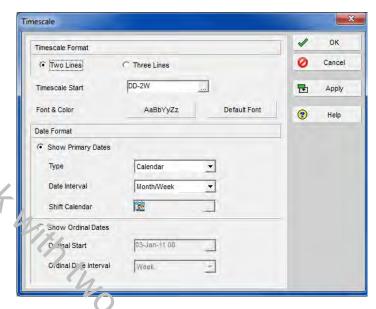
The timescale may be rescaled, therefore increasing or decreasing the length of the bars and displaying more or less of the schedule, by placing the cursor in the bottom half of the Timescale. The cursor will turn into a  $\mathfrak{Q}$ ; click, hold and drag left to make the bars shorter and right to make the bars longer.

When there are no bars in view when you are viewing a time ahead or behind the activity dates, you may double-click in the **Gantt Chart** area to bring them back into view.

#### 8.7.2 Format Timescale Command

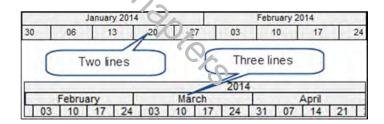
The **Timescale** orm provides a number of options for the display of the timescale, which is (see ted above the Bar Chart. To open the timescale form:

- Click on the icon, oc
- Select View, Timescale, or
- Right-click in the Bar Chart area and select Timescale.



The options available in the **Timescale** form are:

- Timescale Format has the options of:
  - Two lines, or
  - Three lines



## Font and Color

- The AaBbYyZz icon opens the Edit, Font and Color form which enables the timescale and column headers font and color to be changed.
- By clicking on the \_\_\_\_\_\_ icon all changes will be reversed.

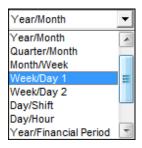
#### **Date Format**

- Type
  - Calendar displays a normal calendar.
  - Fiscal Year displays the fiscal year in the year line. The Fiscal Year Start Month is set in the Settings tab of the Project Details form in the Projects Window.
  - ➤ Week of the Year displays the week of the year starting from "1" for the first week in January and is often termed Manufacturing Week.
- Date Interval sets the timescale and has the options in the picture to the right:
  - The Week/Day 1 displays the days like this:

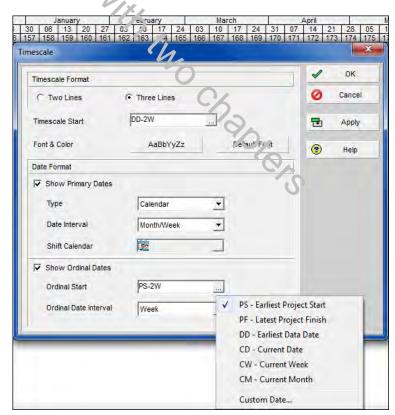
Mar 03				Mar 10				Mar 17											
МТ	W	Т	F	S	S	М	I	W	Т	F	S	S	M	Т	W	Т	F	S	S

> The Week/Day? displays the days like this:





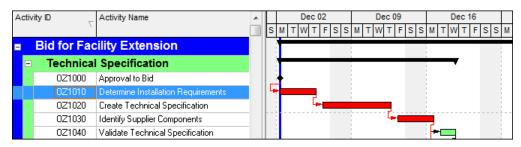
- The **Date Interval** may also be adjusted by clicking on the or the or the timescale setting up and down the list shown above.
- Shift Calendar breaks the day into time intervals to suit the shift intervals when the Day/Shift option has been selected.
- Show Ordinal Dates displays the timescale to be counted by the unit selected in the Date Interval. This is useful for displaying a schedule when the start of the project is unknown. Ordinal dates display the timescale by counting in the selected units starting from a user definable start date. When 3 lines are displayed the ordinal dates and calendar dates may be displayed:



#### 8.7.3 Nonwork Period Shading in Timescale

The nonwork period shading behind the bars is set by the database **Default Calendar** and is selected by:

- In the Professional Version selecting **Enterprise**, **Calendars**...and checking a calendar in the Default Column, and
- In the Optional Client this is set through the Web under **Administer**, **Enterprise Data**.



#### 8.8 Inserting Attachments - Text Boxes and Curtain

#### 8.8.1 Adding and Deleting a Text Box

A text box may be inserted in a bar chart area:

- Select the Activity which the new Text Box is to be associated with, either
- Right-click in the Bar Chart to open the menu, select Attachments, Text,

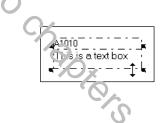
Or:

- Select View, Attachments, Text, and
- The **Text Attachment** form will be displayed.

