

Project Commander

versus

Microsoft Project



A COMPARISON

PMSC Solutions
6 Whinmoor Way
Silkstone
BARNSELY
South Yorkshire
S75 4JE
01226 792222

Contents

Introduction	3
Cost	4
PMSC service	6
Facility comparison - Summary	7
Facility comparison – Examples	10
Presentation – Task bars	10
Presentation – Layout.....	12
Presentation – Non-working time	14
Reporting – Task progress.....	15
Reporting – Resources	16
Reporting – Costs	18
Export to Excel.....	21
Export to Word and Powerpoint	22
Plan distribution	23

Introduction

Project Commander or Microsoft Project?

Project Commander is recognised as a major competitor, especially in the UK, to Microsoft Project, as a powerful entry level project planning and management tool.

The popularity of Project Commander is based on two things:

- it is so easy to use
- it can be so cost-effective

Cost considerations

Many organisations have saved several thousand pounds when purchasing multiple copies of Project Commander in preference to Microsoft Project.

A large number of companies have now dropped Microsoft Project or not upgraded to the 2003 version. This is due to the high cost of the upgrades themselves, combined with the additional cost of having to upgrade all their PCs in order to run it. Upgrading is cheaper with Project Commander.

For users who need to create files that can be read by Microsoft Project, Project Commander can save files in MPX format.

Construction

Project Commander has been adopted as a low cost standard tool for many major companies, such as Bowmer & Kirkland, McCarthy & Stone, E. Thomas, Midas, Connaught, John Lewis and Crispin & Borst. It is used extensively in parts of certain large groups such as Carillion, Kier, Mowlem, Bryant, Wallis, Amec and Taylor Woodrow. Over 100 local authorities use PMSC software.

Resource planning

The features for resource planning have been rapidly increased over the last few years. This has made Project Commander a more suitable product for organisations needing this facility than Microsoft Project, with superior graphics for resource reporting.

Cost

Over the past 2-3 years, Project Commander's development of new features specifically for planners has far outstripped that in the Microsoft Project Standard version.

To add to this outstanding value, Project Commander has an aggressive discount policy for multiple users and the benefit of a true network version that cuts the price per user dramatically.

Stand-alone licence

Microsoft has continued to increase its prices over the last few years – and Microsoft Project 2003 (standard version) is now selling for over £500 plus VAT at many retail outlets. Project Commander has increased only to £350 plus VAT.

Microsoft appear to be investing much effort into their top end Microsoft Project Server 2003 and Professional version

Multiple stand-alone licences:

Multiple licences of Project Commander have large discounts (as high as 75% for orders of 20; 50% for 5 users) - unlike low discounts from Microsoft for purchasers of low volumes.

Network versions for a small number of users:

Project Commander has a network version that is priced on the number of concurrent users (simultaneous users) rather than on the number of workstations from which it can be accessed.

Example 1 - few users, several workstations

So if for example you have 5 users, but want to have the software loaded on 20 PCs, you would have to pay for:

- Project Commander 5-user licence
- Microsoft Project* 20 copies

*Standard version.

Example 2 - one user at a time on a network

Buy a one concurrent user licence of Project Commander @ just £350 plus VAT. Then anyone on the network can use it provided there is only one person using it at once.

Combined licences:

Project Commander has the flexibility to register and transfer licences between single and network users.

It costs nothing to let people look:

Project Commander's built-in **Project Viewer** is also available by itself, free of charge (on the install CD or from our web site). This is free to distribute internally or to clients so that they can view your Project Commander files without having to purchase a licence. Paid licences are only needed for users that need to update.

With Microsoft Project, you need to purchase a licence just for viewing

Example - several people need to read your output

If you wanted to distribute plans and/or reports to 10 people, either internal or external personnel, you would need:

- Project Commander 10 copies of Project Viewer - free
- Microsoft Project* 10 copies – to be paid for

*Standard version

PMSC service

The approach to customer service is a major differences between the **Project Management Software Centre** (PMSC) and Microsoft.

At PMSC we care greatly about our reputation for quality and about making our customers fully happy with the whole spectrum of our service level - a level which you would expect from a international company many times the size of ours. We are of a size which enables us to care about all our customers from the one man consultancy to the multi million pound turnover clients.

