

Deltek Cobra™: Instant Cost Management for Primavera Users

Quick, easy, and proven. Add more business value to your P3®, P3e®, or P3e/c® investment with this simple, out-of-the-box cost/schedule solution for Deltek Cobra™

KEY BENEFITS:

- **Increased visibility into your project's performance over a period of time**
- **Improved monitoring of your project's health and cash flow with Deltek Cobra**
- **Integrate information with Open Plan, Microsoft Project, P3/ P3e automatically**

TIME-PHASED DATA

In a scheduling tool, it is difficult to enter data by fiscal period. Once entered, time-phased reporting on hours, dollars and quantities is limited. With Cobra, the Primavera schedule is loaded into time-phased fiscal periods that you define. Cobra stores the budget, forecast, actual costs and earned value by period. For example, you could go back in time and see exactly how low January's earned value was due to poor weather conditions. It is easy to track hours, dollars and quantities, such as cubic yards of concrete. You gain visibility into your project's performance over a particular period by time-phased or cumulative to date reporting of original budget, changes in scope, forecast, actual hours, dollars and quantities.

CASH FLOW MANAGEMENT

Typically a schedule contains only estimated costs — not revenue. Cobra allows you to enter revenue and calculate the projected profit using the formula: revenue minus budget (or forecast). Cobra provides a full range of profit/loss analysis, break-even point and return on investment reports. Not only can you have a detailed schedule, but you can also manage your cash flow and monitor your project's health easily using Cobra.

ACTUAL COSTS AT A SUMMARY LEVEL

Everyone knows what a nightmare it is to collect actual costs at an activity level when you have a detailed schedule with very short activities. Cobra allows you to keep the detail in your schedule and limit the number of charge numbers by posting actual costs to a summary level — typically the control account level. The Load Actual Costs process of Cobra integrates easily with most accounting systems. Actual cost transaction files from accounting can be cumulative-to-date and Cobra will subtract what has already been loaded and post an adjusting entry in the current period. This method keeps Cobra in sync with accounting regardless of accounting adjustments. In addition, you can create one file from accounting and load the data into hundreds of projects automatically over night without user intervention. Cobra efficiently posts the correct transactions, logs the errors and creates the exception file of invalid transactions. This makes reporting of actual costs with schedule and other data effortless and accurate.



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Deltek is a global leader dedicated to delivering enterprise management software that meets the unique needs of project-focused organizations. With over two decades of experience, Deltek enables companies to maximize profitability and productivity, integrating all aspects of their businesses. More than 11,000 customers worldwide rely on Deltek to streamline operations, improve performance and win more business.

MANAGEMENT BY EXCEPTION

Management by exception is an efficient way to manage many projects or one large project. Instead of managing everything, you look for items in the project that are not performing as planned and investigate those items. Before the project starts, you set thresholds to define expectable cost and schedule variances from the plan. You have probably heard PMI talk about earned value. Management by exception is one of the many benefits of earned value that most scheduling tools do not provide. Cobra provides several views of data that highlight the items that exceed the predefined threshold in red or green.

DERIVED COSTS

For every hour an employee works, there are many more expenses than just their salary. Cobra allows you to define how overhead, fringe benefits and other derived costs are calculated. Therefore, as an example, when the cost of a benefit changes you change the benefit rate and all of the resource costs update automatically.

MULTIPLE RATE FILES

In these difficult economic times, you have to manage costs tightly — a difficult task when there is only one rate file per project in a scheduling tool. Cobra allows you to properly model the challenges below and more by using unlimited rate files per project:

- Forecasted rate different from originally budgeted rate
- Change in scope is charged at a premium
- Billing rate verses internal rate
- Work at the plant has a different overhead rate than work done in the office
- Security

Cobra was originally developed to satisfy government-reporting requirements, therefore, almost every feature in Cobra can be secured: File level security keeps people from viewing projects or rate files they do not have rights to read or update. Menu level security keeps people from using options such as Top Down Planning, which allows you to back in your hours to meet a required dollar amount. Program security restricts users from changing the budget or actual costs in a program while giving full rights to update status and forecast information. Class security restricts users from changing the original budget while giving them full access to add budget for new scope. The program log automatically tracks all change in scope in a separate table. When budget is changed, the user login ID, date, activity, and amount are all captured in a table for reporting.

SCHEDULE INTEGRATION

Using the Integration Wizard and batch processing of Cobra, you can schedule Cobra to be automatically updated overnight using the information in P3/P3e, MSP or Open Plan. The Integration Wizard allows you to configure how Cobra links to your schedule and what information you want loaded. You can click the Synchronize button daily/monthly, or you can use a job scheduler to have Cobra automatically synchronize with the schedule.

APPORTIONMENT

Cobra's powerful apportionment feature allows you to add resources to activities using a calculation. For example, if you budget travel to be 25 percent of engineering costs, Cobra will add travel as a new resource and roll that resource up to an Other Direct Cost (ODC) — not affecting labor costs. This process can also be used to calculate IT support, or even more advance bulk items in manufacturing, or items such as scaffolding in construction. The uses of this feature limitless. Not only can these calculations be used to define the budget, but they can also be used for earned value calculations and forecasting.