

CPM Charting Software

This program allows you to build a simple CPM chart. It will permit small to medium projects and can provide training using CPM techniques.

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Requirements/Limitations:

This program requires the VB6 runtime files already installed on most machines but also available for free from Microsoft. To begin using the CPM program use WINZIP or other unzipping utility to extract the file cpm.zip to your desktop. Drag the resulting file folder to a convenient location on your hard drive, typically the Program Files folder on your main drive. Create a shortcut to the file CPM.EXE by dragging the file to the desktop or program list with the CTRL key depressed. The shareware version is limited to 100 tasks but includes a nag screen on saving files.

How To Enter Data:

Building a CPM chart requires planning. Understand that in conventional CPM charts all nodes have to appear in numerically ascending order. The software, in fact, tries to prevent backward references or jobs that end at an earlier node than their starting node. Hand sketching can help if a large chart is to be made.

1. Click on the nodes button. Each subsequent click on the screen will drop a new node.

2. Draw in the arcs or edges that represent each job. In a conventional CPM chart it is the arcs or edges that represent each job.

3. Assign the times for each job. The computer will highlight in red the jobs that are being assigned. Type the time and press enter, you can always go back and edit later using the job cards option.

4. Next press the "Titles" button. Type in a short name for each job, less than 14 letters.

5. If you are going to calculate costs, press the button labeled "Edit Job Cards". Add the costs to each card. You have four options as to how money should be payed out or in. You can use either positive or negative numbers to enter costs.

6. Comments, phone numbers, contact dates, etc. can be entered on each job card.

7. You may enter a fixed time delay for a job if needed for the purpose of leveling costs or resources. This will be added to the expected time for the sake of calculating critical path.

8. A project name may also be entered under "Commands" at the top of screen.

9. Jobs and connections can be entered or deleted at a later time without having to reenter all data. Deletions and editing are handled through the job cards.

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Printing Out and Using Your Information:

On the screen, the critical path is shown in yellow. To print out the information, from the file menu select print. The program will present you with four main options. 1. You may print a brief summary of the jobs, their earliest start and latest finish dates, and their estimated times. 2. You may print the CPM chart. Critical path is emphasized by line width. 3. You may print job cards. Each job is printed on a 3x5 space. The set up is for 3x5 Avery card stock. 4. You may

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print the job costs. If you are sensitive about someone accidentally seeing the costs on your job cards, these can be suppressed. If you only want a cost overview the weekly costs from each job need not be printed.

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Saving & Loading Your Data:

You can save your projects using the save option under the "file" heading at the top of the screen. The files will be saved with a ".cpm" appended to the name.

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Warnings and Disclaimers:

This program comes without warranty of any kind. It was put together by an old guy and a bunch of college students. It has little error trapping, no tolerance of non-standard entry, and no run time under fire. WYSIWYG. We have found that for the system to print properly on an NT server the appropriate **VB6 DLL** files **MUST** be present. Consult your local IT professional. Past that you have the source code!! Enjoy!!

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Contact:

You may contact Talbot at the British Embassy for your exit visa. Otherwise Suggest any of the project management books by Spinner as a reference. And if you have suggestions for improvements send them to:

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Thank you for your interest and time!! Let the Fun Begin!!!

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