

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a project?

Answer:

A project is an endeavor to create a unique product or service. It is specific, timely, usually multi-disciplinary and always conflict-ridden. A project defines a combination of interrelated activities that must be executed in a certain order before the entire task can be completed.

2. What do we consider as an activity in the project?

Answer:

An activity in a project is usually viewed as a job requiring time and resources for its completion.

3. What is the main objective before starting a project?

Answer:

The main objective before starting any project is to schedule the required activities in an efficient manner so as to complete it on or before a specified time limit at a minimum cost of its completion.

4. What activities are done before starting a project?

Answer:

Before starting any project it is necessary to prepare a plan for scheduling and controlling the various activities (or tasks) involved in the given project. This will help in undertaking the project, possibly identifying bottlenecks and even discovering alternate work-plan for the project.

5. What is a network technique?

Answer:

The techniques of operations research used for planning, scheduling and controlling large and complex projects are often referred as to network analysis, network planning or network planning and scheduling techniques.

6. What do you mean by network?

Answer:

A network is a graphical plan consisting of a certain configuration of arrows and nodes for showing the logical sequence of various activities to be performed to achieve project objectives.

7. How does a network diagram help?

Answer:

A network diagram helps to translate highly complex project into a set of simple and logical arranged activities and therefore: Helps in the clarity of thoughts and actions; Helps in clear and unambiguous communication developing from top to bottom and vice versa among the people responsible for executing the project.

8. What is the contribution of network analysis to the project?

Answer:

Detailed analysis of a network helps project in charge to peep into the future because difficulties and problems that can be reasonably expected to crop up during the course of execution can be foreseen well ahead of its actual execution and delays and hold ups during course of execution are minimized. Corrective action can also be taken well in time.

9. What activities are done during the project planning phase?

Answer:

The activities done during the project planning phase are identifying the activities, determining the resources, determining the time, assigning responsibility, allocating resources, developing performance and establish control.

10. What is project scheduling?

Answer:

Once all work packages (that is tasks) have been identified and given unique names or identifiers, scheduling the project, that is when each of the activities are required to be performed, is taken up. It prepares an analysis / estimate of the likelihood of the project to be completed on or before the specified time.

11. What planning is done based on the time estimates?

Answer:

Based on these time estimates we calculate the total duration of the project, identify the critical path; calculate floats; carry out resources smoothing (or leveling) exercise for critical (or scare) resources, taking into account the resource constraints (if any).

12. What is done during the project control phase?

Answer:

Project control phase: project control refers to the evaluation of the actual progress (status) against the plan. If significant differences are observed, then the scheduling and resource allocation decisions are changed in order to update and revise the uncompleted part of the project.

13. What do you mean by an Event in a network diagram?

Answer:

Events in the network diagram represent the project milestones, such as the start or the completion of an activity (task) or activities, and occur at a particular instant of time at which some specific part of the project has been or is to be achieved.

14. What do you mean by activity in a network diagram?

Answer:

Activities in the network diagram represent project operations (or tasks) to be conducted. As such each activity except dummy requires resources and takes a certain amount of time for completion. An arrow is commonly used to represent an activity with its head indicating the direction of progress in the project.

15. What is a dummy activity?

Answer:

Dummy activity is an activity which does not consume either any resource and/or time is known as dummy activity. A dummy activity in the network is added only to establish the given precedence relationship among the activities of the project.