Then:

- Type in the text and format the font by AaBbYyZz clicking on the icon.
- A Text Box may be repositioned by clicking on the text and using the cursor to drag the corners and sides.





To delete a Text box, position the cursor over the text box until it transforms into a  $\pm$  then click and you may now hit the **Delete** key.



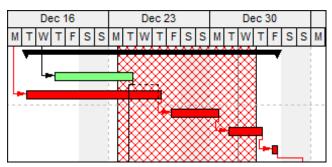
The author found in his load of P6 Version 8.2 that it was not possible to delete a Text Box, only the text inside a Text Box to make the comment disappear. This was fixed in Version 8.3.

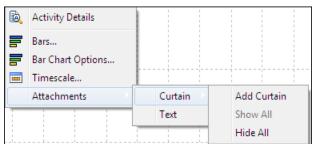
# 8.8.2 Adding and Deleting a Curtain

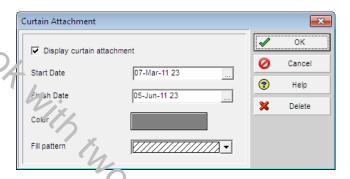
Primavera Version 5.0 introduced a function allowing the placing of multiple curtains on the Gantt Chart which may be all hidden or displayed. A **Curtain**, used to highlight periods of time over part of the bar chart.

Select <u>View</u>, <u>Attachments</u> to display the <u>Curtain</u> menu or right-click a bar and select <u>Attachments</u>, <u>Curtain</u>:

- Add Curtain opens the Curtain
   Attachment form used to create a curtain,
- Show All shows all the curtains,
- Hide All hides all the curtains, and
- Double Clicking or, a curtain in the Gantt Chart also opens the Curtain Attachment form where individual curtains may be deleted or hidden.
- Using the Start Date and Finish Date boxes, or
- Grabbing the left or right edge of the Curtain in the Bar Chart (the cursor will change to a ) and dragging the start or finish date, or
- Grabbing the Curtain in the center (the cursor will change to a and dragging the whole Curtain.







A curtain is deleted by double clicking on the curtain to open the Curtain Attachment form and clicking on the Delete button.

# 8.9 Format Fonts and Font Colors

The format font options are:

- The Activity Data fonts are formatted in the Table, Font and Row form (displayed in the paragraph above) by selecting <u>View</u>, Table Font and Row.
  - Clicking on AaBbYyZz, the Font icon will open the font form where normal Windows functions are available.
  - Clicking on the Color icon will enable the selection of a color for the text.
- The Notet ook Topics may be formatted using the formatting features above where the Notebook items are entered in the lower pane.
- Some forms may have the fonts for displaying data edited when there so menu on the top left side with the **Table Font are Row** menu item.



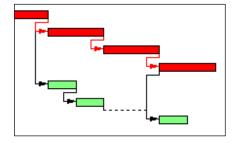


• The text in a **Text Box** that has been inserted onto the Bar Chart may be formatted when the box is created.

#### 8.10 Format Colors

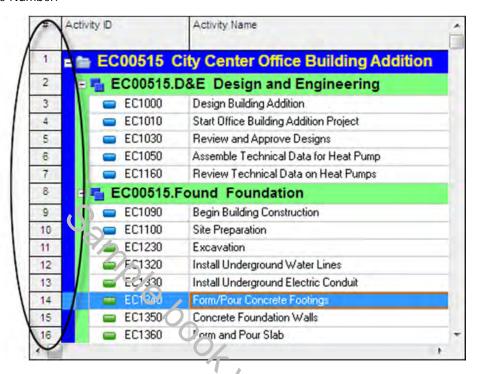
These are the main options for formatting colors:

- Band colors in layouts are formatted in the Group and Sort form by clicking on the icon or selecting View, Group and Sort by.
- Text colors are covered in the Format Font and Colors paragraph.
- Bar Colors are covered in the Formatting the Bars paragraph.
- Timescale and Column Headers are covered in the Format Timescale Command paragraph.
- Sight Lines (Gridline) colors may not be formatted.
- The Progress Line color is selected in the Bar Chart Options form, Progress Line tab.
- The Data Date is formatted in the Bar Options form, Data Date tab.
  - The Relationship Lines, also known as Dependencies, Logic, or Links, may not be formatted and are displayed with the following characteristics:
    - Solid Red for Critical,
    - Solid Black for Driving,
    - Dotted Black for Non-driving, and
    - ➤ Blue when selected and may be deleted.



