

## Gantt vs Pert (Network)

Microsoft Project (and other PM software) has a seldom-used feature to enter projects. Using the Pert (Network) view can make projects easier to estimate and control. Listed are the plusses and minuses of each entry technique.

### **Gantt Positives**

Echoes the WBS

Good display for presentations

Shows direct phases and/or functions

Easier entry - type from WBS and indent

Software set up to provide easy entry - tool bar has several different mechanisms

Gives Sr. mgmt, etc. a warm fuzzy

Conventional top-down approach

Taught by all PM software schools

Shows work in top-down format

Auto number of WBS with indents

### **Gantt Negatives**

Not auto feed to Network

Hard to manipulate and change network

Builds logic "in head"

No software can create logic without asking PM questions

Clumsy entry for predecessors and successors

Critical Path hard to discern

Predecessor/Successors may not be accurate

Float and buffers may not be accurate

Network created by software fills multiple pages and has lines drawn all over

May not have true project logic

May not have good baseline

May not have milestones

Resource/costs may not show contentions or over allocation

Schedules have to be finessed or massaged to reflect actuals

Date changes and actuals may not impact successors

May not have accurate Earned Value

Taught by all PM Software schools

### **Network Positives**

Develops logic

Accurate Critical Path (automatically generated)

Accurate Gantt (automatically created)

Changes on network automatically reflected on Gantt and vice versa

Accurate link of scheduling and costs

"The" tool for SCC

All PM software handles easily

Allows team participation in building

- Better buy-in for impacts
- Accurate baseline
- Accurate cumulative curves
- Provides set-up for tracking and monitoring actuals
- Still have WBS - at the work package level
- Shows all work in a logical flow
- Allows addition of Project Management, Reserves, Profit
- Allows addition of Milestones, lag, other relationships (FF, SS)
- Accurate Earned Value
- Enables use of Critical Chain and Theory of Constraints (TOC)
- Resource and cost entries show accurate contentions and over allocation
- No manual calculation of Network necessary
- Shows work from project perspective

### **Network Negatives**

- Looks ugly
- Requires extra amount of work to create
- Numbering scheme is from 1 to N (N = number of tasks)
- Have to develop on paper first
- No WBS format
- No formal printing of WBS
- WBS is at work package level only
- Not taught any where
- Have to click and drag forever
- Requires paradigm shift
- Have to add extra fields for phases/functions