

Microsoft Project 2019



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Microsoft Project 2019 Step by Step

Cindy Lewis Carl Chatfield Timothy Johnson

Microsoft Project 2019 Step by Step

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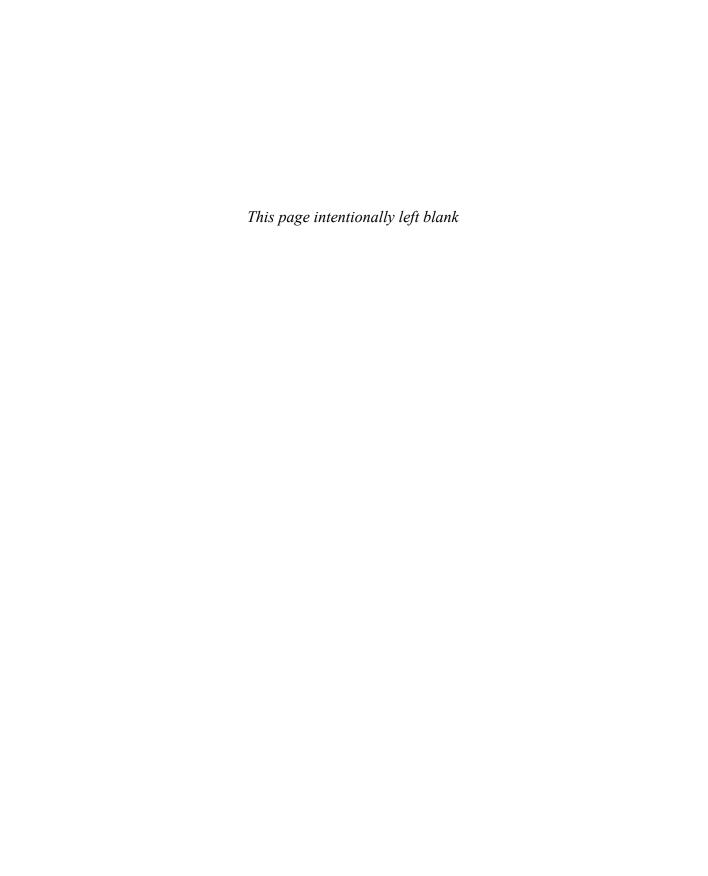
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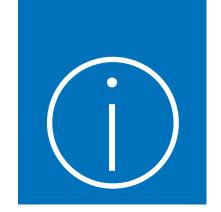
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—Cindy Lewis





Introduction

Welcome! This *Step by Step* book has been designed so that you can read it from the beginning to learn about Microsoft Project 2019 and then build your skills as you learn to perform increasingly specialized procedures. Alternatively, if you prefer, you can jump in wherever you need ready guidance for performing tasks. The how-to steps are delivered crisply and concisely—just the facts. You'll also find informative, full-color graphics that support the instructional content.

Who this book is for

Microsoft Project 2019 Step by Step is designed for use as a learning and reference resource by home and business users of Microsoft programs who want to use Project to create and manage projects more efficiently. The content of the book is designed to be useful both for people who have previously used earlier versions of Project and for people who are discovering Project for the first time.

The Step by Step approach

The book's coverage is divided into chapters representing general Project skill sets. Each part is divided into chapters representing skill set areas, and each chapter is divided into topics that group related skills. Each topic includes expository information followed by generic procedures. At the end of each chapter is a series of practice tasks you can complete on your own by using the skills taught in the chapter. You can use the practice files that are available from this book's website to work through the practice tasks, or you can use your own files.

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Adapt procedure steps

This book contains many images of the Project user interface elements (such as the ribbon and the program window) that you'll work with while performing tasks in Project on a Windows computer. Depending on your screen resolution or window width, the Project ribbon on your screen might look different from the one shown in this book. (If you turn on Touch mode, the ribbon might display some commands in a different layout.) As a result, procedural instructions that involve the ribbon might require a little adaptation.