- PMSC only has one main product, Project Commander; it is focussed on project planning.
- **PMSC is a UK based company**, 95% of our business is here, and we offer a high level of commitment to the UK market - where we have a first class reputation for support.
- PMSC has a help line open 18 hours a day (and it is answered by humans - not an electronic messaging system); 99% of all queries are resolved in 2 minutes.
- PMSC has knowledgeable construction software experts on its help desk.
- Any bugs (few are found) are corrected immediately and the client's software updated.
- PMSC offers high quality but relatively low cost training at your offices on a nation-wide basis, using our own dedicated trainers.

Facility comparison - Summary

This chart summarises the main differences between Project Commander and Microsoft Project (standard version). Illustrated examples follow on later pages.

General

Project Commander

Multiple levels of UNDO

WYSIWYG - what you see on screen is printed exactly

Shift project facility – one click to move all or part of the project forwards or backwards in time

Consolidation of individually resourced projects

Reports combining chart and cost/resource graph

Over 50 views

Each view defaults to an appropriate table

A large selection of watermarks on printouts

Facility to insert graphics file/clipart anywhere on page

Microsoft Project

Only one (and on a limited set of functions)

You have to go to Print Preview to display output

Not possible

Resource information can only be consolidated using a resource pool

Not possible

No

No

No watermarks

Not possible

Presentation – Bars

Project Commander

Multiple bars/symbols per line

Colour multiple bars/lines separately

Automatic colouring by resource

Critical path calculation

Risk durations

Sub task colours/text rollup to summary level

Microsoft Project

Nothing more than split bars

Not possible

All bars would need to be coloured manually

Not possible

Not possible

Not possible

Presentation - Layout

Project Commander

Border facility

Task headings

Cell coloring

Numbering of tasks only

User-defined legends

User text at 90° angle

Microsoft Project

Only the basic header/footer

Only summary bar headings

No facility

No facility

No facility

No facility

Presentation - Non-working time

Project Commander

Show weekends and holidays on weekly charts
Show weekend and weekday working on weekly charts
On daily charts exclude non-working days
On hourly charts exclude non-working days

Microsoft Project

Not possible
Not possible
Not possible
Not possible

Progress task reporting

Project Commander

Comparison of actual % to scheduled % progress
Comparison of actual % to baseline % progress
Progress line
Task days ahead/behind

Microsoft Project

No facility
No facility
Not a clear jagged progress line
No facility

Resource reporting

Project Commander

Stacked histograms
Multiple histograms
Combination of chart and resource data
Viewing of tasks by resource

Microsoft Project

No facility
No facility
No facility
No facility

Cost reporting

Project Commander

Combined chart and cost data
Cost totals at bottom of chart
Actual cost vs baseline graph
Resource costs on graph
Progress reporting
Cost per day
Cost analysis

Microsoft Project

Not possible
Not possible
Not possible
Not possible
Not possible
Not possible
Microsoft Project has User Cost fields - but these do not add up into Total Cost
Microsoft Project calculates Actual Cost as the % Complete of the Total Cost and has no Forecast Cost option

Actual cost

Export

Project Commander

All task data to Excel in a click
All resource assignment data at a click
All periodic cost data at a click
Paste report to Word or Powerpoint

Microsoft Project

Not possible
Not possible
Not possible
Not possible

Distribution

Project Commander

Pdf file save intrinsic

Free viewer

Microsoft Project

Not intrinsic

Not available

Note: This list is not comprehensive and was compiled by PMSC to show clearly areas of superiority. We do not accept any responsibility for any inaccuracies or deficiencies.