# 8.11 Line Numbers

Version 8.2 introduced a Microsoft Project style **Line Numbers**. Select **View**, **Line** Number to display or hide the Line Number.





This is a very useful feature for reviewing a schedule to ensure that everyone in a meeting is looking at the same activity.

But as in Microsoft Project and Elecosoft (Asta) Powerproject this is an activity order and the number will change if the schedule is reordered.

# 8.12 Workshop 6 – Formatting the Bar Chart



#### **Background**

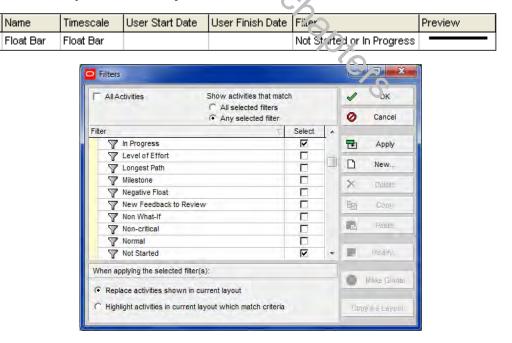
Management has received your draft report and requests that some changes be made to the presentation.

#### Assignment

Display

Format your schedule as follows, but depending on the default settings, your Gantt Chart View may differ from that shown, e.g., there may be no summary bars:

- 1. You will not have to complete the Step 2 of this workshop if you have internet access and are able to download the www.primavera.com.au\_Layout.plf layout from www.primavera.com.au. There are layouts for later Fo Versions which are identified by the software version in the file name.
  - If you have downloaded and applied the www.primavera.com.au\_Layout.plf move to Step 3, DO NOT COMPLETE Step 2.
  - If you have NOT downloaded and applied the www.primavera.com.au\_Layout.plf complete Step 2.
- 2. Format Bars, only if you are unable to download the www.primavera.com.au\_Layout.plf layout then:
  - To format the bars open the Bars form,
  - Click on the Default button to set the bars to the Primavera default settings,
  - Edit the Float Bar Filter (Total Float bar) so it only shows float for Not Started or In Progress activities. Ensure you select the Any selected filter in the Filters form:



- Delete the Secondary Baseline & Tertiary Baseline bars,
- Move the Baseline bars and Baseline Milestones to the bottom of the Bars form to remove relationships on the Baseline bars.
- Add missing Project Baseline Milestone and format the Baseline bars as per the picture below, making them different colors:

Display	Name	Timescale	User S	User F	Filter	Preview
	Project Baseline Bar	Project Baseline Bar			Normal	
	Project Baseline Milestone	Project Baseline Bar			Milestone	▽
	Primary Baseline	Primary Baseline Bar			Normal	
	Primary Baseline Milestone	Primary Baseline Bar			Milestone	Δ Δ

- Remove all text from all bars, except from the Current Bar Labels bar, by:
  - Clicking on the Bar Labels tab at the bottom,
  - Clicking on one bar at a time and using the button at the bottom (NOT SIDE) of the screen to delete the text line,
  - Change the Current Bar Labels bar filter to read All Activities and do not display.
- Display the following bars: 3.
  - Remaining Level of Effort
  - Actual Level of Effort
  - **Actual Work**
  - Remaining Work
  - Remaining Critical Work
  - Milestones
  - % Complete
  - Summary Bar
  - Float Bar (Total Float)
  - **Negative Float Bar**
- Adding Columns:
- Leboot with two chart Add Calendar and Activity Type columns, from the General section of the Columns form, to the right of the Activity Name column.
  - Adjust the column widths to a best fit by dragging the column header divider lines.
  - Display the **Total Float** column if not displayed.
- Press the **F9** key and click the button which will schedule the project and calculate the float.
- Adjusting Row Heights:
  - Change the Row Height to 30 points by selecting View, Table Font and Row and apply,
  - Now check the **Optimize height by row content** box, not exceeding 1 line per row and apply,
  - Now change the setting to 18 point height for all rows and apply.
  - Click on to close the form.

- 7. Format Timescale to Year and Month, then Week and Day (two options), then Month and Week by using the buttons.
- Format the Vertical lines with a solid Major line every month and a Minor line every week by selecting <u>V</u>iew, Bars and clicking on the button and selecting the Sight Lines tab, or right-clicking in the Gantt Chart area and selecting Bar Chart Options... and selecting the Sight Lines tab.
- Expand and contract the timescale and adjust it so that all the bars are visible.
- 10. See below for the expected results:



### 11. Check the following:

- Click on Activity ID to make sure they are ordered correctly,
- The dates and times of all activities should start and i nish at the same time of the day,
- Activity OZ1060 bar should be colored red as it is the Critical activity representing the shortest 30/0/5 duration that the project may be completed,
- All other activities should have Float.

