

CrossLinksPro from ProjectPro

CrossLinksPro is our add-in for Microsoft Project designed for program managers and their support staff. This add-in allows you to create and manage hundreds of cross-project dependencies with MS Project enhancing its 'Links between Projects' feature. As a program manager, you may have experienced one of the following situations:

- In your program, you have built a large schedule in a **single file** (no subproject files) in MS Project, but you found:
 - The single scheduler has too much work maintaining the large schedule with thousands of tasks.
 - The schedule eventually could not be saved to Project Server because the session timed out before it was saved.
 - The central scheduler is too far removed from the subprojects; subproject managers can provide better visibility.

Our solution, **CrossLinksPro**, allows you to divide a large, program schedule into smaller subproject schedules, maintain the dependencies between them and delegate schedule ownership to subproject managers.
- You divided the program schedule into **subproject schedules** and tried Microsoft Project's *Links-between-Projects* feature. You found that:
 - Some cross-project links got lost every week (when people cut & paste tasks).
 - Some cross-project links were duplicated when people clicked File, Save As.
 - Linked schedules opened very slowly, perhaps even 5 minutes.
 - Your master schedule or subproject schedule suddenly got corrupted in Project Server.
 - Your subproject managers complained that the linked schedules are too hard to work with.
 - Sometimes, impacts from other subprojects ended up unintentionally in receiving schedules.
 - Subproject managers accepted impacts into their schedules that you did not want.
 - You have tried to find the Critical Path into a major milestone but found this (too) hard.

CrossLinksPro maintains all cross-project dependencies in a separate Excel file which protects the dependencies fully. Our solution can automatically create all cross-project links when you need them and remove them when you are done. All schedules remain standalone schedules until you need to integrate them for Critical Path analysis. Our other add-in, **PathsPro**, allows you to display the Critical Path into any major milestone, even if the path runs across multiple schedules.

- You tried Microsoft Project's **Deliverables** feature and found that it does not allow you to find Critical Paths in your program schedule.

CrossLinksPro allows Critical Path analysis on any milestone in your program with the help of **PathsPro** which allows you to find any Critical Path in mere seconds. In your weekly meetings, you can then focus on shortening the Critical Paths to compensate for any new slippages you may experience.

Our **CrossLinksPro** solution will put you, the program manager, in control of your program and allows you to deliver your program on time. **CrossLinksPro** fully integrates with Microsoft Project and presents itself as an application on the **Add-in** ribbon in Project 2010:

CrossLinksPro provides a **dashboard** with the agreed upon deliverables that are handed off between the subprojects and their latest forecast dates (see blue column *Provider Finish Date* in screenshot below). CrossLinksPro calculates all remaining *Buffers or Slippages* (last column) automatically:

