



# Planning and Control Using Oracle Primavera P6 Versions 8.1 to 15.2 PPM Professional

By Paul E. Harris

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## Planning and Control Using Oracle Primavera P6 Versions 8.1 to 15.2 PPM Professional By Paul E. Harris

A user guide and training manual written for Project Management Professionals who wish to learn how to plan and control projects in an established Primavera Enterprise environment with or without Resources and Roles.

The book is packed with screen shots, constructive tips and contains workshops with solutions at the end of each chapter for the reader to practice the skills taught. It has been written so it may be used with either the Professional Project Management Client version or the Enterprise Project Portfolio Management Optional Client.

The book is aimed at:

1. People who wish learn the software but are unable to attend a training course and find the software reference manual hard going.
2. Project management companies who wish to run their own software training courses or provide their employees with an alternative text to the vendor supplied user manual.
3. Training organizations requiring a training manual to run their own training courses.

This book is a PMI Approved course and instructors PowerPoint slide shows are available to training organizations. PMI REPs may apply to have this course licensed to them and award 21 PDUs to each attendee.

Primavera Systems Inc. originally asked the author to write this book and this publication is ideal for people who would like to gain an understanding of how the software operates up to an intermediate level. It covers only Primavera Versions 8.1, to 15.2 Professional Client and Optional Client. It explains some of the differences from SureTrak, P3, Microsoft Project and Asta Powerproject to assist people converting from other products. The book is designed to teach planners and schedulers in any industry how to setup and use the software in a project environment. It explains in plain English and in a logical sequence, the

steps required to create and maintain an unresourced and resourced schedule. It tackles some of the more complex aspects of the software that the user manual does not address. It highlights the sources of information and the methods that should be employed to produce a realistic and useful project schedule. The book provides advice on how on how the many software options may be applied to projects environments and it aims to teach readers how to plan and control projects created within the software package and stays focused on explaining how to use Primavera to schedule projects by:

1. Concentrating on the core functions required to set up an enterprise environment and how to plan and control projects.
2. Providing command lists at the start of each chapter as a quick reference.
3. Providing a comprehensive table of contents and index of all topics.

The book is intended to be used:

1. As a self teach book, or
2. A user guide, or
3. A training manual for a three day training course.

This book is written by an experienced scheduler, who has used the software at the sharp end of projects and is not a techo. It draws on the author's practical experience in using the software in a wide variety of industries. It presents workable solutions to real day to day planning and scheduling problems and contains practical advice on how to set up the software and import data.

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### **Editorial Review**

#### **Review**

Primavera/Oracle are out of the gate with version 15.1 of P6. And Paul Harris is keeping up the pace with his latest corresponding training manual, Planning and Control Using Oracle Primavera P6 Versions 8.1 to 15.1 PPM Professional by Paul Eastwood Harris.

Having a copy of this book is not an option I think it's a requirement. Primavera/Oracle continues to make their software for planning & scheduling professionals more complex by adding to its very advanced capabilities and feature set. But Paul Harris, an experienced scheduler and P6 user, not an IT person, has written this terrific training and reference manual for the P6 student/user who understands how to manage projects but needs to learn how to use the software.

Among this manual's compendium of tools, techniques, tips, and traps to using Primavera's latest software package. Harris wins again by writing a clear, user-friendly book to help the reader learn and use P6 effectively and efficiently. Using the successful format from his previously published manuals for Microsoft Project, P3, SureTrak, and previous P6 versions, Harris covers the bulk of P6's feature set by flattening and shortening the steep learning curve of this complex software package.

I've used Harris books in my company's training classes for over a decade because of his clear writing style, the depth of feature coverage, and the ability to use the book as a reference book in day-to-day use. This book follows the lead of its predecessors it guides the user through a logical sequence of understanding the principles of project management, the steps required to set-up a project, and those required to update and maintain a project. Due to the complexity and feature set of P6, Harris book is designed to be used in a 3-day training class. The exercises are available as a free download from Harris web site.