# 13 FILTERS

This chapter covers the ability of Primavera to control which activities are displayed, both on the screen and in printouts, by using **Filters**.

# 13.1 Understanding Filters

Primavera has an ability to display activities that meet specific criteria. You may want to see only the incomplete activities, or the work scheduled for the next couple of months or weeks, or the activities that are in-progress.

Primavera defaults to displaying all activities. There are a number of pre-defined filters available that you may use or edit. You may also create one or more of your own.

A filter may be applied to display or to highlight only those activities that meet a criterion.

There are four types of filters:

- **Default** filters which are supplied with the system and may not be edited or deleted but may be copied and then edited or modified and are often used in conjunction with the display of bars.
- Global filters which are made available to anyone working in the database,
- User Defined filters which are defined by a user and available only to that user unless it is made into a Global filter, and
- Layout filters which make a copy of the filter only available when the current layout is applied.

  NOTE: If the current layout is a Project layout, then this effectively makes the Layout filter a project filter.

The following types of filters are not available:

- Drop-down or Auto filters as in Excel and Microsoft Project.
- Interactive filters as available in SureTrak, Elecosoft (Asta) Powerproject and Microsoft Project. This is when a filter is applied and the user is offered choices from a drop-down list. The lack of this function may result in an excessive quantity of filters being generated or the user continually editing frequently used filters.
- Project filters but copying all the filters used in a project to all the Project Layouts effectively creates Project filters but this is a lot of administration.

On the other hand, P6 does allow multiple filters to be applied at the same time.



There are no dedicated project filters (except by creating a Layout filter) available in Primavera, so you might consider placing the project name or number at the start of a filter name so you may identify which filters belong to which projects. This is especially helpful when you have a number of **User Filters** or there are a number of **Global Filters**.

Topic	Menu Command			
To apply, edit, create, or delete a filter open the Filters form.	<ul> <li>Click on the icon, or</li> <li>Select View, Filter By, Customize, or</li> </ul>			
	<ul> <li>Right-click in the columns area and select Filters</li> </ul>			

# 13.2 Applying a Filter

#### 13.2.1 Filters Form

Filters are applied from the **Filters** form which may be opened by:

- Clicking on the icon, or
- Selecting View, Filters..., Customize...or
- Right-clicking in the columns area and selecting **Filters...**

**NOTE**: If the **All Activities** check box is not checked then there is a filter applied.

# 13.2.2 Applying a Single Filter

A single filter is applied by:

- Checking the Select check by beside one filter, and
- Clicking on the \_\_\_\_\_\_icon to apply the filter and not close the form. If the result is undesirable another option may be selected, or
- Clicking on to apply the filter and close the form.
- When applying the selected filter(s):
  - Only activities that comply to the filter criteria will be displayed when the Replace activities shown in the current layout button is checked.
  - These activities will be highlighted in the **Select Activity** color when the **Highlight activities** in current layout which match criteria button is checked.

# 13.2.3 Applying a Combination Filter

A combination filter has two or more filters selected and has two options under **Show activities that** match:

- All selected filters where an activity to be displayed or highlighted has to match the criteria of ALL
  the filters, or
- Any selected filters where an activity to be displayed or highlighted has to match the criteria of ONLY ONE filter.



In many places in the software there will be an option of either clicking on the icon or the Apply icon:

- The Apply icon applies the format yet leaves the form open.
- The \_\_\_\_\_\_icon applies the format and closes the form.

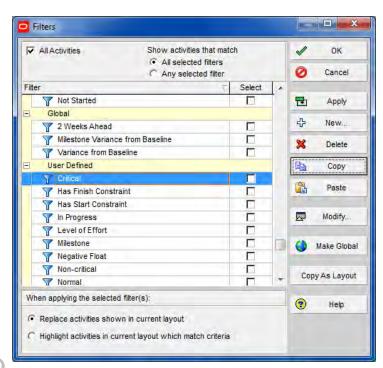


# 13.3 Creating and Modifying a Filter

# 13.3.1 Creating a New Filter Filters may be created from the Filters form by:

- Clicking on the icon in the Filter form and create a new filter, or

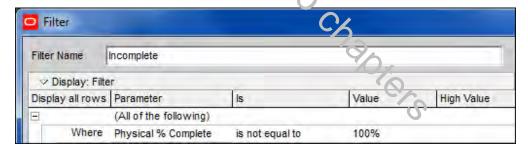
New filters will be created in the User Defined functione at the bottom of the list.



