

#	Question	Answer
1	Can you provide examples of Redundant Logic?	Where most prevelant, summary schedule is built, then at a later date more detail is added while the summary data remains, all converging on the same finish date. Put another way, a link from Activity A to Activity C is made redundant by an existing link from Activity A to Activity B and another one from Activity B to Activity C.
2	What are the most common mistakes when expecting to use a project schedule for a risk model?	Most common mistakes are open ends and logic links containing lags. Also, generally the hardest element for the Risk Specialist to repair since that person generally isn't the scheduler working the schedule daily.
3	Whats a good rule of thumb for ratio of critical to non-critical?	A good schedule should contain in the range of 15 to 20% critical. Any more than that, its either a tight schedule or there is lots of redundant logic
4	Given many schedules are not plug and play to performing the Risk exercise, how much time is needed to clean a file before a schedule would be considered "ready"?	No easy answer, if it is mostly lag relationship problems, not that long but if there are significant amounts of open ends or a lot of redundant logic, it could take a few days of concentrated work and will likely involve members of the project team to validate the changes made are applicable for the given scope. As I stated in the webinar, if these expectations are shared upfront before much detail is built, the easier it will be for the Risk Specialist to use the model given for the purpose.
5	Why does it take so long to clean up what would be expected to be a clean file?	Honestly, if the best practices given to the planning world were followed, it would be easy. Unfortunately, many times, shortcuts are used to produce a schedule to meet a deadline that really doesn't contain the integrity that management expects or the scheduler hasn't been given the basics beyond running the program of choice.

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Is the Risk discipline just another passing fad that will go away?

No, I think with the challenging markets each industry is facing in the economy, I would expect more risk exercises honestly. Project Managers want the best information possible to make educated decisions on where best to invest project money for the betterment of their given company. Risk exercise should inform all project team members the potential risks that could affect cost/schedule and then take ownership and do their part to see these risks are minimized if not eliminated.