Oracle Primavera P6 PPM Version 21 Activity Critical Path Visibility

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 intuitative.

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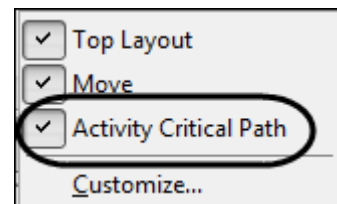
2 Aim

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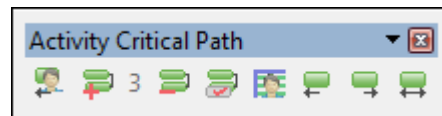
3 Activity Critical Path

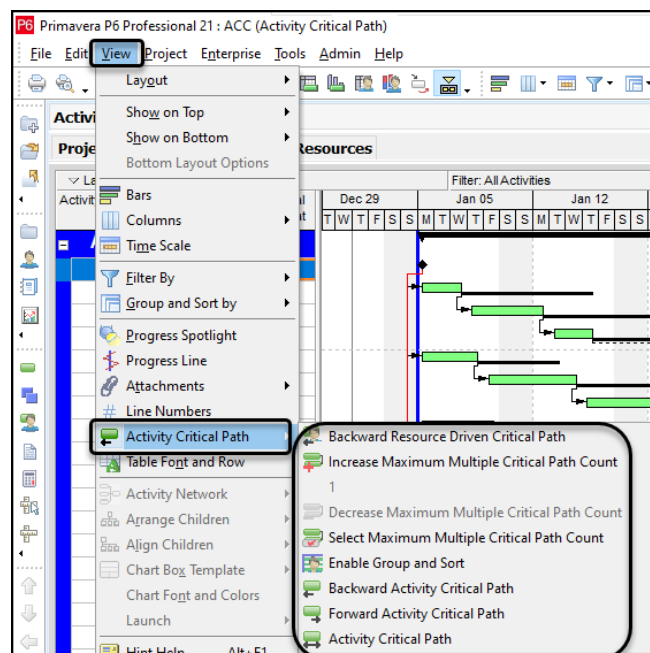There is a new toolbar in Version 21 titled **Activity Critical Path**.

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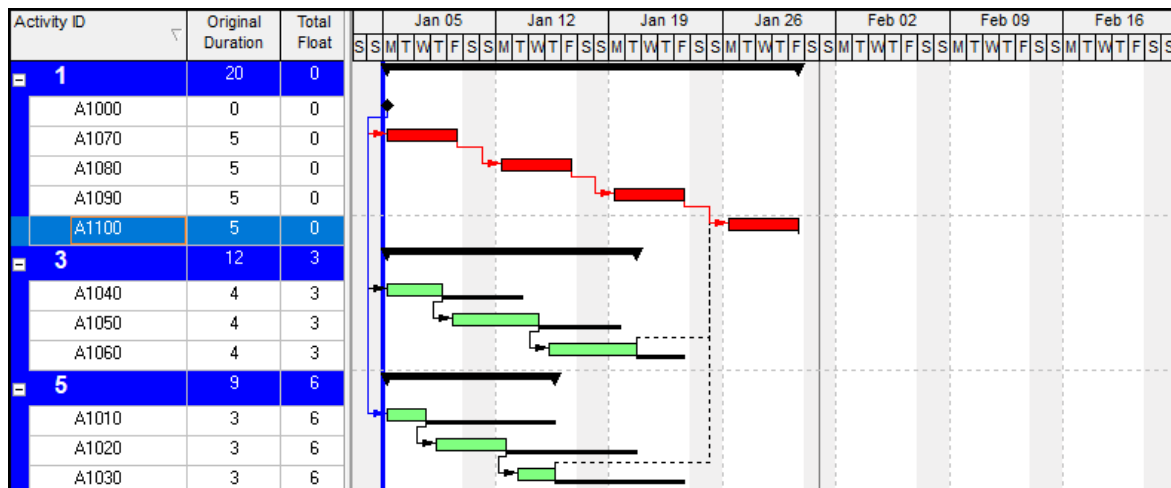
- Activities on up to 30 activity-driven critical paths, calculated on the forward pass, backward pass, or forward and backward passes (with or without resource leveling).

- 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 I will work through the icons one at a time and explain how the functions work.