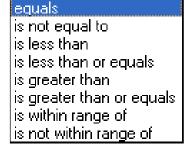
There are a large number of options a /ai able to create a filter and from the following examples you should be able to experiment and add your own filters. To modify an existing filter, select it from the Filters form and click the licen

#### 13.3.2 One Parameter Filter

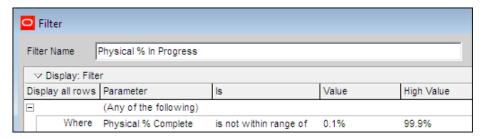
The following example is a filter to display incomplete activities:



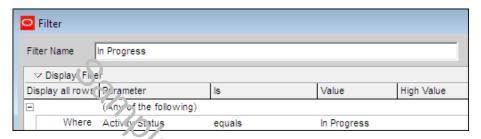
- Parameter is used to select any of the available database fields:
- Select one of the options from the **Is** drop-down box:
- The parameter selected in the **Is** box determines if:
  - Only one Value is required, which is entered into the Value field, or
  - A range is required and two values are to be entered; then the **Value** and **High Value** are entered.



The following example is a filter to display in-progress activities using the **is not within range of** and **Value** and **High Value** options:

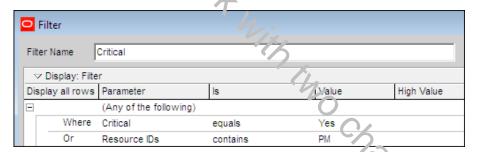


And this example uses the **equals** parameter and only the **Value** field is completed:



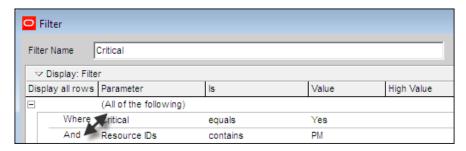
#### 13.3.3 Two Parameter Filter

The following example is a filter to display a're itical path activities and activities assigned the PM resource:



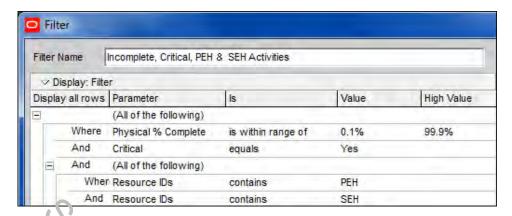
- The drop-down box under **Parameter** has two options:
  - ➤ (All of the following). This is used when an activity must meet all of the parameters selected below.
  - ➤ (Any of the following). This is used when an activity must meet any of the parameters selected below.

When the first parameter is change to **All of the following** the **Display all rows** option changes to an **AND**. Therefore, with the filter below there would normally be fewer activities displayed as the activities have to be critical and assigned the resource PM:



# 13.3.4 Multiple Parameter Filter

The following example is a filter to display incomplete activities on the critical path with resources PEH and SEH:



• In this example, (All of the following) was selected from the Parameters drop-down box which enables a nesting effect of filter parameters.

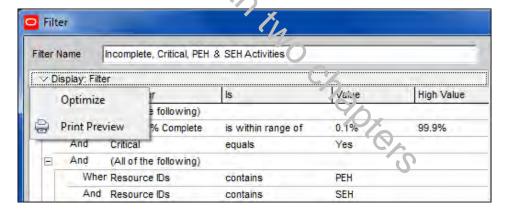
# 13.3.5 Editing and Organizing Filter Parameters

Lines in a filter are added, copied, pasted, and deleted using the appropriate icons in the Filters form.

The arrows allow the filter lines to ec moved up and down and indented to the left and outdented to the right in a smillar way to indenting and outdenting tasks in Microsoft Project.



A filter may be optimized to delete the redundan't filter lines using the **Optimize** command:



# 13.3.6 Understanding Resource Filters



# NOTE: THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT POINT FOR RESOURCE FILTERING

When filtering on resources, the filter must use the option of **contains** in the **Is** column and not **equals**. This is because when an activity has been assigned more than one resource, then the activity will not be selected with a filter using the **equals** parameter.

# 13.4 Activity Critical Path Visibility

There is a new function and toolbar in Version 21 titled **Activity Critical Path** which may be used to examine both the Critical Path and other chains of non-critical activities.

