

Microsoft Project to dotProject Importer

Functional Specification
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This document is a final functional specification of the fully-developed and fully-complete Microsoft Project to dotProject Importer. This is only for informational purposes.

Overview

In order to decrease the costs of a Microsoft Project to dotProject conversion, CaseySoftware, LLC has developed an importer module to utilize previously developed templates, projects, etc. This will protect the prior investment of time and money while allowing the conversion to dotProject to be more cost effective and smoother.

System Architecture

- The MS Project Importer builds on the existing dotProject Backup Module which provides import/export capability. The additional code in no way affects the functioning of the rest of the system.
- The import has been demonstrated to be fully functional with all versions of Microsoft Project 2000 and above and dotProject v2.0.1. *dotProject v1.0.2 should not be used for production systems due to security concerns, numerous bug fixes, and improvements.*

User Interface

- In order to use the Importer, a user simply exports the selected Microsoft Project file into XML.
- Once the Backup module is enabled with the proper templates and logic in place, these Microsoft Project XML files can simply be selected and imported. The details of the import are displayed on a confirmation screen where the user can make additional adjustments, and the data is imported.
- By default, a new Project and related Tasks will always be created with their respective start dates, end dates, and durations, but Users referenced in the file will attempt to be matched against existing dotProject Users.

Open Issues

- The only known issue involving this module is the difference between time-based and effort-based estimates. There is no concept of effort-based tasking in dotProject, so all tasks are treated as time-based exclusively. This may be addressed in later versions once this concept is handled by dotProject.