

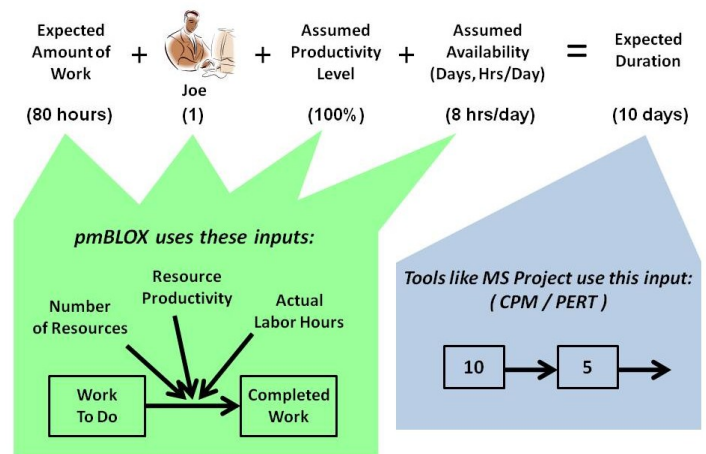


A revolution in project planning.

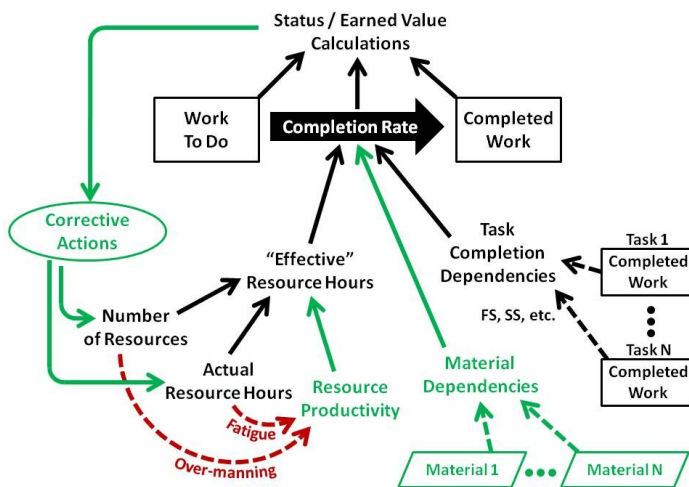
The Difference

How is pmBLOX different from other project planning approaches?

pmBLOX turns the traditional Critical Path Method (CPM) approach on its head, literally. Instead of using task duration as an input (i.e., duration-based estimating), pmBLOX uses resource information to drive the analysis (i.e., resource-based estimating). With resource-based estimating, task duration is an *output*, just like in the real world. As seen in the diagram on the right, for each task in the project pmBLOX uses inputs for the amount of work to do, resources assigned, resource productivity, and resource availability.



The Method



pmBLOX uses the system dynamics methodology as its underlying engine. System dynamics is capable of capturing relationships and feedback loops among variables that are difficult to capture in spreadsheets and other common simulation approaches. As such, the underlying task analysis model for pmBLOX can incorporate many elements into the project planning process that are very important in the real world, but often get ignored in current tools due to complexity. Key improvements to existing project models are highlighted in green and red on the diagram to the left:

- **Resource Productivity** is now a variable the user can set for each resource. This allows the project manager to incorporate differences in productivity rates due to experience, skill level, or training.
- **Management Corrective Actions** can be set by the user to indicate preferences for how a project manager would respond to schedule pressure or cost pressure. Is the response aggressive or slow?
- **Productivity Losses** due to overtime fatigue and over-manning are incorporated to show the real world impacts of over-working resources or adding too many resources to a job in an effort to accelerate work.

The Results

- **More realistic estimates:** By including resource productivity, corrective actions, and productivity losses, the pmBLOX analysis model more accurately shows how the project would progress in the real world.
- **Stringent evaluation of assumptions:** With current tools such as Microsoft Project, it is easy to establish a project schedule and draw a Gantt chart without completely accounting for how work will be done. pmBLOX forces a level of rigor that is difficult to achieve in tools available on the market today.