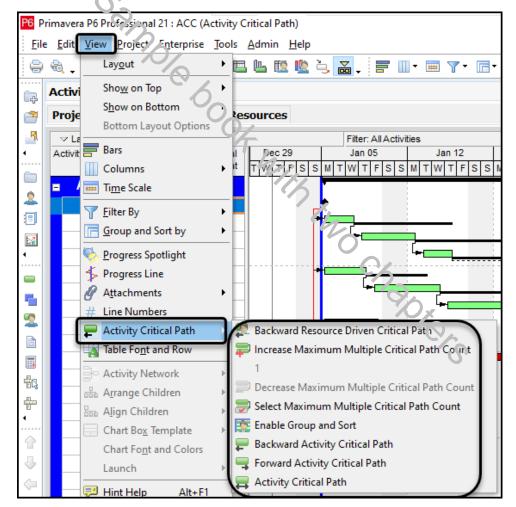
 The new toolbar is displayed by right clicking on any toolbar and checking the Activity Critical Path option:



• This will display the toolbar:



There is also a n∈w menu item on the View menu:



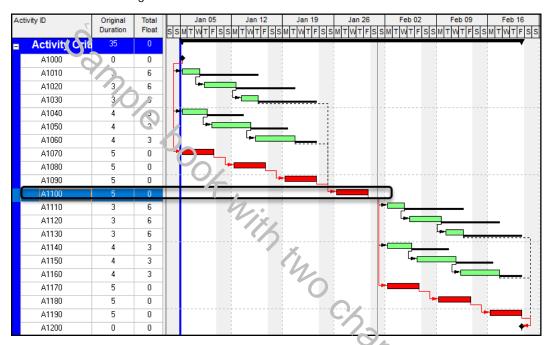
 IMPORTANT NOTE: Clicking on a button will activate the command and clicking again will deactivate the command. The Oracle Cumulative Feature Overview file states:

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

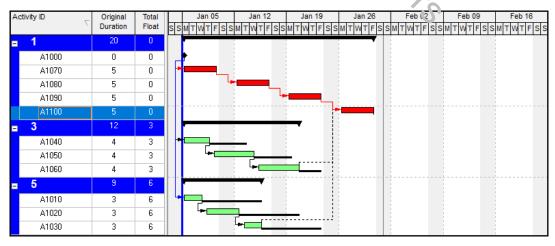
- Activities on up to 30 activity-driven critical paths, calculated on the forward pass, backward pass, or forward and backward passes (with or without resource leveling).
- The activities on up to 30 resource driven critical paths, calculated on the backward pass with resource leveling.

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

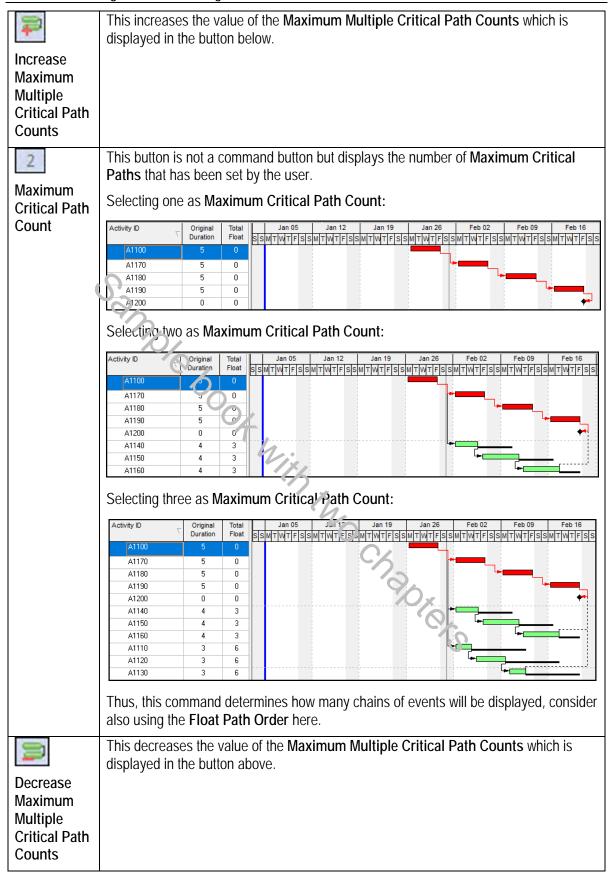
The schedule we will work with is as per below where Activity A1100 is preceded and succeeded by three chains of events with differing Total Float Values:

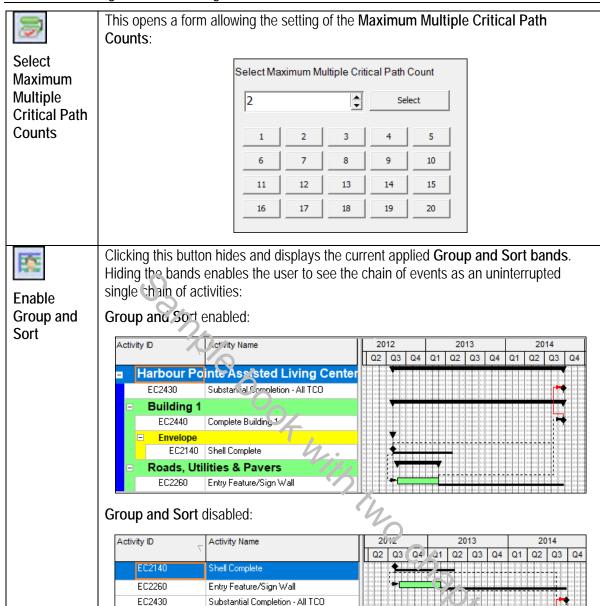


Users should also consider using the **Activity Critical Path** function in conjunction with the **Float Path Order** function to provide a clear view of view of the **Float Paths**:



#### Command **Function** This option displays the chain of events before a selected activity that has the least amount of Float. Backward If there is a critical path it will display this and if there is not, then it will find the chain of Activity events with the lease amount of float to the start of the project and display this as the Critical Path Backward Activity Critical Path. The picture below displays the Backward Activity Critical Path from activity A1100 which is a chain of events that is on the schedule Critical Path. Activity ID SSMTWTFSSMTWTFSSMTWTFSSMTWTFSSMTWTFSSMTWTFSSMTWTFSS A1000 A1070 0 0 A1080 A1090 n This option displays the chain of events after a selected activity that has the least amount of Float Forward If there is a critical path it will display this path and if there is not, then it will find the Activity chain of events with the least amount of float to the end of the project and display this Critical Path as the Forward Activity Critical Path. The picture below displays the Forward Activity Critical Path from activity A1100 which is a chain of events that is on the schedule Critical Path. Activity ID Original Duration \$\sm\t\w\t|\ssm\t\w\t|\ssm\t\w\t|\ssm\t\w\t|\ssm\t\w\t|\ssm\t\w\t|\ssm\t\w\t|\ssm\t\w\t|\ssm\t\w\t|\ssm\t\w\t|\ssm A1170 0 A1180 0 A1190 0 A1200 0 This option displays the chain of events before and after a selected activity that has the = least amount of Float. Activity Thus, the picture below shows both the Forward Activity Critical Path and Critical Path Backward Activity Critical Path from Activity A1100. Activity ID A1000 0 0 A1070 Δ1080 0 A1090 0 A1170 0 A1180 0 A1190 0

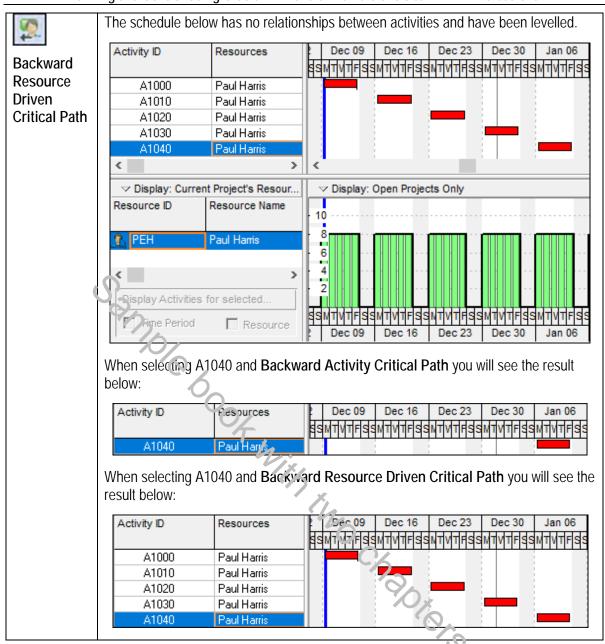




EC2440

Complete Building 1

This single Float Path is not on the critical path.



# 13.5 Workshop 11 – Filters



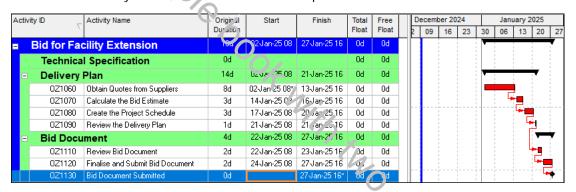
#### **Background**

Management has asked for reports on activities to suit their requirements.