The schedule I will work with is as per below where Activity A1100 is preceded and succeeded by three chains of events with differing Total Float Values:
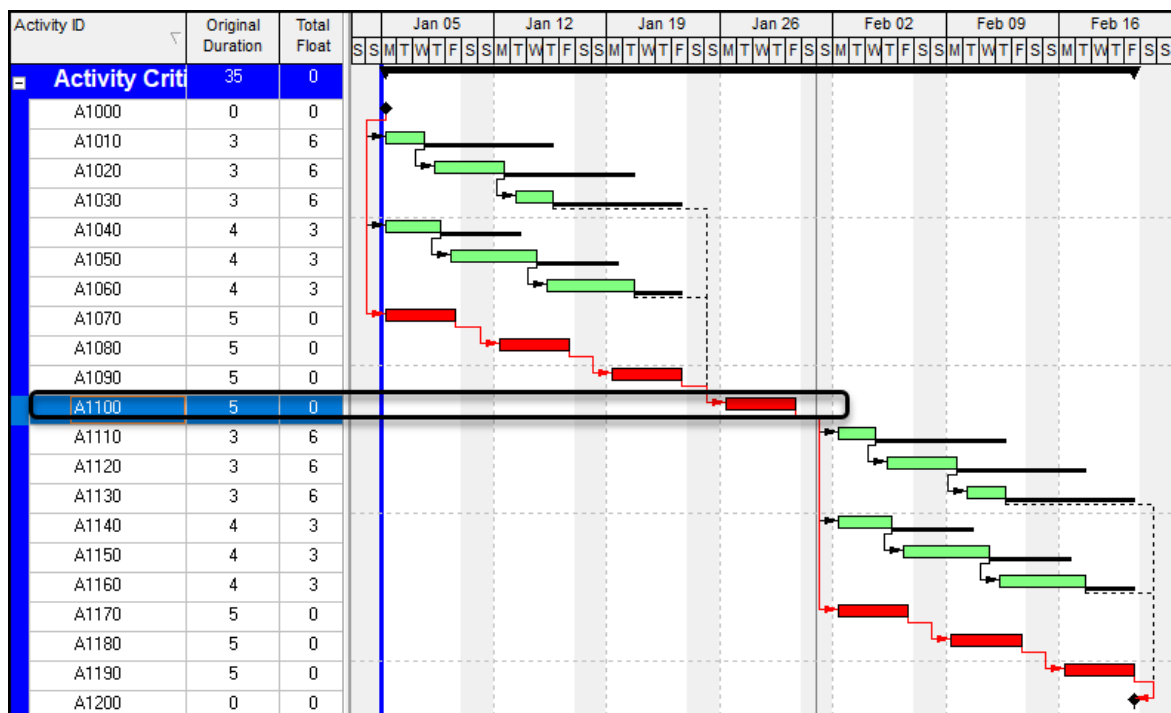
Users should consider using the **Activity Critical Path** function in conjunction with the **Float Path Order** function to provide a clear view of what is happening.

Command	Function
Backward Activity Critical Path	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**.
	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.
Forward Activity Critical Path	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 lease amount of float to the end of the project and display this 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 Critical Path	This option displays the chain of events before and after a selected activity that has the least amount of Float
	Thus, the picture below shows both the **Forward Activity Critical Path** and **Backward Activity Critical Path** from Activity A1100.
Increase Maximum Multiple Critical Path Counts	This increases the value of the **Maximum Multiple Critical Path Counts** which is displayed in the button below.