Facility comparison – Examples

Presentation – Task bars

PROJECT COMMANDER

MICROSOFT PROJECT

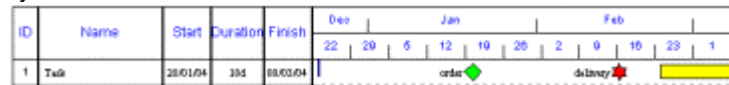
- **Multiple bars/symbols per line**

Project Commander allows an unlimited number of bars on a row



Text and links can be attached to each separate bar

As well as multiple bars on a line, Project Commander allows multiple symbols and bars on the same row



In Microsoft Project bars can only be split and are not treated as separate bars



With Microsoft Project, bars and symbols cannot both be placed on the same line, and only one symbol can be placed on each row



- **Colouring bars**

In Project Commander bars can be coloured individually

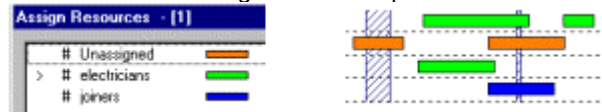


Microsoft Project can only colour the whole row



- **Automatic colouring of bars by resource**

When you assign a resource Project Commander can automatically colour the relevant bars using a shade unique to that resource



Microsoft Project has no automatic colouring options – other than for critical path (red) and non critical tasks (blue). Bars can be manually coloured.

Presentation – Task bars

PROJECT COMMANDER

MICROSOFT PROJECT

- Critical path**

In Project Commander you can calculate the critical path and show float by a simple click on a toolbar icon

Microsoft Project has no equivalent quick option; you have to go through a lengthier Gantt Chart Wizard

- Risk durations**

In Project Commander you can manually enter (or copy & paste) an extra risk duration in addition to the estimated duration

Microsoft Project has no facility for adding a risk duration

ID	Name	Start	Duration	Risk Duration	Risk Allowance	Dec	Jan
1	Task	31/12/03	64	114	50	22	29
2	Task	08/01/04	64	66	04	5	12
3	Task	18/01/04	64	114	50	19	26
4	Task	08/01/04	64	66	04		

- Summary bars**

In Project Commander you can roll up the bar colours and text from sub tasks to summary level bars

Microsoft Project has no facility to roll up customised colours

ID	Name	Dec	Jan
1	Foundations	22	29
2	Plot 1	5	12
3	Plot 2		
4	Plot 3		

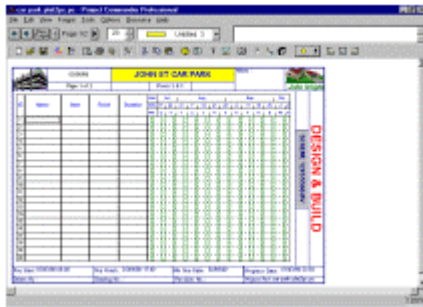
Presentation – Layout

PROJECT COMMANDER

MICROSOFT PROJECT

- Border**

Project Commander lets you create your own customised border or use/edit one of the 12 standard borders. A border can then be used as a default for all charts. You can draw boxes in a border and put text/graphics in them

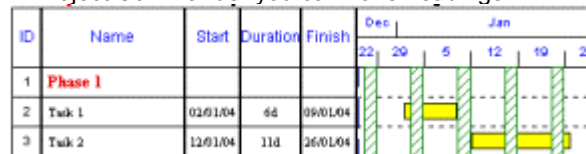


Microsoft Project only has basic headers and footer. These cannot be saved as a default.

Microsoft Project print-outs look much less attractive than those of other packages.

- Headings**

In Project Commander you can have headings

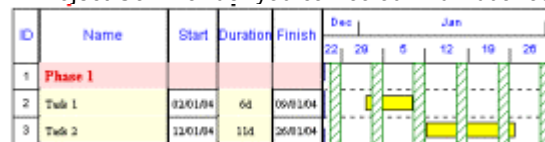


Microsoft Project has no task heading facility. You can only mimic a heading by creating a summary bar



- Cell colouring**

In Project Commander you can colour individual cells and cell blocks



Microsoft Project has no cell colouring.

Presentation – Layout

PROJECT COMMANDER

MICROSOFT PROJECT

- **Numbering task rows only**

In Project Commander you can opt to number task rows only, and not blank lines, headings or summary bars



Microsoft Project numbers all rows regardless

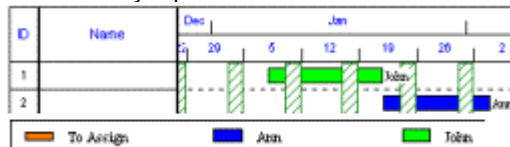


- **Legends**

In Project Commander you can customise the legend to contain your own information



When you select the option to use bars coloured by resource, the legend is automatically replaced with resource colours



Microsoft Project has no options to customise the legend exactly to user requirements or to provide a key for user defined bar colouring

- **Text at 90°**

In Project Commander you can position text pointing upwards or downwards on the chart.

