

Re: Work vs Actual Work

Source: <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Project/microsoft.public.project/2007-11/msg00325.html>

- *From:* "Mike Glen" <glenATmvps.org>
 - *Date:* Wed, 14 Nov 2007 18:04:57 -0000
-

Hi Jano,

Can't you just set remaining Work to zero?

Mike Glen
Project MVP

JanoV wrote:

Hi John,

thanks for your support, answer and time.

I'm project manager for 15 years, certified 10 years ago. I made a lot of project (mostly for banks) and I implemented project methodology in several companies. So – I'm sure, I understand project methodology like dynamic calculations ...

My question again (if you can answer) is – how correctly mark task finished in MSP?

I found only one way – 100% in field %Completed (such a task is reported in MSP reports like Completed). But value 100% in field %Completed recalculate actual work (it's non-acceptable). Change work to actual work recalculate Duration (it's non-acceptable).

Example task:

- Duration 4 days
- Actual duration 4 days
- Work (planned, baselined) 8 hours
- Actual work 5 hours.

How to finish this task without losing information about Actual work?

That's all ...

Regarding support from Microsoft – I asked local Microsoft support – no satisfied answer. That's why I'm trying discussion.

Thank you very much.

Re: Work vs Actual Work

JanoV

â?zJohn" napÃ-sal (napÃ-sala):

In article

<0A7CBC0B-CC11-4430-BB55-B756EF55729E@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>,

JanoV <JanoV@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Hi John,

thanks for your answer.

My question is stupid simple – how to correctly complete task

(%Completed=100%) without losing information about entered actual

work, that should be different from Work. I didn't find any usefull

information in help, nor in discussion.

But I agree with you – using MSP is big mistake ...

Implemented

logic of calculation is incomprehensible for most of users.

And

real support doesn't exist.

Thanks for your time.

JanoV

JanoV,

You have to realize that the value you input to the Work field is only an estimate. You won't know what the actual work value is until the task is finished. The same is true of start and finish dates.

That's why Project resets the estimated values to equal the actual values when a task is complete. It takes your current plan and aligns it with reality. That results in more a more realistic plan for the tasks yet to be complete. If you want to preserve the original estimates for comparison or earned value, you set a baseline. That's basic project management.

Project is not a quick study type application. To use it effectively, the user first needs to understand project management principals. Then the user needs to learn how Project implements and work within those principals. Unfortunately a fair number of new users start using Project based on preconceived but incorrect ideas of how it should work. Then they become very frustrated because the application doesn't work the way they think it should.

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As far as support, if you are looking for support of your ideas on how the application should work, then no, it doesn't exist. This forum exists to help users learn how to use Project correctly and effectively.

John
Project MVP

Re: "John" napÃ-sal (napÃ-sala):

In article

<F3C24950-AFCB-4961-82FF-6FC888FED7BD@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>,

JanoV

<JanoV@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

wrote:

Hi Joe,

you're right. Update the "Remaining Work" field to zero after updating "Actual Work" field to .25 hrs will mark task 100% (%Completed).

But the problem is this:
- field "Work" is also updated to .25
(Work=Actual Work) - not so

big problem, original planned Work should be stored in baseline
- field "Duration" (and Finish Date) is recalculated
- and this is big problem - all successors can be automatically recalculated and this totally change project plan.

Is there any way how to complete task without recalculation of many fields?

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Thanks

Jan

Jan,

I think you're missing the point of having a dynamic schedule. Tasks rarely start or finish on the original planned dates. That's life. As tasks are completed early or late, the dependent tasks should shift in time accordingly.

There may be some cases where dependent tasks need a conditional link. For example, a particular process can't start in the middle of the day but it also cannot start until a previous task is completed. In that case an appropriate schedule structure must be set up to support both requirements. Or in another case, a fixed amount of time is available during which a task can be completed but the task work effort is not full time. In that case a fixed duration type task might be appropriate.

If for some reason you do not want your schedule to be recalculated based on progress, then you should examine your schedule logic and/or not use Project at all.

John
Project MVP

~Joe"
napf@sal
(napf@sal):

What Julie
is trying to
say is to
update the

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"Remaining
Work"
field to zero
after you
put the .25
hrs. in the
Actual
Work field.
This will
mark the
task
100%.

"GreenMonster"
wrote:

no
matter
what
I
do
the
"Actual
Work"
field
always
populates
with
the
same
value
that
it's
the
"Work"
field
when
I
change
the
%Complete
to
100.

If
I
put
.25h
in
"Actual

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Work"
and
change
"Work"
to
0
hrs,
then
put
the
task
at
100%
complete,
the
Actual
Work
value
changes
to
0.
What
am
I
missing?

"JulieS"
wrote:

Hi
GreenMonster,

Try
setting
the
Actual
Work
to
.25h
and
then
enter
zero
for
the
remaining
work.
When
you
said

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the
task
was
100%
complete,
Project
assumed
it
took
all
4
hours.

I
hope
this
helps.
Let
us
know
how
you
get
along.

Julie
Project
MVP

Visit
<http://project.mvps.org/>
for
the
FAQs
and
additional
information
about
Microsoft
Project

"GreenMonster"
<GreenMonster@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
wrote
in
message
<news:1AB6759C-B153-42E2-8E50-F735E7245555>

I
have

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a
task
with
the
following
info:

Duration
=
1day?
Work
=
4hrs
Start
=
10/16/06
Finish
=
10/16/06

I
completed
the
work
today
(10/11/06)
and
it
took
only
15
mins.

I
put
.25
hrs
in
the
"Actual
Work"
column
and
then
change
the
"%
Complete"
in
the
task
info

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to
100%,
the
"Actual
Work"
then
changes
back
to
4hrs
instead
of
.25hrs.

Why
doesn't
"Actual
Work"
retain
the
.25hrs
that
it
took
to
complete
the
task?