Harris goes end-to-end by covering the basics of the software and its advanced functions such as User and Administration Preferences and Advanced Scheduling Options, the 3 types of calendars (unlike P3's 2 types), Roles and Resources and multiple ways of organizing the project (WBS, OBS, Contract, Phase, etc.). Harris also does a particularly good job in explaining the differences between 3 ways of stating percent complete: Physical Percent Complete, Duration Percent Complete, and Units Percent Complete and the 4 Activity Types.

He has also introduced some new topics not covered in his previous Version 7.0 book, including Customizable Menus, Tiled and Tabbed Windows, Auto-Reorganization, Time-scaled Logic Diagrams and more. And not only does he explain how to use the program at the project level, but he also explains the parent application of Primavera's Enterprise Management which filled a huge void for me when first using the book.

Since scheduling requirements vary from project-to-project and company-to-company, Harris explains how to build and maintain schedules both with and without resources (manpower, equipment, money, materials). If you are using Primavera's latest complex and IT intensive scheduling system, I urge you to use Paul Harris' treatise on Project Planning & Control Using Oracle Primavera P6 Ver 8.2, Professional Client and Optional Client. Paul Harris not only knows P6; he knows how to explain how to be effective and efficient using it. That's the winning formula. --A. Larry Aaron CCE

Paul Harris has been writing books on how best to use Primavera software tools for as long as I can remember. I first started using P3 in 1985 and have been intimately involved with the software ever since. Paul Harris is an author who makes his day to day living using the tool and it shows in the details of his books. He catches the little things that pop up in the middle of an assignment and are never covered in the standard classes.

This book is so comprehensive, with well placed visual pointers and guides, that depending on what chapters are selected, it can be used for a variety of classes from basic to advanced with special classes for costs and resources. This is not just a training manual but should be used as a constant reference "bible" for when you have to use parts of the software that you haven't used for a while. With a focus on application for construction, Paul does not miss anything in working through the definition of your project from the WBS, through coding, activity and relationship definition, how the critical path algorithm calculates (it's not a mystery like some other well known scheduling tools), right on through to resource and cost definition, assignment and analysis. Experience has shown that training provided by trainers who actually make a living using the tool they train on provides the best in-depth knowledge transfer experience for the student. Using a training manual that is written from the same perspective also enhances the training experience. I highly recommend this training guide/reference manual to anyone new or experienced in the Oracle| Primavera P6 environment. --Donald McNatty PSP F AACEI Vice President D. R. McNatty & Associates, Inc.

As a practicing project planner/scheduler and a Primavera P6 instructor, I have found this book immensely useful. The book layouts out in very clear terms, everything needed for a user to master this often-times complex application. This is the only book that I have found that comes from an objective point of view, explaining the ins and outs of this expansive program.

Planning and scheduling a project can be an extremely difficult and unforgiving task for an individual or organization. Adding the need to model the delivery method in Primavera P6 can cause many unprepared users high anxiety. In his book, Paul layouts out in very clear and concise steps the project plan development process in Primavera P6 and why they are needed. I find this section in itself indispensable. As a part-time instructor of the software, I always, always, always refer my student to this section of the book so they can formulate in their minds the approach needed for creating an effective project plan. Other sections of the book also add enormous value in understanding things such project creation via the project creation wizard, importing and finally the reflection process. Other important topics covered are work breakdown structures, activities types, duration types, percent complete types, activity relationship types, baselines, as well as the updating/progressing process. Advance topics are also covered for those needing an understanding of multi-project scheduling, global functionally and software administration.

The book brilliantly handles project modeling categories of task driven schedules and resource loaded schedules. Paul initially layouts out a developmental structure to expose the P6 user to methodologies associated with each modeling category and then throughout the remainder of the book, details out each of the processes. This framework can serve as a repeatable model when creating organizational processes and procedures that will maximize and individual or an organizations use of Primavera P6.

