

Seavus Project Planner

Plan it Your Way!

Data Sheet

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Introduction

This data sheet provides technical overview of the Seavus Project Planner, and provides technical description of its features and functions.

Seavus Project Planner is a desktop application that is used for creating project plans with main purpose to give project managers full overview of the project plan flow as well as overview of the resource's assignments.

It is a stand alone application that allows project managers to create project plans, assign resources and track the progress of the project according the project management theory. Seavus Project Planner is a step forward in the direction of Project Management and Enterprise Project Management (EPM).

Seavus Project Planner is aimed to be a replacement for Microsoft® Project and Microsoft® Project Web Access as it provides similar functionalities available in these Microsoft's applications and much more. Being a standalone application with powerful graphical display functionality similar to the display of Microsoft® Project's Professional application, Seavus Project Planner can enable the team members and enterprise project professionals to have a powerful project tool that outperforms the Microsoft® Project Web Access in many ways and works in a similar Microsoft® Project Professional interface, but for a very affordable price.

FEATURES AT A GLANCE

CREATING TASKS

Tasks are one of the main elements in the project. Depending in which view the user is working, tasks can have different graphical representation: bars in Gantt Chart, Milestone Rollup, Milestone Data Rollup and Calendar and boxes in Network Diagram, Descriptive Network Diagram and Relationship Diagram.

The purpose of this feature is to allow user to create tasks from different parts of the application.

You can create Tasks:

- from Gantt Table
- in Gantt Chart
- in the other Task Category Views

INSERTING RESOURCES

Resources are the second basic element of the project plan. They can be classified into two categories: Work (human resources) and Material (equipment, money, etc.).

The purpose of this feature is to allow user to insert resources from different parts of the application.

You can insert Resources:

- in the Resource Sheet view
- in the Resource form
- in the Resource Name form
- from Task Category views

CREATING ASSIGNMENTS

Tasks and Resources create Assignments, which are the final stage of the project's creation. The assignments can be created from several views in SPP.

You can create Assignments:

- from Gantt Chart
- from Task form
- from Task Name form
- from Task Detail form

SUPPORTED FILE FORMAT

Seavus Project Planner saves the created plans in .SPP file format, which is the native file format for this application.

MASTER PROJECT

Seavus Project Planner supports inserting other projects (sub-projects) within your existing project (Master project).

RESOURCE POOL

You can create shared resource pool from the resources in your project and use them as resources in other projects so you can have precise information regarding their allocation.

IMPORTING FILES

With the Seavus Project Planner, beside the original native .spp file format, you can also import projects created in Microsoft Project (.mpp) and Microsoft XML files (.xml).

The Import option is located under File menu. After selecting this option, new dialog window will open, where the user can browse the appropriate file.

GOOGLE APPS INTEGRATION

Seavus Project Planner integrates with Google Apps, allowing users to collaborate and share project information between them. The uploaded project files are stored in Google Doc making them available while working in your office, at home or while you are on the road.

PROGRAM OPTIONS

Gives you configuration options for Seavus Project Planner as well as for the currently opened project file. It can be accessed through the Options command on the Tools menu and it contains four tabs: General, View, Calendar and Calculation.

QUICK BARS

These options are designed to help you when working only with your keyboard. By using these options you can gain quick and easy access to most common used options with using the function keys. Navigation is done with the arrow keys. You can access from the Quick Bars by pressing Esc.

- Views quick bar can be accessed from F3 function key
- Standard quick bar can be accessed from F4 function key
- Structuring quick bar can be accessed from F5 function key

COMBINED VIEWS

Combined views is option that enables displaying of two views at the same time. The bottom pane view shows detailed information about the tasks or resources in the top pane view. Combination views can be created in Seavus Project Planner by using the Split action on the Window menu. Alternatively, you can activate the combined view functionality by dragging the split bar up, as shown on the figure below, which can be found in the bottom down corner of the application window, between the horizontal and vertical scrollbars.

TIMESCALE AND ZOOM

Some views, such as the Gantt Chart, have a timescale at the top. For the moment, the timescale in Seavus Project Planner displays two tiers: a top tier and a bottom tier.

Currently, there are three levels of zoom in Seavus Project Planner:

- Top tier shows days, Bottom shows hours.
- Top tier shows weeks, Bottom shows days (default zoom level).
- Top tier shows months, Bottom shows weeks.

