Questions from November 2015 Tech Webinar

Title: Baseline Schedule Metrics

Presented by: Don McNatty

#	Question	Answer
1	Any tips for refreshing Project Baselines?	By "refreshing" I assume you mean to incorporate additional detail for original scope or adding new detail for new scope.
		For additional detail for original scope it's important that the original activity be retained, turned into a "hammock" that is driven by new detail. In that way, the original activity reflects the detailed work and can still be compared to the Baseline to measure progress.
		For new scope I suggest using the same approach. As an example, we want to add Change Order # 1 to the schedule which reflects work not in the original schedule. I would insert either a summary activity (see above) or a detailed fragnet (with no progress) into the Baseline (Baseline Rev 1) and then incorporate the same activities into the current schedule. The new work would be able to compare to Baseline Rev 1 for performance evaluation.
2	When I perform a field update on a schedule, I prefer to ask for an expected completion date for a Task vs. a Percent Complete. Percent Complete can be subjective depending on whom you get the status from. Thoughts?	I ask for both and see how they compare. The person doing the work may be the best person to estimate the pct. and should be the best to tell you when it will complete. If a 10 day activity is "90%" complete but will not finish for another 8 days, it should initiate some conversation.
3	For Activity Descriptions, do you recommend an 'Action Word' to start the descriptions or maybe a Location/Area to start the description?	I like to use the "what & where" approach. Formwork @ Wall # A100, Install curb from Sat 1+00 to 8+00.

4	Will Check Schedule ever become a part of P6 Pro or only an option in EPPM?	Check Schedule uses webservices and is designed to only run from P6 EPPM. If you have P6 Pro linked to a P6 EPPM deployment you may be able to run Schedule Checker through a web services connection from a Windows instance with P6 Pro, but it's still running in the web
5	Do you find "Standard" Parameters in Acumen Fuse to define Green, Yellow and Red as acceptable in most cases or do you customize them?	Most serious users of the tool develop their own criteria. The base metrics provided in Acumen are a good start but will vary by type of project.
6	Is Claim Digger still supported in P6? Would you please comment on its use?	Yes, it's still there. It's useful to a point. Usually it's too much information and too difficult for non-technical people to understand. I like the summary graphics that many tools including Acumen provide to help communicate the value and impact of a metric to non-technical project team members.
7	Can you go over Best Practices for Deleting/Adding activities in updates while maintaining the validity of the Baseline?	I prefer to never delete unless the scope of work is removed from the project, and then the baseline should be revised to reflect that. As for adding detail I usually make the original activity a hammock (ID is the same, so it can compare to the baseline) that is driven by detailed activities. I always leave room in my activity ID to add a ".01, .02" to the new activities ID's to make them next under the original activity when sorted by ID.
8	Why is it a big deal to delete or change Activity ID's when I do updates.	Well, just as your social security check might have a hard time finding you if you kept changing your SS#, the current schedule can not find anything to compare to in the baseline when the activity ID has been changed in an update. This functionally makes the baseline useless! It's a good trick if you are trying to not be held accountable to the baseline.
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