



## **Clevor Schedule Optimizer for Professional Services Firms**

### **Professional service firms**

Professional services firms include accounting firms, software companies, engineering companies, consulting companies, law firms etc.

### **Their scheduling needs**

Professional services firms undertake multiple assignments (projects) each with a given scope of work, a start and completion date. Each of these assignments would consist of a number of tasks that are related to each other by precedence relationships and milestones that are controlled by others, such as the client. Each of these tasks requires staff with the appropriate skills to carry out each of the tasks. The assignment and scheduling of the staff must also maximize the profits of the firm while taking into account longer term issues related to training, customer preferences and deepening and broadening of staff skills. In addition, the process must be efficient so that the schedules can be updated quickly to take into account the changes that may take place.

### **Clevor Schedule Optimizer for professional service firms**

The Clevor Schedule Optimizer for Professional Service firms is designed to fulfill the above needs. Some of the highlights of our solution are:

#### **Objective of the schedule**

Clevor Schedule Optimizer can handle most business objectives. However, the most common business objective in scheduling of multiple projects being undertaken by professional firms is to come up with a schedule that will “minimize the total cost of the all the projects” or “maximize the profits from all the project being scheduled” while meeting all constraints, including the required completion dates of the different projects and the resources that may be available.

#### **The schedules are feasible**

The schedules built by Clevor are “feasible”. This means that they can be implemented successfully because they observe all the specified constraints. These constraints include the work breakdown structure of each of the projects being scheduled, the specific person

or a person from a group that is assigned to each of the task of each of the projects, start and needed completion dates for each project, the calendar for each person on staff, the availability of additional persons that could be considered etc.

### **Cost elements included in the total cost objective**

The following cost elements are included in the total cost objective or total profit objective at this time:

1. Cost of undertaking each of the tasks using the right resource in the right quantity. It also takes into account the hiring cost, cost during the time for which the resources is hired.
2. Any fixed costs related to the various tasks
3. Moving cost. This is the cost (and time) involved in moving staff.
4. Overhead cost for each project.
5. Interest cost
6. Lateness cost and opportunity cost for each of the projects being scheduled

### **Benefits of Clevor Schedule Optimizer for Professional service firms**

#### **Cost savings**

Cleivor scheduler helps our customers improve the utilization of their resources. Based on the tests carried out by Clevor and the experience of Clevor's customers, we estimate that our customers can obtain 10% to 25% savings in their variable costs over time. These savings come from better utilization and better recovery.

#### **Improved customer service**

Our customers find that they can provide a much better service to their clients by providing better due date performance and many times much earlier due dates.

#### **Risk management**

Our customers track the progress of each of their projects at least once a week. This gives them a much better measurement of the progress of these projects and the cost incurred. This allows them to take corrective actions when necessary. This is how they control their risk of cost overruns.

#### **Focus on best practices and methods**

Once the schedules are being managed better, our customers focus on identifying best practices and methods. These efforts yield still more cost savings.

## **Updates and re-scheduling**

In spite of all the best planning and scheduling, things will change. When they do, reschedule. But, do not make the schedules too nervous. Consider the triggers for rescheduling carefully.

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