Microsoft Project will not let you change the direction of text.

Presentation – Non-working time

PROJECT COMMANDER

MICROSOFT PROJECT

- Showing weekends and all holidays on weekly charts

<p>You shade weekends and holidays differently in Project Commander</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">ID</th> <th rowspan="2">Name</th> <th rowspan="2">Start</th> <th rowspan="2">Duration</th> <th rowspan="2">Finish</th> <th colspan="2">Dec</th> <th colspan="2">Jan</th> </tr> <tr> <th>22</th> <th>29</th> <th>5</th> <th>12</th> <th>19</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Task</td> <td>29/12/03</td> <td>15d</td> <td>19/01/04</td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	ID	Name	Start	Duration	Finish	Dec		Jan		22	29	5	12	19	1	Task	29/12/03	15d	19/01/04					<p>Microsoft Project has no facility to shade non-working days on weekly charts (only on daily charts)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>ID</th> <th>Task Name</th> <th>Duration</th> <th colspan="2">Jan '04</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th>22</th> <th>29</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>a</td> <td>15 days</td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	ID	Task Name	Duration	Jan '04					22	29	1	a	15 days		
ID						Name	Start	Duration	Finish	Dec		Jan																											
	22	29	5	12	19																																		
1	Task	29/12/03	15d	19/01/04																																			
ID	Task Name	Duration	Jan '04																																				
			22	29																																			
1	a	15 days																																					

- Distinguishing between working and non-working weekends on weekly charts

<p>Project Commander distinguishes clearly between working and non-working weekends</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">ID</th> <th rowspan="2">Name</th> <th rowspan="2">Start</th> <th rowspan="2">Duration</th> <th rowspan="2">Finish</th> <th colspan="2">Dec</th> <th colspan="2">Jan</th> </tr> <tr> <th>22</th> <th>29</th> <th>5</th> <th>12</th> <th>19</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Task</td> <td>29/12/03</td> <td>7d</td> <td>04/01/04</td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Task</td> <td>12/01/04</td> <td>12d</td> <td>23/01/04</td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	ID	Name	Start	Duration	Finish	Dec		Jan		22	29	5	12	19	1	Task	29/12/03	7d	04/01/04					2	Task	12/01/04	12d	23/01/04					<p>Microsoft Project has no facility to shade non working weekends on weekly charts (only on daily charts)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>ID</th> <th>Task Name</th> <th>Duration</th> <th>Start</th> <th>Finish</th> <th colspan="3">Dec '03</th> <th colspan="3">Jan '04</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th>01</th> <th>08</th> <th>15</th> <th>22</th> <th>29</th> <th>05</th> <th>12</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Task</td> <td>7 days</td> <td>29/12/03 08:00</td> <td>04/01/04 17:00</td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Task</td> <td>12 days</td> <td>12/01/04 08:00</td> <td>23/01/04 17:00</td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	ID	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish	Dec '03			Jan '04								01	08	15	22	29	05	12	1	Task	7 days	29/12/03 08:00	04/01/04 17:00								2	Task	12 days	12/01/04 08:00	23/01/04 17:00							
ID						Name	Start	Duration	Finish	Dec		Jan																																																																				
	22	29	5	12	19																																																																											
1	Task	29/12/03	7d	04/01/04																																																																												
2	Task	12/01/04	12d	23/01/04																																																																												
ID	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish	Dec '03			Jan '04																																																																								
					01	08	15	22	29	05	12																																																																					
1	Task	7 days	29/12/03 08:00	04/01/04 17:00																																																																												
2	Task	12 days	12/01/04 08:00	23/01/04 17:00																																																																												

