

Project 2000 Technical Document

Requirements:

- Microsoft Project 2000
- Web TimeSheet 3.3 SR3
- All projects must be stored in .MPD database format
- Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.0 or above
- ActiveX control settings must be "Prompt" or "Enabled"

Constraints:

- Netscape Navigator is not a supported browser.
- Task assignments default to everyone at the optional level
- Time is never imported from MS Project 2000
- Resources are never imported from MS Project 2000
- No integration with MS Project Central

Technology:

The WTS MS Project 2000 link uses Microsoft ADO (ActiveX Data Object) technology along with ODBC connections to import and export from MS Project 2000. The WTS ActiveX control establishes a link with both the WTS database and the MS Project database and transfers data between the two depending on the user's choices.

In the case of an import into WTS, the connection is made to the MS Project 2000 database using a Connection and Command object, and all tasks and sub tasks are imported, maintaining their structure and layout. Time and resources for tasks is not imported, only the project structure.

ActiveX

The ActiveX control checks for a valid MS Project Database and a valid WTS database and then prompts the user to choose project to import. Once the user has selected the project from the MS Project 2000 database, the ActiveX control will import all tasks from the project into Web TimeSheet. If the ActiveX control finds a project with the same name, new tasks are appended to the project structure. The ActiveX control does not recognize deleted tasks, only new ones. For example, if you import a project from MS Project 2000 and then delete tasks within the Project 2000 database. After re-importing into Web TimeSheet you will find the original task, which you deleted outside of Web TimeSheet, is still there.

In the case of an export from WTS, the connection is made to the MS Project 2000 database using the Connection and Command object and all tasks and subtasks are exported to the MS Project 2000 database selected. If the ActiveX control finds a project with the same name, new tasks are appended to the project structure. The ActiveX control does not recognize deleted tasks, only new ones. Resources are not exported in this scenario but you have the option to explicitly export time with certain constraints. If "only export approved time" is selected then the ActiveX control will only export approved time towards the given task. If "export all time" is selected then all time entered towards a given task is exported. (Preliminary testing shows that if hours towards a MS Project task exceed predefined schedule, MS Project attempts to adjust the Gantt chart to reflect the changed allocations due to extraneous hours.) If "do not export time if it exceeds allocation" is selected then the ActiveX control confirms that hours entered does not exceed specified allocation within MS Project 2000 based on an 8 hour work day