

Re: Assessing Costs in MS Project 2000

Source: <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Project/microsoft.public.project/2007-07/msg00267.html>

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 - *Date:* Sat, 14 Jul 2007 19:14:14 +0800
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John has just about said it all, or offered a solution for each of your issues... but ..

It's worth keeping the rules in mind so you don't find yourself working against the software.

Fixed costs are the way they are regarding the (non) rollup.

They are useful for adding costs to a Task or a Summary which do not arise from Resources or depend on Duration. But they are not for everything.

Work Type Resources always end up expressed as Work hours.

Material Type Resources don't.

Sometimes it is useful to make a Resource a Material type Resource, even though it is strictly not just a "Material", such as a supply and install subcontractor to prevent

My VBA is just about non-existent, so I have to accept that a separation/dissection of labour and material costs in the Gantt Chart View is just out of reach.

But the data is still available in other forms such as Task Usage and Resource Usage Views, Reports, and especially Groups and Filters.

In the Resource Sheet, and Grouping by Work Vs Material, with the Resources Cost Table pretty much gets us there, doesn't it?

And all this is built-in functionality without resort even to custom fields and functions and formulae.

Fluid and constant switching between Views and Tables, and creating and editing them, and same for Filters, Groups and Reports, is pretty much essential.

Keeping this neat requires some housekeeping discipline.

It's also possible to just make a separate version or versions of the project file with all of the Material Resources, or any selection of Resources, just deleted from the Resources Sheet, leaving the cost of what's left.

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"DGD" <ddubowski@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:1184370476.106307.228720@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

I am laying out a project plan and am trying to determine a few things. First, I would like to get a roll up of the labour costs

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associated with a project. I have added an additional column and assigned the "Cost" field to it. This is the only way to list the costs of the project that I can find. The problem that I have is that the "cost" field appears to be pre-programmed to calculate total costs, meaning the sum of resources and fixed costs allocated to a task. I want to be able to assign resource costs to a user configurable field, like "cost1, cost2, etc" but the resource costs never appear when I try this. They seem to only be programmed to appear in the "cost" field, and given that it is pre-programmed to add both resource and fixed costs, trying to separate the two costs is really problematic.

When I use the fixed cost column, I can never get the fixed costs to roll up to get a summary, regardless of level. They are there in the task row, but just won't roll up to higher level tasks or the top summary line. Don't understand what going on here.

The third problem I am having is trying to allocate daily expenses. For instance, on a trip there are \$200/day per diem I want to assign for the duration of the trip. If the trip was 6 days long, I would allocate 600% of the per diem rate to generate a cost of \$1,200 dollars. The resource called "per diem" has a \$200/use identified in the resource sheet. It totals up the numbers nicely, but for some reason, it also allocates 6 days of work in the "work" column, skewing my level of effort numbers. I can treat them as fixed costs, but it is a pain to go in and get to the tables to enter fixed costs. If I change the length of the trip, I have to go to 2 different places to update the project plan – the resource allocation and the fixed cost tables. Are there any easier ways of doing this?

Any help greatly appreciated.

Doug