As a project planner/scheduler, I use the book as an invaluable desktop reference. I find it priceless when trying to model complex delivery methods. The book is set up in a fashion that allows a user to quickly get to needed information. It also is written from an unbiased point of view explaining various pitfalls of potential methodologies to be utilized. Paul has wisely included how Microsoft Project, Primavera P3 as well as previous versions of P6 handle certain functions as compared to the current version referenced in the book. Paul's experience with these other software programs allows him to give valuable insight into these concise excerpts. He also points out in the book, areas of caution that gives the user important advice on utilizing various components of Primavera P6.

If somebody would ask me what words of advice I would give a new user of Primavera P6, I would without a doubt say get training and get Paul Harris's book on Primavera P6. It is well worth the investment. --  
Michael J. Kehoe, PMP, MBA Project Planner/Scheduler, Instructor, EVP IP System 3

#### About the Author

Paul Harris holds an Honours Degree in Civil Engineering obtained in the UK and is a Certified Cost Engineer through AACEI International, a PRINCE2 Registered Practitioner and a Managing Successful Programmes Registered Practitioner. He has worked in the project controls industry for a number of years and has assisted many companies in a range of industries to set up and run project controls systems. His Melbourne, Australia based company, Eastwood Harris Pty Ltd, offers project controls consulting and training services world wide with a strong focus on Microsoft Project and Primavera software.

As a project controls consultant I have used a number of planning and scheduling software packages for the management of a range of project types and sizes. The first books I published were user guides/training manuals for Primavera SureTrak®, P3 and Microsoft Project users. These were well received by professional project managers and schedulers, so I decided to turn my attention to developing books that demonstrated how the software is used with project management methodologies such as PRINCE2 and the PMBOK® Guide. This book follows the same layout as my other books and I trust this book will assist you in understanding how to use Primavera P6 to plan and control your projects.

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

##### **Raymond Harris:**

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important behave, like looking for your favorite reserve and reading a e-book. Beside you can solve your short lived problem; you can add your knowledge by the book entitled Planning and Control Using Oracle Primavera P6 Versions 8.1 to 15.2 PPM Professional. Try to make the book Planning and Control Using Oracle Primavera P6 Versions 8.1 to 15.2 PPM Professional as your friend. It means that it can be your friend when you sense alone and beside that course make you smarter than ever. Yeah, it is very fortunate to suit your needs. The book makes you much more confidence because you can know almost everything by the book. So, let us make new experience as well as knowledge with this book.

##### **Sharon Self:**

Do you one among people who can't read pleasurable if the sentence chained within the straightway, hold on guys this aren't like that. This Planning and Control Using Oracle Primavera P6 Versions 8.1 to 15.2 PPM Professional book is readable by simply you who hate the straight word style. You will find the facts here are arranged for enjoyable reading experience without leaving even decrease the knowledge that want to supply to you. The writer of Planning and Control Using Oracle Primavera P6 Versions 8.1 to 15.2 PPM Professional content conveys objective easily to understand by many individuals. The printed and e-book are not different in the content but it is just different such as it. So, do you nonetheless thinking Planning and Control Using Oracle Primavera P6 Versions 8.1 to 15.2 PPM Professional is not loveable to be your top collection reading book?

**Charlene Stidham:**

The reason? Because this Planning and Control Using Oracle Primavera P6 Versions 8.1 to 15.2 PPM Professional is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap this but latter it will distress you with the secret that inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who write the book in such amazing way makes the content interior easier to understand, entertaining technique but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any more or you going to regret it. This phenomenal book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book get such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking method. So , still want to delay having that book? If I had been you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

**Virgie Tauber:**

Are you kind of hectic person, only have 10 or even 15 minute in your time to upgrading your mind ability or thinking skill even analytical thinking? Then you are receiving problem with the book as compared to can satisfy your short period of time to read it because all this time you only find e-book that need more time to be read. Planning and Control Using Oracle Primavera P6 Versions 8.1 to 15.2 PPM Professional can be your answer mainly because it can be read by anyone who have those short extra time problems.

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