

Master Project Advice

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I need some assistance in understanding how best to use Master Projects in a Project Server 2003 environment. My goal is not to publish the Master Project but to have the sub-plans reflect the overall work in progress. I have five projects that are part of a program. I have created cross project links between the plans to reflect critical touch points. This will reflect changes to schedule if one of the linked plans slips; however, I have an executive that wants to see the full view of the critical path across the five projects in one view.

I have created a Master Project by inserting the Enterprise projects and I have selected the Unlink and Read Only options during the Insert process. I have then saved the Master Project as an .mpp off line. What I am seeing is the links that I created originally are duplicated; one references the sub-plan task (my original link) and a second for the Master Project I created. I'm not sure I want this duplicate linkage but can live with it if no one sees an issue with it.

I was thinking about saving this Master to server but not publish it. This would give my executive his view into the overall critical path while allowing the sub-plans to remain as sub plans. His overall desire is to create one project for the entire program. This would create a project of well over 3,000 tasks and a resource pool of over 75. I am really concerned about Project's ability to support such a large plan. To reduce overall size of a combined project, I would have to cut out detail in the sub plans which could result in a loss in our ability to manage the project. Any thoughts on a strategy on this are appreciated.

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John