

Managing Project Phases with MindGenius



Life Technologies

- Biotechnology
- Improving Project Planning

Henry Miller is ERP Project Manager at Life Technologies and has been using MindGenius for 9 months. He uses MindGenius for project planning and control on all shapes and sizes of projects. These can range from global supply chain change management projects to mini-projects such as working out the operational requirements for an office move to a new building.

Henry recently worked on a project to investigate and implement an improved way for performing a sales forecast and managed the second phase of this project using MindGenius.

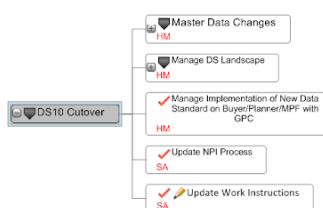


Fig. 1 Overview of Project

The objective of the project was to change the configuration of supply chain forecasts to a more aggregated model. The reason for this was to gain the benefits of more accurate forecasting based on highly aggregated demand. Henry feels MindGenius was an integral part of the success of the project as it enabled many small details to be kept visible and not "lost" until they started causing problems. It gave them a clear view of every aspect of the project and allowed them to deliver on time and with no disruption to standard business processes.

To manage the second phase, a Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) was developed to identify all tasks that needed to be completed.

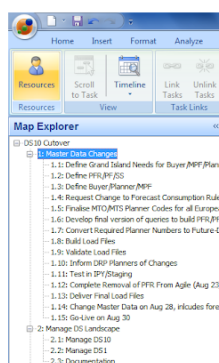


Fig. 2 Map Explorer showing overview of WBS map structure

Henry then used the Gantt chart view to visualize and manage the time line, working back from the required go-live date to work out timings and milestones. To monitor task progress, comments were added to the WBS tasks and the % completion record was used in conjunction with filters to allow Henry to view outstanding tasks. The MindGenius map was updated daily and reviewed weekly by the implementation team to manage and control the project.

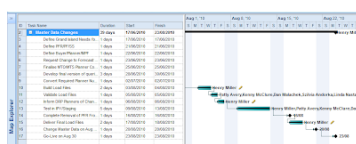


Fig. 3 Gantt view created from WBS mapIn the past Henry would have worked with Excel spreadsheets with action tracking lists, a method which he found more labor intensive.

Henry believes that:

"MindGenius is a very powerful tool, allowing me to do everything from scoping out a project to organizing a timeline and then tracking the work to completion. With spreadsheets this is a laborious process whereas MindGenius makes this much less of an overhead activity and simply part of the workflow. I particularly like the Gantt function and its integration with the map. The ability to export easily to Word and other Office packages was also useful for communicating with colleagues who did not have access to MindGenius."