Software Assessment Form (SAF)

ProjectControls
Online.com

Introduction

ProjectControlsOnline (PCO, http://www.projectcontrolsonline.com/) uses this Software Assessment Form (SAF) as a simple assessment tool to evaluate the technical project management software.

By using this consistent set of criteria (scoring based assessment) for assessing the technical software, PCO will make it more efficient and easier for our members to compare and distinguish when reviewing/selecting the appropriate tools for use in theirorganisation/project with consideration of their unique requirements.
We use the scoring based assessment criteria below:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

-ve   neutral   +ve

PCO Team is assessing the software totally independent of the vendors and while taking the maximum effort to be accurate, does not accept any responsibility of the software application/s and/or its performance in the practical environment. Users are encouraged to do their own assessment of the software before making the decision for any application.

Name of Assessor/s:

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Visit http://www.projectcontrolsonline.com for more info.

Product Overview

1 Name of Software

Acumen Fuse

2 Producer

Acumen Fuse, http://www.projectacumen.com
7320 N. Mopac, Suite 301, Austin, TX 7873.
Phone +1 512 291 6261
info@projectacumen.com

3 Cost Information and Pricing Options

Yes, visit http://www.projectacumen.com/fuse/trial/.
Alternatively, this can be also accessed via visiting:
www.projectcontrolsonline.com/portals/0/10_Fuse_Named_Pricing_2012.pdf

4 Trial Software Version

- Trial version is available – YES but user need to request for serial number.
- Number of days for trial version – 30 days.
- Are there any feature limits in the trial version ? – No.

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

5 System Requirements

- Microsoft® Windows XP Service Pack 2 or higher, Windows Vista, Windows 7
- Microsoft .NET Framework version 4.0 SP1 (included as part of Fuse installer)
- DirectX 7.0 (9.0 or higher recommended)
- Minimum 1 GB RAM, recommended 2 GB RAM
- Hard Drive Space required: 40 MB
- No database installation required

6 Software Application

Acumen Fuse is a metric analysis and visualisation to help improve the schedule maturity, eliminating unrealistic estimating and providing true insight during execution. Fuse uses libraries of metrics to provide a unique insight into how to improve project plans and execution strategies. It quickly pin-point problematic areas and activities within a project and provide solutions for resolution.

7 Help documentation within the software – Available via help menu options and lacks pop up features during assessment.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

8 Support Material

- Software offers help at any stage – Yes by using help options.
- Software provides users with additional resources like web sites – NO
- Software provides an easy platform for receiving feedback from users – YES
- Tutorial Material is available – YES. Please visit

  http://www.projectacumen.com/assets/Uploads/PDFFiles/
  AcumenFuseUserGuide.pdf

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

9 Online Support

Yes. Company website offer online support and email & phone are provided.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

10 Technical Features

A) Presentation and Layouts

- Layout is clear and intuitive – YES
- It is easy to navigate through the information to find features – YES
- Layout is logical – Acceptable
- Layout is consistent in different places – Acceptable

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	**9**	10

B) Administration and Operation

- Easy to use and follow – YES
- All links work properly – YES
- Clear and complete directions are available – YES
- The software is easy to enter and exit – YES
- Customisation – not really, rules/reports can not be customised

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	**8**	9	10

C) Integration with External Software

- Integration with Primavera – YES
- Integration with other tools – YES such as Deltek and Asta products
- Integration with Excel – YES

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	**9**	10

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D) Printing

- Printing – Acceptable but there is scope of improvement

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

E) Reports (excluding graphics)

- Pre-built standard reports are available – YES.
- Custom reports are available – Yes with limitations
- Query Builder for reports – Not applicable
- Reports to be exported as .csv, .xls and .pdf – YES
- Auto reports generation and distribution – has not been checked

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

F) Graphics and Multimedia

- Graphics are well designed and rendered – Acceptable
- Background and text are pleasing and easy to read – Acceptable
- Effective colours been used – YES, more features to customise needed
- Animation and Multimedia capability – Good

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

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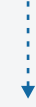Visit http://www.projectcontrolsonline.com for more info.

11 Training

Apart from classroom training, online training on frequent intervals is available and places can be reserved using company website.

12 Future Releases

Not known

13 Opportunities/Scope of improvement

Acumen seems to be great tool for developing risk schedules however it may not an ideal s/w for assessing Level III working schedules due to non acceptance of limited soft constraints, SS lags etc.

Overall Score

During the testing, we found Fuse as very versatile, analytical and quality assurance tool for Project Schedules. Acumen's "forensic analysis" has an ability to compare multiple schedules, or iterations of the same schedule to identify differences as well as understand the root cause of the delays. Its "logic analysis" allows you to quickly check all logic links within the project (or multiple projects) and lastly, Acumen's "metric analysis" includes over 250 schedule, cost, risk, EV & performance metrics Such as open ends, logic density™, number of critical activities, soft & hard constraints, high and –ve floats, durations, number of lags, and maximum lag in its "Ribbon Analyzer"

These key analytics aid in ensuring project schedule pass through the tripwire and hence worth recommending

| 10 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 | 90 | 100 |

Review Date: 25th Jan 2012

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