LAYOUT FORMATTING

In some views (Chart based views and Network Diagram based views), Seavus Project Planner enables you to change the layout of the chart, i.e. the bars/boxes laid out in the chart/diagram portion of the view. You can change the layout options for the active view usually by using right-clicking on the bar or the diagram node for the corresponding view and choosing Format Bar or Box option, depending on the current view.

FORMATTING CHART BARS

In any of the Gantt Chart views, you can change the layout options of the bars for the active view in Seavus Project Planner. You can open the Format Bar dialog by right-clicking on the bar and choosing Format Bar option.

FORMATTING DIAGRAM BOXES

In any of the Network Diagram views, you can change the layout options of the diagram boxes (nodes) for the active view in Seavus Project Planner. You can open the Format Box dialog by right-clicking on the box (node) and choosing Format Box option.

FORMATTING COLUMN INFORMATION

Column layout can be also formatted. You can initialize the Column Settings Dialog from the Format menu, by choosing Column Settings option.

INFORMATION DIALOGS

Seavus Project Planner provides the option to quickly review the scheduling option and other information about the project, tasks, resources, and assignments through the various information dialogs available in the application.

Following information dialogs are available: Task Information, Resource Information, Project Statistics and Assign Resource Dialog.

The information dialogs can be opened directly by double-clicking the selected task or resource, or for opening Task Information and Task Notes from the Project menu and the Standard toolbar.

PRINTING

To manage a project effectively, you may need to communicate project information to a variety of people. With Seavus Project Planner, you can print views and reports that present the exact information you want.

The process of printing the information you need can be as simple as clicking a button or as refined as customizing and previewing the existing views.

STRUCTURING OPTIONS

These options are very helpful for better organizing of your project so the entered information can be more readable and project its self easier to navigate.

The Structure options you can access from the Project menu, Structure sub-menu or directly from the toolbars by clicking the options icons. With them you can: Indent and Outdent selected task, Show or Hide Subtasks.

OUTLINING

Seavus Project Planner supports up to 17 outline levels.

SUMMARY TASKS

In order to make visible representation of a group of tasks with specific requirements, user is separating them from other tasks with summary task. The purpose of the feature is to allow the user to create summary task in SPP.

Creation of summary task is possible from the Gantt Chart view by using the indent-outdent feature. The summary task will be created by selecting the tasks under the task that is going to be summary and clicking on the icon for the "Indent" feature.

To transform the summary task into ordinary task, user can select the summary task and click on the outdent icon. You can also create summary task for several sub-summary tasks.

CHANGING WORKING TIME

Having a flexible project working time is essential for creating proper assignments to your team members. The Change Working Time dialog in Seavus Project Planner enables you to modify existing predefined calendars or create your own new calendar that will meet all your needs.

This dialog is located under the Tools menu.

TASK DEPENDENCES

When one task cannot start before another finishes, we say that those tasks are linked - dependent. The first task that needs to finish is called predecessor, while the task that comes after is called successor.

With Seavus Project Planner you are also able to create task dependences between two or more tasks.

SEARCH OPTIONS

These options are presented through the following choices in the Edit menu: Find, Replace and Go To.

USER INTERFACE STYLES

In order to make Seavus Project Planner User interface more interesting, we have applied five different styles that are available to you in the View menu, Style sub-menus.

CREATE BASELINE

This is a wizard that can be found in the Tools menu and with it you can create New Base line from current project, Change current Base line or Return to previously saved Base line

You can create unlimited number of BaseLines.

LICENSE DEACTIVATION

If you are planning to replace or format your PC and you want to move your previously activated Seavus Project Planner to your new PC or to another machine, you will need to deactivate your license first so you can re-use it on your new PC.

FEATURES LIST

Feature	Description
Application type	Stand-alone desktop application for creating project plans.
Supported file format	SPP - native Seavus Project Plan file format
Importing	Support for importing project plan from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microsoft® Project MPP • Microsoft® Project XML
Views	Main Views: Calendar, Gantt Chart, Network Diagram, Resource Graph, Resource Sheet, Task Usage, Resource Usage More Views: Relationship Diagram, Descriptive Network Diagram, Task Sheet, Milestone Rollup, Milestone Date Rollup Forms: Task Details, Task Form, Task Name, Resource Form, Resource Name
Reports	General: Project Info, Critical Tasks, Milestones, Working Weeks, Milestones Present Activities: Unstarted Tasks, Tasks In Progress, Completed Tasks Assignments: Who Does What, Who Does What When, To Do List Costs: Earned Value, Budget
Tables	Task: Cost, Entry, Hyperlink, Schedule, Summary, Tracking, Usage, Variance, Work Resource: Cost, Entry, Hyperlink, ProjectOffice.net, Summary, Usage, Work
Filters	Task: All Tasks, Task Range, By Resource, Completed Tasks, Incomplete Tasks, Critical Tasks, Summary Tasks, Milestones Tasks, Date Range, Tasks with Attachments Resource: All Resources, Overallocated Resources, Work Resources, Material Resources, Attached Resources
Groups	Task: Complete and Incomplete, Critical, Duration, Milestones, No Group, Priority Resource: No Group, Resource Type Group
Project Statistics	Displays information about project's: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current status • Duration • BaseLine • Actual Work • Actual Cost