Simple procedural instructions use this format:

1. On the Task tab, in the View group, click the Gantt Chart button.

If the command is in a list, our instructions use this format:

 On the View tab, in the Data group, click the Filter arrow and then, in the Filter list, click Summary Tasks.

If differences between your display settings and ours cause a button to appear differently on your screen than it does in this book, you can easily adapt the steps to locate the command. First click the specified tab and then locate the specified group. If a group has been collapsed into a group list or under a group button, click the list or button to display the group's commands. If you can't immediately identify the button you want, point to likely candidates to display their names in ScreenTips.

Multistep procedural instructions use this format:

- 1. On the **View** tab, in the **Resource Views** group, click the **Resource Sheet** button to display the Resource Sheet view.
- 2. On the View tab, in the Data group, click the Tables button and then click Cost.

The instructions in this book assume that you're interacting with onscreen elements on your computer by clicking (with a mouse, touchpad, or other hardware device). If you're using a different method—for example, if your computer has a touchscreen interface and you're tapping the screen (with your finger or a stylus)—substitute the applicable tapping action when you interact with a user interface element.

Instructions in this book refer to Project user interface elements that you click or tap on the screen as *buttons* and refer to physical buttons that you press on a keyboard as *keys*, to conform to the standard terminology used in documentation for these products.

When the instructions tell you to enter information, you can do so by typing on a connected external keyboard, tapping an onscreen keyboard, or even speaking aloud, depending on your computer setup and your personal preferences.

How to get support & provide feedback

The following sections provide information on errata, book support, feedback, and contact information.

Errata & book support

We've made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this book and its companion content. You can access updates to this book—in the form of a list of submitted errata and their related corrections—at https://www.microsoftpressstore.com/store/microsoft-project-2019-step-by-step-9781509307425.

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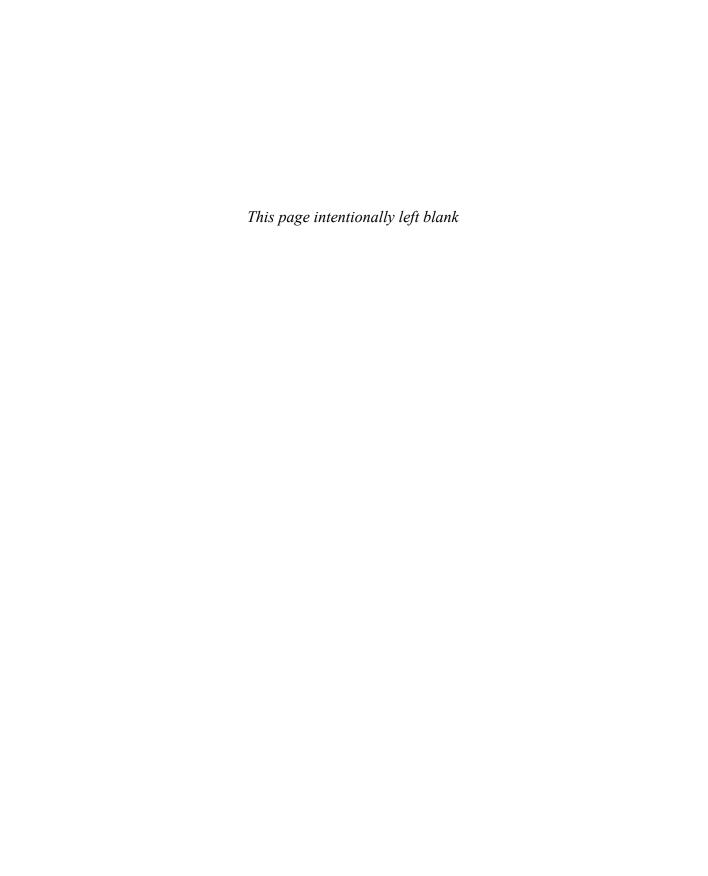
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Part 2

Simple scheduling basics

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Start a new plan

3

Practice files

No practice files are necessary to complete the practice tasks in this chapter.

A project's schedule or plan is essentially a model that you construct for some project aspects that you are anticipating—what you expect will happen, or what you want to happen. This model focuses on certain key aspects of a project, such as tasks, resources, time frames, and possible associated costs. Note that this book refers to the types of documents that Project 2019 works with as *plans*, not documents or schedules.