- Exclusion of non-working days on daily charts

<p>In Project Commander daily charts you can exclude non-working time</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="3">ID</th> <th rowspan="3">Name</th> <th rowspan="3">Start</th> <th rowspan="3">Duration</th> <th rowspan="3">Finish</th> <th colspan="7">December</th> </tr> <tr> <th>29</th> <th>30</th> <th>31</th> <th>1</th> <th>2</th> <th>5</th> <th>8</th> </tr> <tr> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>F</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Task</td> <td>30/12/03</td> <td>2d</td> <td>31/12/03</td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Task</td> <td>02/01/04</td> <td>3d</td> <td>05/01/04</td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	ID	Name	Start	Duration	Finish	December							29	30	31	1	2	5	8	M	T	W	F	M	T		1	Task	30/12/03	2d	31/12/03									2	Task	02/01/04	3d	05/01/04									<p>With Microsoft Project you cannot exclude non-working time on daily charts</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>ID</th> <th>Task Name</th> <th>Duration</th> <th>Start</th> <th colspan="7">January 2004</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th>27</th> <th>28</th> <th>29</th> <th>30</th> <th>31</th> <th>01</th> <th>02</th> <th>03</th> <th>04</th> <th>05</th> <th>06</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th>S</th> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Task</td> <td>2 days</td> <td>30/12/03 08:00</td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Task</td> <td>3 days</td> <td>02/01/04 08:00</td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	ID	Task Name	Duration	Start	January 2004											27	28	29	30	31	01	02	03	04	05	06					S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	1	Task	2 days	30/12/03 08:00												2	Task	3 days	02/01/04 08:00											
ID						Name	Start	Duration	Finish	December																																																																																																																		
										29	30	31	1	2	5	8																																																																																																												
	M	T	W	F	M					T																																																																																																																		
1	Task	30/12/03	2d	31/12/03																																																																																																																								
2	Task	02/01/04	3d	05/01/04																																																																																																																								
ID	Task Name	Duration	Start	January 2004																																																																																																																								
				27	28	29	30	31	01	02	03	04	05	06																																																																																																														
				S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T																																																																																																														
1	Task	2 days	30/12/03 08:00																																																																																																																									
2	Task	3 days	02/01/04 08:00																																																																																																																									

- Exclusion of non-working hours

<p>In Project Commander hourly charts you can exclude non-working hours:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="3">ID</th> <th rowspan="3">Name</th> <th rowspan="3">Start</th> <th rowspan="3">Duration</th> <th rowspan="3">Finish</th> <th colspan="7">December</th> </tr> <tr> <th>28</th> <th>29</th> <th>30</th> <th>31</th> <th>1</th> <th>2</th> <th>5</th> </tr> <tr> <th>10</th> <th>11</th> <th>12</th> <th>13</th> <th>14</th> <th>15</th> <th>18</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Task</td> <td>29/12/03 09:00</td> <td>6:00</td> <td>29/12/03 12:30</td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Task</td> <td>30/12/03 09:00</td> <td>6:00</td> <td>30/12/03 12:30</td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	ID	Name	Start	Duration	Finish	December							28	29	30	31	1	2	5	10	11	12	13	14	15	18	1	Task	29/12/03 09:00	6:00	29/12/03 12:30									2	Task	30/12/03 09:00	6:00	30/12/03 12:30									<p>With Microsoft Project you cannot exclude non-working time on hourly charts</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>ID</th> <th>Task Name</th> <th>Duration</th> <th>Start</th> <th colspan="14">Mon 29 Dec</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th>22</th> <th>0</th> <th>2</th> <th>4</th> <th>6</th> <th>8</th> <th>10</th> <th>12</th> <th>14</th> <th>16</th> <th>18</th> <th>20</th> <th>22</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th>0</th> <th>2</th> <th>4</th> <th>6</th> <th>8</th> <th>10</th> <th>12</th> <th>14</th> <th>16</th> <th>18</th> <th>20</th> <th>22</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Task</td> <td>0:48 days</td> <td>29/12/03 10:17</td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Task</td> <td>0:16 days</td> <td>30/12/03 09:00</td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	ID	Task Name	Duration	Start	Mon 29 Dec																		22	0	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22						0	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	1	Task	0:48 days	29/12/03 10:17														2	Task	0:16 days	30/12/03 09:00													
ID						Name	Start	Duration	Finish	December																																																																																																																																	
										28	29	30	31	1	2	5																																																																																																																											
	10	11	12	13	14					15	18																																																																																																																																
1	Task	29/12/03 09:00	6:00	29/12/03 12:30																																																																																																																																							
2	Task	30/12/03 09:00	6:00	30/12/03 12:30																																																																																																																																							
ID	Task Name	Duration	Start	Mon 29 Dec																																																																																																																																							
				22	0	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22																																																																																																																											
					0	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22																																																																																																																											
1	Task	0:48 days	29/12/03 10:17																																																																																																																																								
2	Task	0:16 days	30/12/03 09:00																																																																																																																																								