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remaining Work • Remaining Cost • Variance • Percentage complete
Customizable Forms	<p>Available in Customizable Forms toolbar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entry Dialog • Cost Dialog • Work Dialog • Tracking Dialog • Link Dialog
Tracking	<p>Available in Tracking Toolbar to enter predefined %complete:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Now (to current date and time) • 0 % • 25 % • 50 % • 75 % • 100 %
Printing	<p>Complete support for printing, along with print preview and page setup options for all views and reports.</p> <p>Page Setup dialog options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page settings: orientation, scaling (adjust to N% normal size, or fit to N pages wide by M pages tall), First Page Number, Paper Size • Margins: Top, Bottom, Left, Right • Header settings: alignment of the text (left, center, right), insert page number, total pages, date, time, file name. • Footer settings: alignment of the text (left, center, right), insert page number, total pages, date, time, file name • View settings: Show borders, Print Notes, Print Legend
Outlining	Seavus Project Planner supports up to 17 outline levels
Task Operations	<p>Seavus Project Planner supports the following task operations:</p> <p>Link Task</p> <p>Unlink Task</p> <p>Split Task</p> <p>Outdent Task</p> <p>Indent Task</p>
Find&Replace and	Complete support for searching through any task or

Go To	<p>resource fields and replacing of text.</p> <p>Go To functionality supports positioning directly to a task (by ID), to a location on the timeline (by date).</p>
Zoom	<p>3 levels available:</p> <p>Top tier: Months, Bottom tier: Weeks</p> <p>Top tier: Weeks, Bottom tier: Days</p> <p>Top tier: Days, Bottom tier: Hours</p>
Fonts and background formatting	<p>Available font formatting (choose font, size, style, color), paragraph aligning, choosing cell background color</p>
Resizing columns and rows	<p>Any table can be resized by dragging the row/column/tier separator in the desired direction.</p> <p>Table columns can be auto-sized to adjust to the contents of the field by double-clicking on the column separator.</p>
Information dialogs	<p>Seavus Project Planner implements the following information dialogs:</p> <p>Task Information</p> <p>Resource Information</p> <p>Project Statistics</p> <p>Assign Resource Dialog</p>
Program options	<p>The following configuration options can be changed in Seavus Project Planner:</p> <p>Spell checking and dictionaries</p> <p>Date format (for displaying dates)</p> <p>Default topmost view</p> <p>Default bottom view</p> <p>Default Start and End working time of the day</p> <p>Hours per day</p> <p>Hours per week</p>

	<p>Days per month</p> <p>Project calendar</p> <p>Default fixed costs accrual</p> <p>Leveling calculation options</p> <p>Currency options (symbol, decimal digits, and placement)</p> <p>Number of decimal digits</p>
Combined views	<p>Support for creating combined views in Seavus Project Planner by splitting the window in two panes, each containing a different view, where the bottom pane view shows detailed information about the tasks or resources in the top pane view</p>
Online help	<p>An extensive and modern help manual, integrated with the application. It provides reference information for the features, along with overviews and best use scenarios for using a particular view or functionality.</p>
Check for Updates	<p>A Live Update system, which ensures that the application is kept up to date with all new features and updates.</p>

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

To use the Seavus Project Planner to create your Seavus Project Planner files (.spp) you will need the following:

Processor

- Intel® Pentium-grade or higher, or Athlon Processor.

Operating System

- Microsoft Windows 7
- Microsoft Windows Vista
- Microsoft Windows 2000 Professional/Server
- Microsoft Windows XP Professional/Home
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003
- Microsoft Windows Server 2008

Memory

- Minimum of 512MB of RAM (higher recommended)

Hard Disk

- Minimum of 150MB of available hard-disk space

Display

- SVGA (800 × 600) or higher-resolution monitor

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