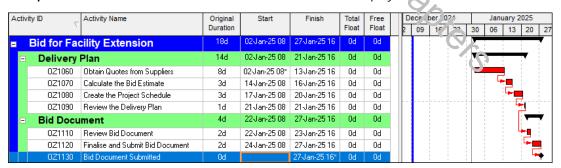
# **Assignment**

Ensure your OzBuild Bid project is open.

- 1. Apply the OzBuild Workshop 10 With Float layout.
- 2. They would like to see all the critical activities.
  - Ensure a column showing the Total Float is displayed, and
  - Apply the Critical activities filter.
- 3. You will see only activities that are on the critical path.

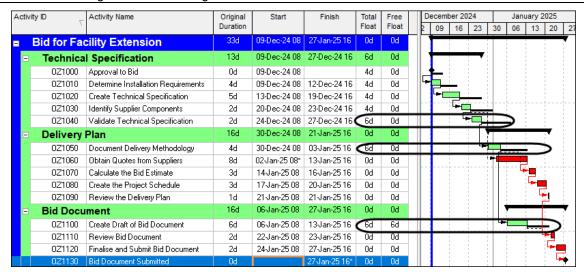


4. Open the **Group and Sort** form and check the **Hide if empty** tox and notice the **Technical Specification** band is hidden because it has no activities displayed.

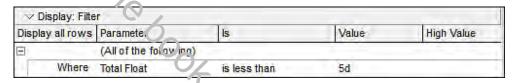


- Now apply some other filters such as the Milestone, Has Start Constraint and Has Finish Constraint.
- 6. There are two activities with 6 days Total Float, OZ1040, OZ1050 and OZ1100, see the picture below:

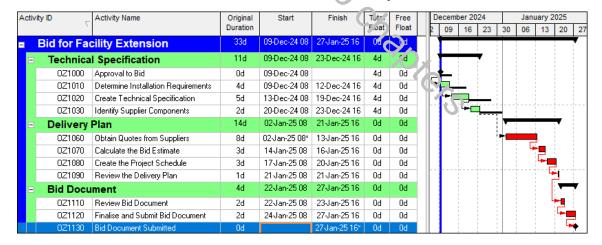
# Planning and Control Using Oracle® Primavera® P6 Versions 8 to 22 PPM Professional



- 7. Management would like to see all the activities with float less than or equal to 5 days:
  - Create a new filter titled: Total Float Less Than or Equal to 5 Days, and
  - Add the condius n to display a total float of less than 5 days.

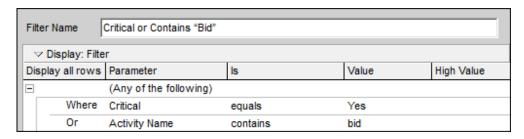


- Close the Filter form.
- > Click on the All Activities check box to ensure all activities are displayed,
- Apply the new filter Total Float Less Than or Equal to 5 Days,
- You should find that three activities with more than 6 days float are hidden:

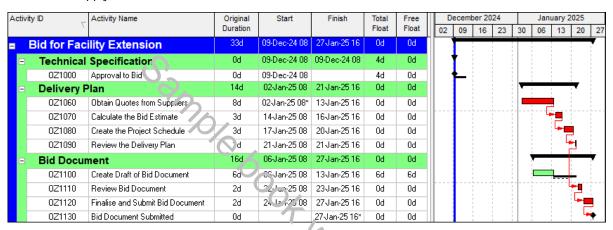


- 8. They would like to see all the activities that are critical or contain the word "Bid".
  - Copy the Critical filter,
  - > Edit the filter title to read: Critical or Contains "Bid",
  - Edit the top line to read (Any of the following),

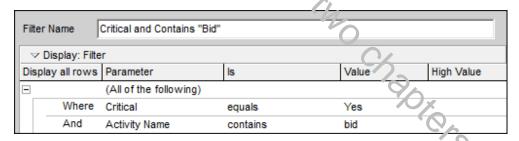
Add the condition: Or Name (Activity Name) contains Bid, and



- > Note: The text is not case sensitive,
- Apply the filter.



- 9. All the activities are either Critical or contain the word Bid.
- 10. Copy the filter and rename it Critical and Contains 'Bid",



 Now change the (Any of the following) option to (All of the following) apply the filter and see the effect.



- 12. There should be fewer activities and it is now displaying activities that meet both conditions of being Critical and contain the word Bid.
- 13. Now apply the **All Activities** filter to display all the activities.

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