This chapter guides you through procedures related to creating a new plan and setting its start date, setting nonworking days in a project calendar, and entering a plan's title and other properties.

Create a new plan and set its start date

As you might expect, Project focuses primarily on time. Sometimes you might know the expected start date of a project, the expected finish date, or both. However, when working with Project, you specify only one date, not both—either the plan's start date or its finish date.

In this chapter

- Create a new plan and set its start date
- Set nonworking days in the project calendar
- Enter the plan title and other properties

After you enter the plan's start date or finish date and any additional details, Project calculates the other date for you. Remember that Project is not merely a static repository of your schedule information or a Gantt chart drawing tool—it is an active scheduling engine.

Most plans should be scheduled from a start date, even if you know that the plan should finish by a certain deadline date. Scheduling from a start date sets all tasks to begin as soon as possible and gives you the greatest scheduling flexibility. In this chapter and later chapters, you will see this flexibility in action as you work with a plan that is scheduled from a start date.

To create a new plan

- 1. In Project, if the **File** tab is displayed, click it and then click **New**.
- 2. In the list of templates, click **Blank Project** or any other template you want.

Or

1. If you already have a list of available templates on the Start screen, click **Blank Project** or any other template you want.

When you create a new plan, Project sets the plan's start date to the current date. As Figure 3-1 shows, Project draws a thin green vertical line in the chart portion of the Gantt Chart view at the current date.



TIP Line formatting can be changed to accommodate color blindness. See Chapter 16, "Format and print views: In-depth techniques," and its discussion on gridlines.

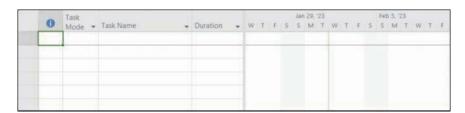


FIGURE 3-1 The current date is shown in the Gantt Chart view; look for the green vertical line (your current date likely differs).



TIP The current date line is drawn at the start of the day.

To set (or change) the plan's start date

- 1. On the **Project** tab, in the **Properties** group, click **Project Information**.
- 2. In the **Project Information** dialog box, in the **Start Date** box, either enter the start date you want or click the arrow to select one from the calendar.



TIP In the calendar, you can use the left and right arrows to navigate to any month and then click the date you want, or you can click Today to quickly choose the current date.

3. Click **OK** to accept the start date and close the **Project Information** dialog box.

To save the new plan

- 1. Click the File tab, and then click Save As.
- 2. On the Save As page, navigate to the location where you want to save the plan.

TIP You can adjust Project settings related to files. For example, you can set Project to automatically display the Project Information dialog box each time you create a new plan. To make this change, click the File tab and then click Options. In the Project Options dialog box, click Advanced, and then, under General, select the check box titled Prompt for Project Info for New Projects. You can also instruct Project to automatically save the active plan at predefined intervals, such as every 10 minutes. In the Project Options dialog box, click Save, select the Auto Save Every check box, and then specify the time interval you want.

Set nonworking days in the project calendar

Calendars are the primary means by which you control when each task and resource can be scheduled for work in Project. In later chapters, you will work with other types of calendars; in this chapter, we focus on the project calendar.

The project calendar defines the general working and nonworking days and times for tasks for the entire plan. Project includes multiple calendars, called base calendars, and any one of those calendars can serve as the project calendar for a plan. As Figure 3-2 shows, you select the base calendar to be used as the project calendar in the Project Information dialog box.

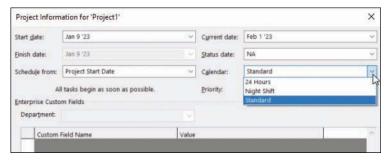


FIGURE 3-2 Set the plan's start date, project calendar, and other essential schedule settings in the Project Information dialog box.

IMPORTANT If you are using Project Professional instead of Project Standard, be aware that the Project Information dialog box and some other dialog boxes may contain additional options related to Project Online or Project Server. For more information, see Appendix C, "Collaborate: Project, SharePoint, and PWA."

