

# CASE STUDY: PLANNING

CLIENT	Worldwide IT Service Provider
PROJECT	UK Government IT outsourcing
CONTRACT	Bespoke
CONTRACT VALUE	£59m
WORK SCOPE	Develop an IT system to link between two UK Government departments.
BLAKE NEWPORT SERVICES PROVIDED	To produce an Integrated Schedule with interdependencies between work-streams in order to show the Critical Path of the project.



## SITUATION

The project consists of 14 work-streams all working together to produce the overall system. Each of these work-streams has its own detailed schedule to achieve their aspects of the project. There was no overall schedule in place showing how the project fitted together which meant that the client couldn't visualise the project as a whole and couldn't see the critical path running through the project.

## IMPLICATIONS

By not having an Integrated Schedule the client was unable to see whether the project would be completed within the allotted timescale or the links between the different work-streams and how they affected each other.

## OBJECTIVE

To produce an Integrated Schedule with interdependencies between work-streams in order to show the Critical Path of the project. The Integrated Schedule and associated reports should achieve the following criteria:

- Visibility of progress and areas of criticality across the project life-cycle
- Ability to examine key areas through a structured hierarchy of programmes
- Change management against the base-lined scope of work
- Efficiency of progress updating through the level of detail contained in the Integrated Schedule
- Demonstration of cause and effect re project changes, what-if scenarios, etc.

## BLAKE NEWPORT SOLUTION

After several meetings with the client it was agreed that Blake Newport would create the Integrated Schedule using the following strategy:

To take each of the work-stream Schedules at a summarised level into a single environment where cross work-stream dependencies would be established. The individual Work-stream Schedules were initially summarised for clarity and ease of administration. At the summarised level the production of the Integrated Schedule and the subsequent update would be a more efficient operation. It was also seen that the key areas of delay would be easier to determine at this summarised level. The Work-stream Schedules would be summarised and the new percentage complete and durations imported into the Integrated Schedule. These dates will then be automatically transferred into a high level schedule which will show the project at a glance.

## OUTCOME

Blake Newport produced an Integrated Schedule using data from the individual Work-stream Schedules. A High Level Schedule and RAG Report were also produced and linked directly to the Integrated Schedule for ease of update. A schedule was produced that shows visibility of progress and the areas of criticality across the project life-cycle, once the schedule has been base-lined it will be possible to show change against the base-lined scope of work. Reporting to different personnel on the project is a great deal easier as they will not have to look through all of the detail in the Work-stream Schedules to see the progress of the project.

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