

How Reliable Are Your Microsoft Project® Schedules?

Creating and maintaining effective project schedules is no easy task. Critical Path Method (CPM) scheduling tools, like Microsoft Project, provide the sophistication and flexibility to build schedules which best satisfy your project management environment. However, with this sophistication comes increased risk that some minor detail might be overlooked which eventually causes significant impact to your company's projects.

Proactively Identify Schedule Quality Issues

Why wait for a significant failure to identify some schedule quality issue that may impact your projects? The *Schedule Integrity Analyzer (SIA)* for Microsoft Project will quickly scan a project schedule and identify issues like:

- Consistency with general accepted cross-industry schedule management practices
- Microsoft Project idiosyncrasies to avoid
- Structural integrity issues
- Inappropriate use of resources
- Baseline integrity problems
- Performance control maintenance issues

The SIA is a companion application for Microsoft Project (2002, 2003, 2007, and 2010). It uses a variable-weighted, threshold-based scoring engine to summarize the results of thirty-two schedule quality tests into *Overall Integrity Rating*.

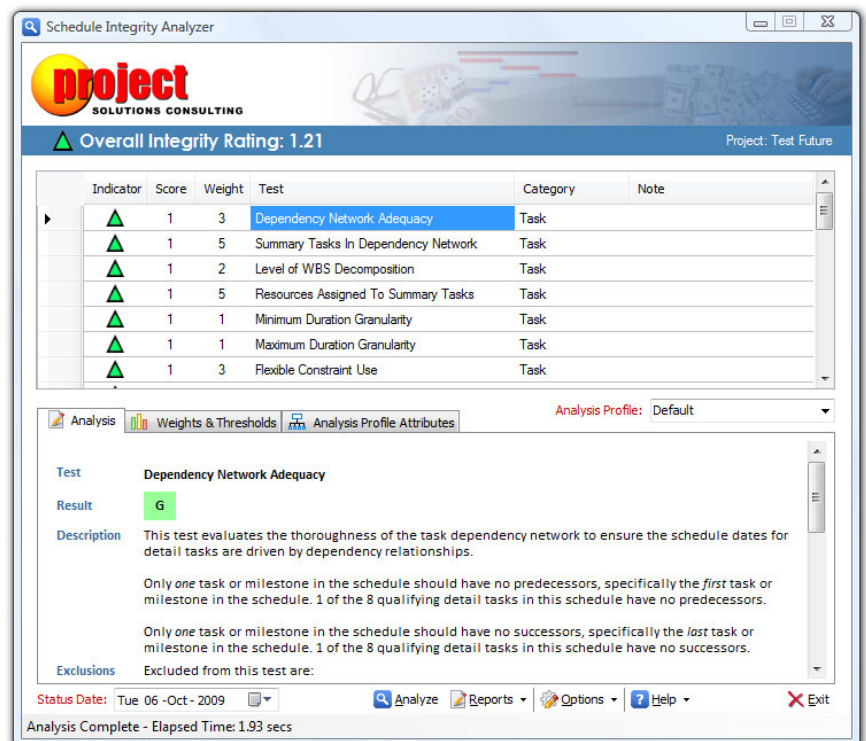
Benefits

- **Project Managers and Schedulers** – The SIA is your best first line of defense for intercepting inadvertent errors introduced during schedule creation and maintenance activities. The SIA doesn't merely grade your schedule. For each test, the SIA will dynamically create a custom filtered View of the defective items.
- **Project Portfolio/Program Managers** – The SIA can improve your confidence in the reliability of information reported in project performance dashboards through use of a feature which makes the *Overall Integrity Rating* available for display in your dashboards. The SIA can assist with ensuring ANSI-748A compliance for EVA and satisfaction of DCMA EVMS Surveillance requirements.

- **Program/Project Management Consultants** – The SIA can help you quickly audit an organization's schedule management maturity, pinpointing specific schedule management deficiencies. The reporting features allow for detailed analysis of multiple schedules and compilation results from each schedule into an overall schedule quality dashboard.

Version 2.0 New Features

- Generation of detailed analysis reports to either the user's default browser or Microsoft Word®
- Processing of multiple schedules and generation of quality analysis dashboards to either the user's default browser or Microsoft Excel®
- Create and share custom *Analysis Profiles* with other project management professionals in your organization
- Customize the thresholds and weights of every test
- A new test to detect inappropriate baseline maintenance
- A new category of tests to ascertain the currency of schedule performance control information
- A new category of tests to identify potential application interface issues
- The means to flag tasks for exclusion from some of the *Task* category tests
- Personalize the user interface with your organization's graphic logo and include your logo on SIA's reports.



The screenshot shows the Schedule Integrity Analyzer application window. At the top, it displays the 'project SOLUTIONS CONSULTING' logo and the 'Overall Integrity Rating: 1.21' for the project 'Test Future'. Below this is a table of test results:

Indicator	Score	Weight	Test	Category	Note
▲	1	3	Dependency Network Adequacy	Task	
▲	1	5	Summary Tasks In Dependency Network	Task	
▲	1	2	Level of WBS Decomposition	Task	
▲	1	5	Resources Assigned To Summary Tasks	Task	
▲	1	1	Minimum Duration Granularity	Task	
▲	1	1	Maximum Duration Granularity	Task	
▲	1	3	Flexible Constraint Use	Task	

Below the table, the 'Analysis Profile: Default' is selected. The 'Analysis' tab is active, showing a detailed view of the 'Dependency Network Adequacy' test. The result is 'G' (Good). The description states: 'This test evaluates the thoroughness of the task dependency network to ensure the schedule dates for detail tasks are driven by dependency relationships. Only one task or milestone in the schedule should have no predecessors, specifically the first task or milestone in the schedule. 1 of the 8 qualifying detail tasks in this schedule have no predecessors. Only one task or milestone in the schedule should have no successors, specifically the last task or milestone in the schedule. 1 of the 8 qualifying detail tasks in this schedule have no successors.' Exclusions are listed as 'Excluded from this test are:'. The status bar at the bottom indicates 'Status Date: Tue 06 -Oct - 2009' and 'Analysis Complete - Elapsed Time: 1.93 secs'.