

PLANWISE Project Planning

Planning and control of scarce capacity

Many project organizations are capacity driven. When making their project plans, it is important that they monitor the project lead-times. On the other hand, the scarce resources, which are used simultaneously by the projects, are bottlenecks. This makes the planning so complicated that the planner is already satisfied if he finds an acceptable solution. Insight into the key performance indicators (KPIs) is often not available; controlling them is even more difficult. Do you recognize these problems? There is a lot to gain then by using optimal planning. PLANWISE offers you the required support.

The traditional approach: time driven planning

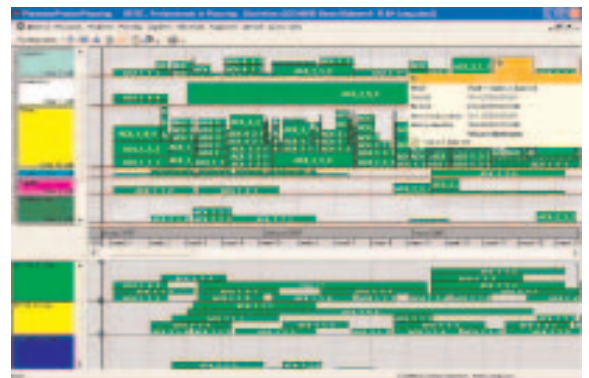
Most planners make their project plans using fixed lead-times. The multi-project plan simply originates from joining the single-project plans. This approach is, however, extremely unsuitable if you want to use your scarce resources effectively and efficiently. The need of scarce resources is then a result of time driven planning and not related to the resource availability. Because of this, controlling the KPIs is nearly impossible. Moreover, this approach leads to expensive or even infeasible plans. The availability of required resources, namely, defines mainly the costs and feasibility.

Our vision: top down and capacity driven planning

The key issue of planning in a capacity driven multi-project organization is the optimal assignment of available capacity to the projects. In doing this, one has to account for time restrictions, for example stemming from arrangements with customers or subcontractors. An optimal assignment is only achieved by considering the total project portfolio. The capacity needs to be assigned globally and top down and, subsequently, worked out in detail and succeeded for each project. This top-down approach gives you the possibility to really control your KPIs instead of only measuring them. The results are feasible, cheaper, and better plans, cost control, and a better delivery performance.

Our approach: bottom-up implementation

Top-down planning means, however, a different vision and requires a different approach, and therefore a different organization. This seems to be a big step. The implementation of this new vision is nevertheless mainly a long term objective. Gradually implementing the new way of planning is therefore possible. The appropriate data on the capacity requirements of each project is of crucial importance. This facilitates the first step in the planning process: Optimizing the separate project and department plans.



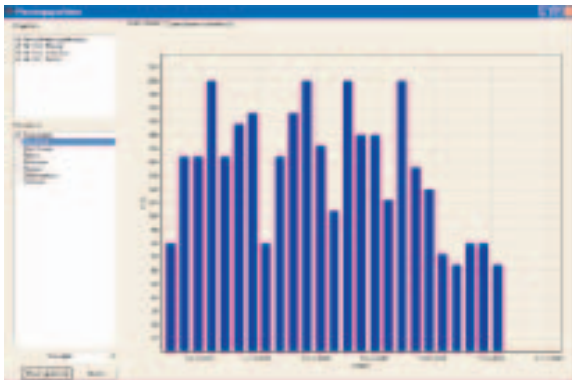
Monitoring and control of logistic and financial KPIs

For the monitoring and control in this first phase, it is important to define and measure the right KPIs. Both financial and logistic KPIs are important. If the project and department plans are available, PLANWISE Project Planning assembles these in a multi-project report. If you also portray realizations, the planner can improve the quality and reliability of the separate plans. You gain insight and in this way a natural stepping stone arises to true multi-project planning.

Portfolio management:

from being planned to really planning

If the input data are of sufficient quality and the appropriate KPIs have been defined, the step to a top-down assignment of scarce resources can be made. On this level, the complete project portfolio is managed. Portfolio management offers your organization the ability to analyze the impact of new projects, to correctly prioritize in case of bottlenecks, to timely cater for mid-term capacity requirements, and to take care of possible disturbances. You do not have to try to manage the separate project plans as good as possible, but you can determine yourself what happens in the project portfolio.



Optimization pays

What is the pay off of optimization? Often a lot. Some typical examples of the most relevant KPIs are:

- Leadtime: reduction of 20-40%
(on a leadtime of about 50 weeks)
- Utilization rate: increase of 10-40%
(on a work content van about 26,000 hours);
- Use of irregular capacity: reduction of 20-80%
(on about 1,600 irregular hours).

These improvements are realized by considering the total project portfolio, instead of planning the project one by one using priorities.

Planning support

PLANWISE Project Planning has been developed to support portfolio management. Initially, by using PLANWISE, the planner is able to compile and monitor the separate plans, in order to get insight into the planning and the quality of the planning data. Subsequently, PLANWISE offers functionality for true multi-project planning. Powerful optimization modules with various possibilities to optimize different KPIs support this process.

PLANWISE Project Planning offers:

- More grip on the future
- Reliable agreements on costs and delivery times
- Excellent management information
- Optimization of financial and logistic KPIs
- Top-down planning
- Step by step implementation
- Simplicity and flexibility

About ORTEC

ORTEC is the largest provider of optimization (operations research) technology and decision support solutions in Europe. Founded in 1981, ORTEC currently boasts both United States and European headquarters in addition to several more offices worldwide. ORTEC has many years of experience in the Transportation and Logistics domain successfully developing and implementing complex, high-level decision support solutions, which continues to be ORTEC's primary focus.

More information

If you require more information, please contact us for an appointment with no obligation. Our professionals gladly let you get acquainted with our (advanced) planning software and related services.

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