The Calendar list contains the three base calendars that are included with Project:

- 24 Hours Has no nonworking time; all time is working time.
- Night Shift Covers a night shift schedule of Monday night through Saturday morning, 11:00 P.M. to 8:00 A.M. (23:00 to 08:00), with a 1-hour break each day.
- Standard The traditional working day and week, Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. (08:00 to 17:00), with a 1-hour break each day.

Only one of the base calendars serves as the project calendar; the Standard calendar is the default.

Think of the project calendar as your organization's normal working days and hours. For example, this might be Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. through 5:00 P.M. (08:00 to 17:00), with a 1-hour lunch break each day. Your organization or specific resources might have exceptions to this normal working time, such as public holidays or vacation days (personal holidays). You'll address resource vacations in Chapter 5, "Set up resources."

You customize calendars as shown in Figure 3-3 in the Change Working Time dialog box, which opens when you click the Change Working Time button on the Project tab.

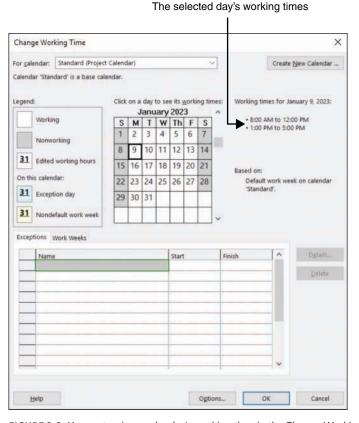


FIGURE 3-3 You customize a calendar's working time in the Change Working Time dialog box.

Use this dialog box to set normal working schedules and working time exceptions for individual resources or the entire plan. Other common examples of working time adjustments include the following:

- Recurring holidays or other times off that follow a known pattern, such as weekly, monthly, or annually.
- Variable working times per week—for example, to address seasonal changes in working times.
- Unique working hours for a resource. You'll adjust such settings in Chapter 5.

To select the project calendar

- 1. On the **Project** tab, in the **Properties** group, click the **Project Information** button.
- 2. In the **Project Information** dialog box, in the **Calendar** box, click the arrow and then click the calendar you want to use as the project calendar.

To set a specific date as nonworking

- 1. On the **Project** tab, in the **Properties** group, click the **Change Working Time** button.
- 2. On the **Exceptions** tab in the lower portion of the **Change Working Time** dialog box, in the **Name** field, enter a description of the exception.



TIP You don't need to name calendar exceptions, but it's a good practice for you or others to identify the reason for the exception.

- 3. In the **Start** and **Finish** fields, enter or select the dates you want.
- 4. Click OK.

To set up a recurring nonworking time

- 1. On the **Project** tab, in the **Properties** group, click the **Change Working Time** button.
- 2. On the **Exceptions** tab of the **Change Working Time** dialog box, in the **Name** field, enter a description of the recurring exception.
- 3. Click in the **Start** field, and then click **Details**.
- 4. In the **Details** dialog box, under **Recurrence Patterns**, select the recurrence values you want, and then click **OK**.
- 5. Click **OK** to close the **Change Working Time** dialog box.

To set up a custom work week

- 1. On the **Project** tab, in the **Properties** group, click the **Change Working Time** button.
- 2. Click the **Work Weeks** tab in the lower portion of the **Change Working Time** dialog box.
- 3. Click a row below the [Default] value.
- 4. Enter a description and the date range you want to apply to the custom work week
- 5. In the **Start** and **Finish** fields, enter or select the date range you want to apply to the custom work week.
- 6. Click Details.

- 7. In the **Details** dialog box, select the day and time values you want, and then click **OK**.
- 8. Click **OK** to close the **Change Working Time** dialog box.

Enter the plan title and other properties

As with other Microsoft Office apps, Project keeps track of several document properties. Some of these properties are statistics, such as how many times the document has been revised. Other properties include information that you might want to record about a plan, such as the project title, the project manager's name, or keywords to support a file search. Some of these properties are used in views, reports, and page headers and footers when printing. You can view and record these properties in the Properties dialog box shown in Figure 3-4.