2 **Maximum Critical Path Count**	This displays the number of **Maximum Critical Paths** that has been set by the user. Selecting one **Maximum Critical Path Count:** Selecting two **Maximum Critical Path Count:** Selecting three **Maximum Critical Path Count:** Thus, this command determines how many chains of events you wish to see, consider also using the **Float Path Order** here.
Decrease Maximum Multiple Critical Path Counts	This decreases the value of the **Maximum Multiple Critical Path Counts** which is displayed in the button above.
Select Maximum Multiple Critical Path Counts	This opens a form allowing the setting of the **Maximum Multiple Critical Path Counts**:
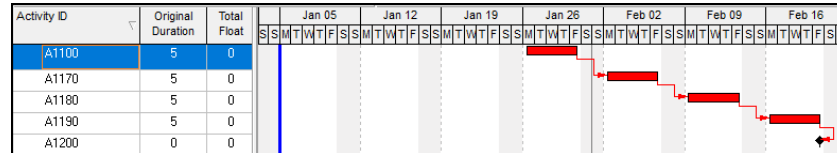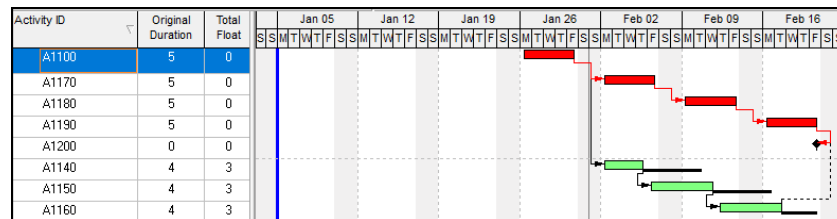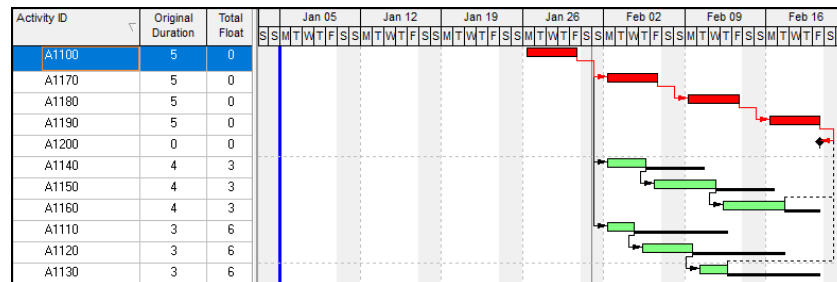
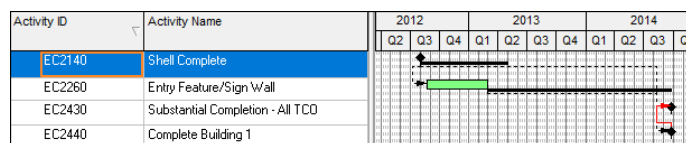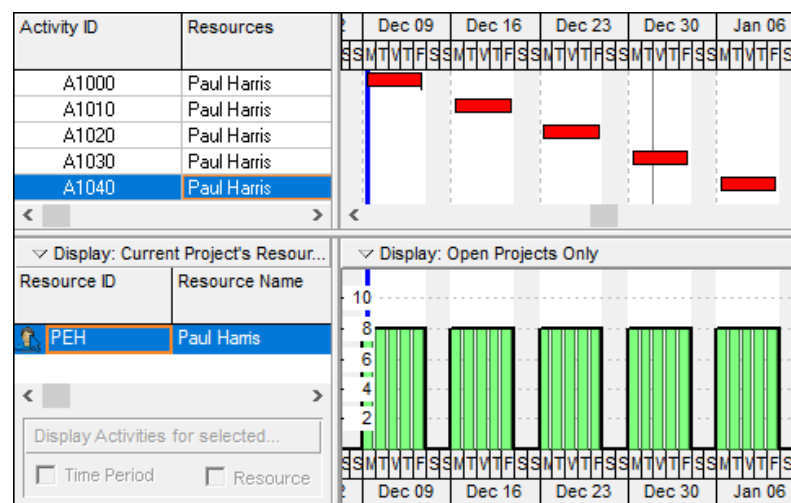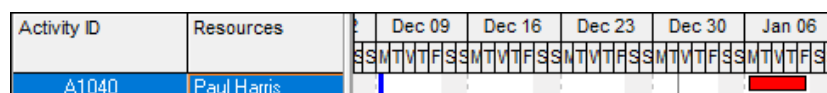|	
Enable Group and Sort	Clicking this button hides and displays the current applied **Group and Sort bands**. Hiding the bands enables the user to see the chain of events as an uninterrupted single chain of activities: **Group and Sort** enabled: **Group and Sort** disabled: This single Float Path is not on the critical path.
Backward Resource Driven Critical Path	The schedule below has no relationships between activities and have been levelled. When selecting A1040 and **Backward Activity Critical Path** you will see the result below: When selecting A1040 and **Backward Resource Driven Critical Path** you will see the result below:
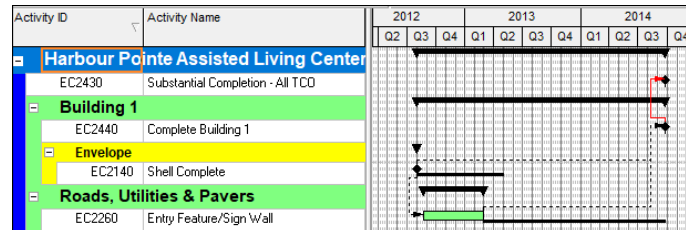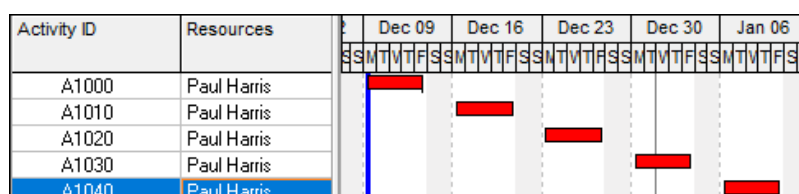
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