

Clarity PPM: OPEN WORKBENCH VERSUS MICROSOFT PROJECT



Functionality: Open Workbench versus Microsoft Project

Function	Open WorkBench	MS Project
Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Workbench is free-ware maintained by Computer Associates. It can be downloaded from the CA website. Other Free-ware vendors have their own versions of Open Workbench with enhancements provided by the user community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microsoft Project is not typically included as part of the standard MS Office product suite. MS Project adds to the cost of the MS Office suite.
Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vendor support for Open Workbench is included with the Clarity Maintenance agreement. CA maintains a separate Open Workbench forum web site for users to share learnings and have questions asked regarding functionality. Access to this site is free. Open Workbench vendor reference manuals are supplied with the product suite. Open Workbench has a Help facility accessed in the application. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vendor support for MS Project is included with the MS Office Maintenance agreement. MS Project vendor reference manuals are supplied with the product suite. MS Project has the following Help facilities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application Help Web based Help accessed from the application.
Set Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Workbench is added to the Hard Drive along with Schedule Connect (used to interface with Clarity). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MS Project is added to the Hard Drive along with Schedule Connect (used to interface with Clarity). MS Project requires a Clarity Macro be added to access Clarity using Schedule Connect.
Views	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A custom view library can be made available for all users. A reference guide is made available for OWB users. OWB views work with all projects. Project, Task Detail and Resource Summary data can be displayed in the same view. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generic MS Project views are delivered with the tool. The MS Project classes recommend adding Clarity specific data elements to views. Changes to views impact only the current open project. Changes must be re-built for any other project, if needed. Each user has to build his own changes to views. A separate view is needed for Task Detail and Resource Summary data.
Updating the WBS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adding or changing the Work Breakdown Structure involves rows, columns and cells. WBS Summary levels are pre-defined as a standard and are selected by name. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adding or changing the Work Breakdown Structure involves rows, columns and cells. WBS Summary levels are created by indenting the tasks below the level. Users must stay consistent

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many Summary levels are supported if pre-defined to OWB. WBS maintenance is more disciplined. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> with standards. Many Summary levels are supported by simply indenting. WBS Maintenance is more free-form.
Creating Dependency Links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Workbench allows for the creation of dependency links on Tasks and Milestones only. Open Workbench defaults to working with Predecessors and Successors at the same time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MS Project allows for the creation of dependency links between any row in the plan (Phase, Activity, Task, Milestone). This will cause a failure when saving to Clarity. MS Project defaults to working with Predecessors only.
Add Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources cannot be added directly in OWB. Resources are added by accessing a table in Clarity. The Resource Table can be viewed organized by Role or by Resource Name (alphabetical order). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources cannot be added directly in MS Project. Resources are added by accessing a table in Clarity. The Resource Table is viewed only by opening the Role a resource is assigned to in Clarity.
Allocating Resource Availability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources can be set to a certain percentage of availability for the entire project. Variable resource availability can be adjusted in a spreadsheet format by time period. Resource Calendar changes in Clarity for PTO time automatically affect the projects when opened. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources can be set to a certain percentage of availability for the entire project. Variable availability is adjusted by making changes to a Resources Calendar in MS Project. Resource Calendar changes in Clarity for PTO time automatically affect the projects when opened.
Assign Resources to Tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OWB allows resources to be assigned only on tasks and milestones. Users can drag and drop multiple resources to a task. Users can assign one or more resources to multiple tasks. Resources can be assigned in the Task Properties dialog box. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MS Project allows users to assign resources to any WBS level. When saved to Clarity, a warning message is displayed if resources have been assigned to any Summary levels. These assignments have to be removed before saving to Clarity. Users can assign one or more resources to multiple tasks. Resources can be assigned in the Task Properties dialog box
Remove Resource Assignments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OWB supports a simple transfer assignments facility, which transfers task assignments from one resource to another. Resources can only be removed from a task assignment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources can be removed in the Task Properties dialog box or in any view displaying the assigned resources. A warning message is displayed when deleting a

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> in the Task Properties dialog box. A warning message is displayed when deleting a resource with actual hours posted to the plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> resource with actual hours posted to the plan.
Delete Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources can be easily removed from a project. A warning message is displayed if a resource is assigned to one or more tasks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources can be easily removed from a project.
Enter Estimated Work Effort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ETC is separate from duration. ETC must be entered for each resource assigned to a task. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remaining Work is populated when a resource is added to a task. Remaining Work must be adjusted to reflect the true amount of effort for each assigned resource.
Manually Schedule the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Workbench has a minimum duration of 1 day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MS Project can have durations less than a day.
Baseline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Workbench supports multiple baselines and baselining by WBS component. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MS Project supports multiple baselines and baselining by task.
Weekly Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pending Actuals and Pending ETC are displayed in the appropriate data field. Status field has the following values: Not Started, Started and Completed. Status field is set to Started is when the 1st actual hours are posted. PM manually changes the task or milestone to Completed when it is done. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pending ETC and Pending Actuals are stored in Number1 and Number2 assignment fields. Users must add these to a view to review. % Complete is set to 1% when the 1st actuals are posted.
Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Workbench plans can be copied to Word. Open Workbench plans can be exported to Excel. Print Preview is not as robust. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MS Project plans can be copied to Word. MS Project plans can be exported to Excel.
Resource Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open workbench has views delivered that allow a PM to review Actual Hours, ETC, Total, Allocated and Baselined as a total and by time period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MS Project is very limited in reviewing resource usage for a project. Any views have to be re-built for each project.