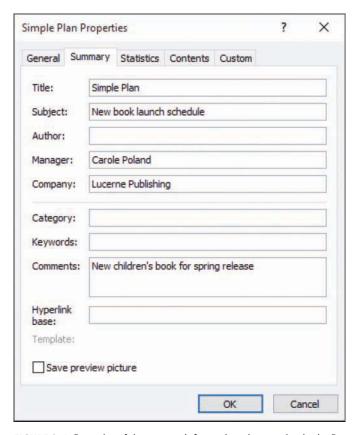


FIGURE 3-4 Record useful summary information about a plan in the Properties dialog box.



TIP The project title and comments automatically appear on the Project Summary Task. For more information, see Chapter 4, "Build a task list."

To enter a plan's properties

- 1. Click the File tab, and then click Info.
- 2. On the right side of the **Info** screen, click **Project Information**. In the menu that appears, click **Advanced Properties**.
- 3. Enter the properties you want to record (all are optional), and then click **OK**.

Project management focus: Project is part of a larger picture

Depending on your needs and the information to which you have access, the plans that you develop in Project might not deal with other important aspects of your projects. For example, many large projects take place in organizations that have a formal change-management process. Before a major change to the scope of a project is allowed, the people managing and implementing the project must evaluate and approve the change. Even though this is an important project-management activity, it is not done directly within Project.

Skills review

In this chapter, you learned how to

- Create a new plan and set its start date
- Set nonworking days in the project calendar
- Enter the plan title and other properties

Practice tasks

No practice files are necessary to complete the practice tasks in this chapter.



IMPORTANT If you are running Project Professional, Project Online Professional, or Project Online Premium, make sure your Project desktop client is not connected to Project Web App but is instead set to Computer mode. For more information, see Appendix C.

Create a new plan and set its start date

The scenario: Throughout this book, you play the role of a project manager at Lucerne Publishing, a book publisher that specializes in children's books. Lucerne is about to publish a major new book, and you've been asked to develop a plan for the book launch. Start Project and perform the following tasks:

- 1. Create a new plan based on the **Blank Project** template.
- 2. Set the new plan's start date to January 9, 2023.
- 3. Save the new plan as Simple Plan.

Set nonworking days in the project calendar

The scenario: At Lucerne Publishing, you need to account for an upcoming date on which the entire Lucerne staff will be unavailable to work on the book launch project. Continuing in the Simple Plan plan, perform the following task:

 In the project calendar, create a nonworking day calendar exception named Staff at morale event for January 25, 2023, which is illustrated in Figure 3-5.

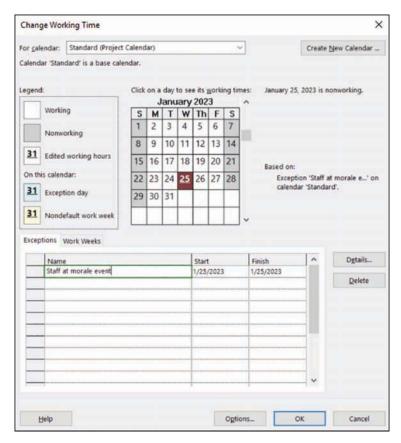


FIGURE 3-5 The calendar exception you created should look like this in the Change Working Time dialog box.

Enter the plan title and other properties

The scenario: You want to record top-level information about the new book launch plan. These details don't affect the overall schedule, but they relate to important supplemental information you want to keep in the plan. Continuing in the Simple Plan plan, perform the following task:

- 1. Give the Simple Plan the following properties:
 - Subject: New book launch schedule
 - Manager: Carole Poland
 - Company: Lucerne Publishing
 - Comments: New children's book for spring release

2. Review the Gantt Chart view for this plan and, in the timescale, locate the vertical current date line and the date for the morale event you created in the previous section.

Notice that the morale event is shaded the same way as other nonworking time in the timescale.



TIP If you do not see the shading for nonworking time, check to make sure you are viewing the timescale by days instead of by weeks or months.

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