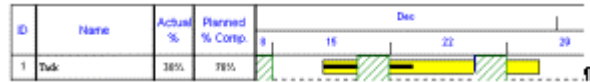
Reporting – Task progress

PROJECT COMMANDER

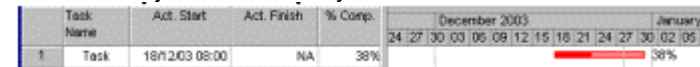
MICROSOFT PROJECT

- Comparison between actual and scheduled progress**

Project Commander will automatically calculate the % progress that should have been achieved

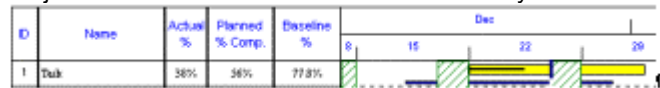


Microsoft Project has no facility to show this

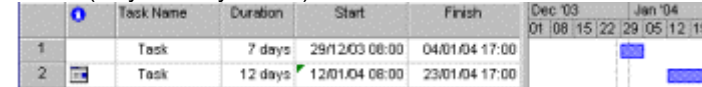


- Comparison between actual % and baseline % progress**

Project Commander calculates this automatically

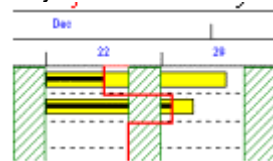


Microsoft Project has no facility to shade non working weekends on weekly charts (only on daily charts)

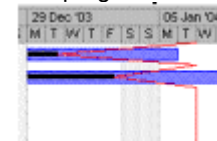


- Progress line**

Project Commander shows the progress line clearly

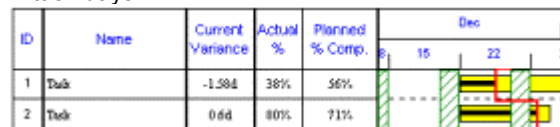


The progress line is not so clear in Microsoft Project



- Ahead/behind calculation**

Project Commander will calculate how far progress is ahead or behind plan in task days



Microsoft Project has no facility to calculate such time discrepancies

Reporting – Resources

PROJECT COMMANDER

MICROSOFT PROJECT

- Stacked histograms**

In Project Commander you can create stacked histograms on a separate page or with a barchart on the same page

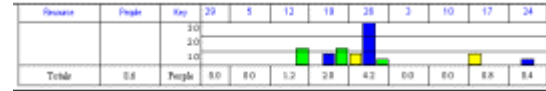


Project Commander automatically colours each resource and shows a legend

There are no stacked histograms in Microsoft Project

- Multiple histograms**

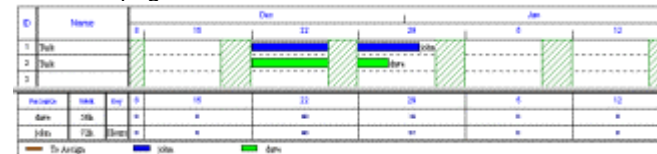
Project Commander lets you select any range of resources to graph on a separate page, or with a barchart on the same page



Microsoft Project can only show one resource on a histogram. This cannot be included on a combined chart and graph report on the same page

- Combined reporting of chart and resource data**

In Project Commander you can have a resource usage report at the bottom of a chart page



Microsoft Project has no facility for this. You would have to create two separate reports

