

Questions from February 2019 Tech Webinar

Title: Cost Estimating and Budget Forecasting in P6

Presented by: Eric Costantino

#	Question	Answer
1	Will a recording of the webinar be made available?	Yes, we will be distributing a follow up email that will include all questions submitted, a link to the recording of the webinar and copies of the slide presentation.
2	Will attendees be able to submit for PDU's for this webinar?	Yes, attendees of the webinar are eligible for 1 PDU. You can submit through PMI using our provider number #1492
3	Which type of contractors are doing this? I see schedules and I see estimates, but do not typically see cost loaded into P6.	Large Contractors typically have divisions more or less based on industry type of work where they cost and resource load their schedules. Oil & Gas Contractors working on plant shutdowns and turn-arounds typically use it more when the update frequency of the schedule is daily or hourly.
4	I can see the value of this, but when I look into it, I am told by Senior Project Controls people, that they typically keep the cost data separate from the P6 schedule data. What are your thoughts on this scenario?	Some instances, folks may not want to expose their costs and methodologies in their schedule. Other want it all in. Some only want Costs to reside in the accounting systems. When I see and meet individuals who let others deal with the costs and resource planning elsewhere, they simply do not know how all of the functionality of P6 works. We call these "Silos". One wrong setting on an activity and several things can cause people to "Turn Off" from wanting to use it. Primavera P6 is an Enterprise-Wide Management tool. Not just scheduling. A far more efficient project is managed when all 3 elements of Schedule, Cost and Resource are aligned and synced. Furthermore, Securities and structures in P6 are so robust that it allows to "Show or Hide" Costs as needed.
5	Does the calculation mode (Retained Logic vs Progress Override) make a difference in this process?	No. The Duration Types, Percent Complete Types, Drive Activity Dates and other settings do. Retained Logic simply utilizes the logic of the remaining schedule to schedule its finish date. Progress override allows you to update activities out of sequence without knowing the true impact downstream (Which is why I don't recommend it unless used for a milestone schedule or other similar purposes.)

6	Can the Budgeted Cost be spread over the Late Start and Late Finish dates or only over Early Start and Early Finish dates?	Yes! Your resource assignments have separate Start and Finish Dates where you can manually assign them, which is the most detailed method but most accurate. This also requires you to track them intimately. You can also show "Late Remaining Units and Costs" on your resource histogram window as well which is nice to see it automatically in a bar chart. The last method is to shift the physical activity using a free-float reducing constraint essentially shifting the resources and cost to the late dates of the timescale.
7	Would you help a contractor develop this template for their internal use as a tool to "Win more Work"? I have estimates and can get access to P6.	Our services are always available to assist in providing clients with the latest means and methods for Project Management. Thank you for the opportunity. Please feel free to contact us for more information on how we can assist.
8	Does newer versions of P6 allow for import of an estimate from an outside estimating tool? Or what is the process?	Direct Database Integration is the most common method for obtaining estimates directly into P6. If one wanted to setup an export template from P6, you can import individual cost estimates from Excel from your output template.