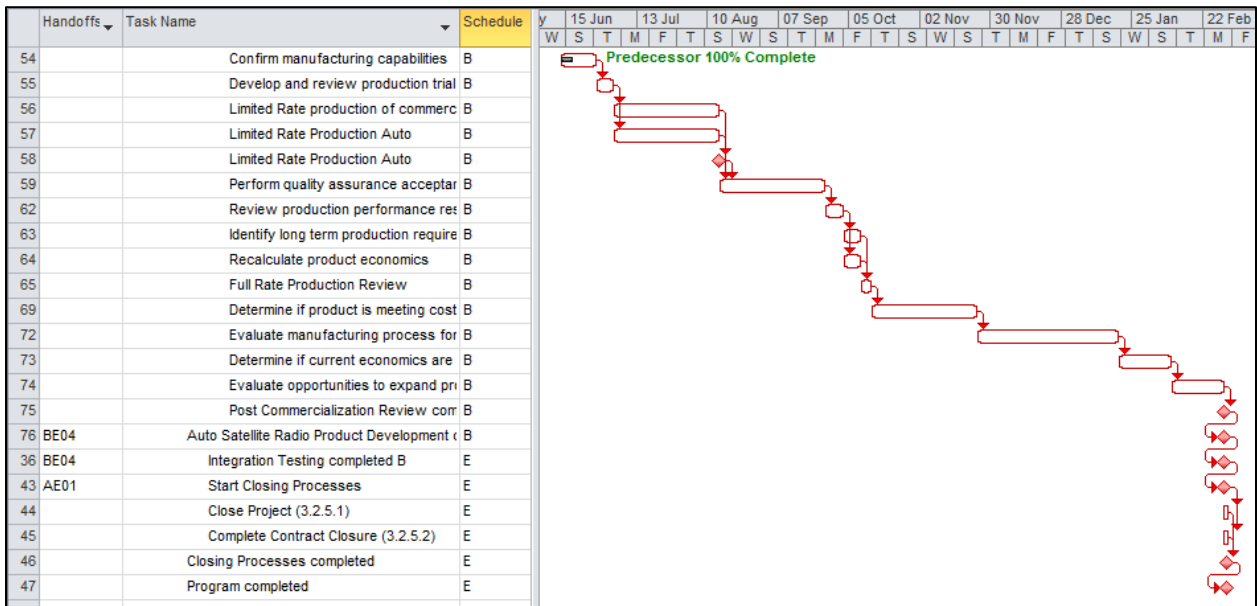
Handoff Code	Provider Schedule Code	Provider Unique ID	Provider Task Name	Provider Percent Complete	Provider Finish Date	Receiver Schedule Code	Receiver Unique ID	Receiver Task Name	Receiver Percent Complete	Receiver Start Date	Critical Handoff	Buffer or Slip in Business Days
AB01	A	46	Planning Phase completed AB	100.00%	21-Jan	B	4	radio characteristics (performance criteria)	0.00%	2-Jan		-14
AC01	A	45	Planning Phase completed AC	100.00%	21-Jan	C	80	radio characteristics (performance criteria)	0.00%	2-Jan		-14
AD01	A	44	Planning Phase completed AD	100.00%	21-Jan	D	81	satellite radio characteristics	0.00%	2-Jan		-14
BE01	D	151	Product Development completed	0.00%	25-Feb	E	38	Integration Testing completed D	0.00%	11-Mar		0
CE01	C	102	Development Stage completed Marine	100.00%	26-Mar	E	52	integration round 1 Dev Stage C	0.00%	25-Jan		0
CE03	C	123	Pilot Stage completed Marine	100.00%	28-May	E	54	integration round 1 Pilot Stage C	0.00%	9-Feb		0
DE03	B	71	Auto Satellite Radio Product Development completed	0.00%	2-Mar	E	61	Integration Testing completed B	0.00%	11-Mar		7
AE01	B	62	Full Rate Production Auto Pilot Stage completed	0.00%	13-Oct	E	57	integration round 1 Commerce Stage B	0.00%	24-Feb		96
DE04	B	46	Pilot Stage completed Auto	100.00%	2-Jun	E	55	integration round 1 Pilot Stage B	0.00%	9-Feb		180

The way our solution works is that **CrossLinksPro** creates the cross-project links in an automated fashion, therewith converting a master schedule into an integrated master schedule. You can then find the program Critical Path and optimize

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the program. CrossLinksPro can then replace all cross-project links again with Start-No-Earlier-Than dates which makes the schedules standalone to hand back to the subproject managers. Standalone schedules open fast, allow working and updating offline. CrossLinksPro protects the dependencies 100% in an Excel file. Our solution, CrossLinksPro, will provide you with the following **benefits**:

1. CrossLinksPro **empowers** program managers with a dashboard of all handoffs and their latest forecast finish dates. CrossLinksPro allows program managers to monitor the health of their program confidently and even project its health into the future with trend analysis (through milestone-accomplishment or buffer-consumption trends).
2. CrossLinksPro is **easy-to-use** and makes life easy for everyone; subproject managers can continue working with standalone schedules, which they like. Program managers enjoy all benefits of an integrated schedule without the inherent problems and slowness of linked schedules!
3. CrossLinksPro **protects** all cross-project links 100%, so they do not mysteriously disappear or get duplicated.
4. CrossLinksPro allows you to open schedules **very fast** since they are all standalone schedules! CrossLinksPro will not bloat subproject files and will allow subprojects to be saved to the Project Server database, guaranteed.
5. CrossLinksPro allows program managers to see the **Critical Path** of any major milestone as shown in the screen shot below. You can then optimize the Critical Path across projects so you can meet deadline dates:



ProjectPro Corp specializes in scheduling of Integrated Master Schedules (IMS) with Microsoft Project as well as in improving the scheduling maturity of all schedule owners involved in the program. We help you deliver your programs on time, every time!

For an online demo or for more info, please contact **ProjectPro**; call **613-692-7778** or email **Sales@ProjectProCorp.com**

Buy our add-in CrossLinksPro at www.ProjectProCorp.com