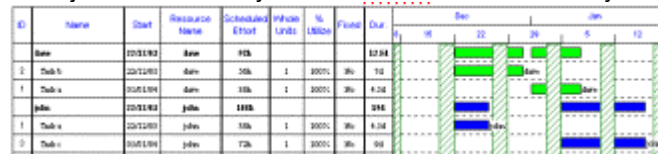
Reporting – Resources

PROJECT COMMANDER

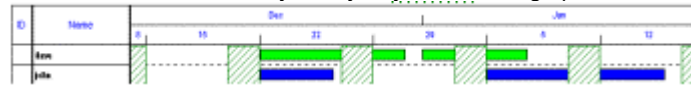
MICROSOFT PROJECT

- View by resource

In Project Commander you can view a barchart sorted by resource:



In fact, you can summarise all the assignments into one summary bar for each resource – to identify easily any non-working spaces



Microsoft Project has no equivalent report. You can sort by resource – but it does not split multiple assignments

Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish	Predecessors	Resource Names
Task 2	5 days	28/12/03 08:00	02/01/04 17:00		dave,john
Task 4	1 day	28/12/03 08:00	28/12/03 17:00		fred
Task 1	20 days	28/12/03 08:00	23/01/04 17:00		john
Task 3	0.5 days	28/12/03 08:00	28/12/03 12:00		john,fred

- Progress Reporting

Project Commander calculates the baseline work that should have been achieved up to the reporting date, and calculates the variance between the actual and baseline

ID	Name	Duration	Actual %	Baseline %	Work Complete	Baseline Scheduled Hours	Variance Scheduled Hours
1	Task a	10.5d	50%	40%	36h	28.8h	7.2h
2	Task b	7d	100%	71.4%	56h	40h	16h

Microsoft Project does not calculate baseline hours to the reporting date

Reporting – Costs

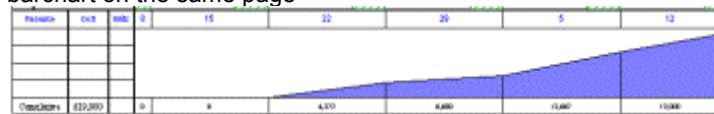
PROJECT COMMANDER

MICROSOFT PROJECT

- Combined cost graphs and charts**

Project Commander can create cost graphs on a separate page or with a barchart on the same page

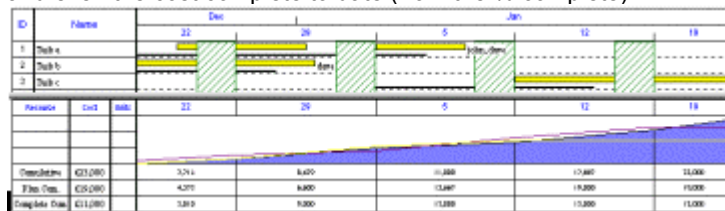
Microsoft Project has no facility for this



- Cost totals below chart**

In Project Commander you can display cost forecast, target baseline cost and even the cost complete to date (from the % complete)

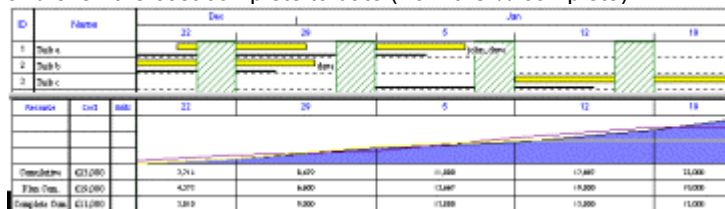
Microsoft Project has no facility to show cost data on the barchart



- Actual versus baseline cost graph**

In Project Commander you can display cost forecast, target baseline cost and even the cost complete to date (from the % complete)

Microsoft Project has no facility for this type of cost graph



Reporting – Costs

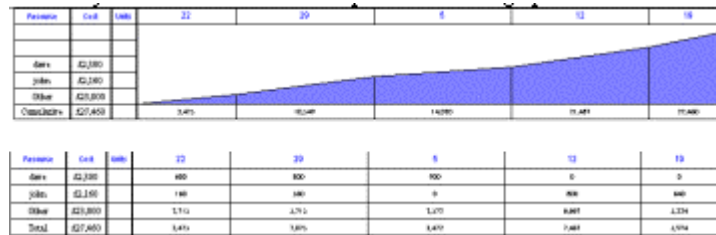
PROJECT COMMANDER

MICROSOFT PROJECT

- Resource costs**

In Project Commander, where you have costed resources, you can display the cost analysis of all the resources as part of the cost graph or detailed in a table

Microsoft Project has no equivalent report



- Progress reporting**

Project Commander calculates the baseline cost that should have been achieved up to the reporting date, and calculates the variance between the actual and baseline

Microsoft Project has no equivalent report

ID	Name	Duration	Actual %	Actual Cost	Budgeted Cost	Baseline %	Baseline Scheduled Cost
1	Task a	10.5d	50%	£4,000	£1,000	40%	£900
2	Task b	7d	100%	£5,400	£5,000	71.4%	£3,572

- Cost per day**

Project Commander lets you set a fixed rate per day for any task – so the cost will rise if the task lengthens

Microsoft Project has no equivalent feature

Reporting – Costs

PROJECT COMMANDER

MICROSOFT PROJECT

- **Cost analysis**

Project Commander lets you analyse costs as LABOUR, MATERIALS, PLANT(EQUIPMENT), SUBCONTRACTORS and OTHER	Microsoft Project has user cost fields – but these do not add up into the total cost
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporation of actual costs 	
In Project Commander you can manually input the actual costs to date and it will calculate the Forecast To Complete Cost using the % complete	Microsoft Project calculates actual cost as the % complete of the total cost and has no forecast cost option

Export to Excel

PROJECT COMMANDER

MICROSOFT PROJECT

- Export of all task data**

All columns can be exported from Project Commander with one click

Microsoft Project has no equivalent facility

- Export of all resource assignment data**

All resource assignment data can be exported from Project Commander with one click

Microsoft Project has no equivalent facility

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Resource Desc	Work	28/12/03	04/01/04	11/01/04	18/01/04	25/01/04	01/02/04
2	To Assign	0h	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	John	108h	8	28	0	40	32	0
4	dave	92h	24	32	36	0	0	0

- Export of all periodic cost data**

All periodic cost data can be exported from Project Commander with one click

Microsoft Project has no equivalent facility

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Name	Project	Total Cost	28/12/03	04/01/04	11/01/04	18/01/04	25/01/04	01/02/04
2	Task a	Project 1	£7,620.00	£731.43	£3,417.14	£3,471.43	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
3	Task b	Project 1	£6,400.00	£2,742.86	£3,657.14	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
4	Task c	Project 1	£13,440.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£7,466.67	£5,973.33	£0.00

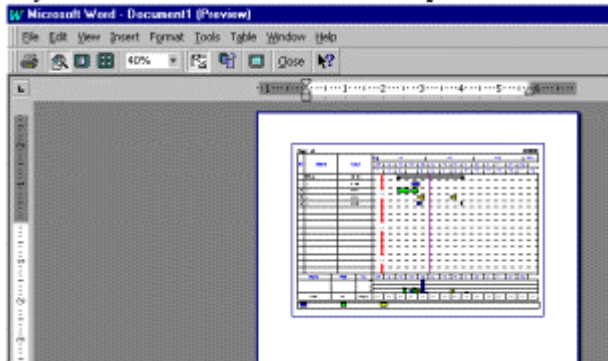
Export to Word and Powerpoint

PROJECT COMMANDER

MICROSOFT PROJECT

- **Export of all task data**

In Project Commander, barcharts can be pasted into Word documents to form part of a written report. You can also send such Word documents by email to people who do not possess Project Commander, but want to be able to print out the chart



Microsoft Project has no equivalent facility

Plan distribution

PROJECT COMMANDER

MICROSOFT PROJECT

- **PDF files**

Project Commander has a built in PDF creator

Microsoft Project has no PDF save option

- **Viewer**

Project Commander has a companion Project Viewer that is free of charge, available on the install CD or from our Web site. You can distribute this to internal personel and/or clients so that they can view (but not change) your Project Commander files, without having to purchase a licence

With Microsoft Project there is no companion viewer