

SMARTWORKS

➤ NetWork Diagrams

☒ Introduction to Network diagrams

Network diagramming is one way of graphically representing tasks in a project in a way which is easy for the managers to understand easily. Representing Activities in terms of a network diagram was developed in the 1950's. A graphical representation of project activities was done by means of a gantt chart. It differs from gantt chart in it's re offers some unique advantages to project managers.

☒ General structure of a networking diagram:

In a network diagram we would find various nodes which may represent activities / tasks in a project connected to each other using arrows. These nodes are sequenced in a chronological fashion essentially two ways of representing an activity in a network diagram. One way is to represent the activity on arrow between two nodes in the network. Another method is to represent the activity on the node itself (AON).

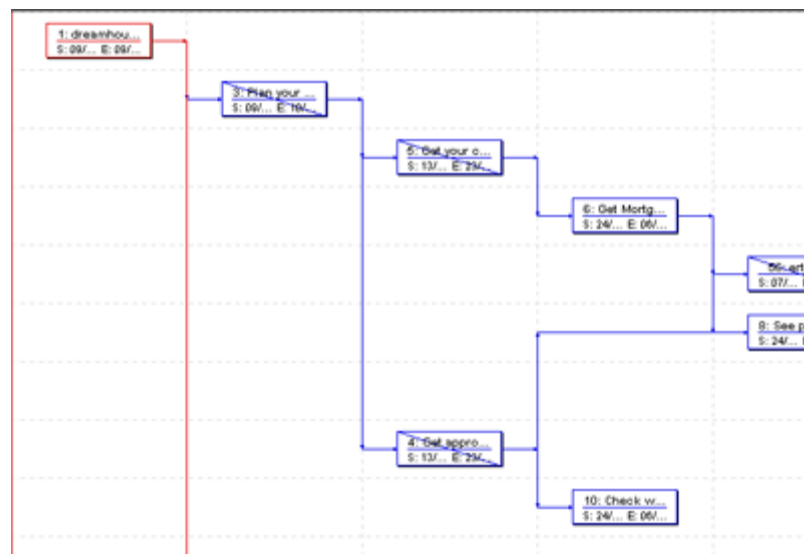


Fig1.1: Sample Network Diagram

In the case of Smartworks project planner, activity is represented on the node itself. Each activity is represented parameters:

- i) **Task Id** : An Identifier which uniquely identifies a given task/activity in a project. This is usually a number such as 10
- ii) **Task name** : Each task is given a descriptive name which normally identifies the objective of that given task (e.g. Writing a White paper for network diagram, Reviewing white paper ... et)
- iii) **Start date** : The date on which the planned activity is expected to start.
- iv) **End date** : The date on which the planned activity is expected to finish.
- v) **Duration** : The task duration
- vi) **Completion status** : whether new, complete or partially complete
- vii) **Owner** : the person responsible for completing the task

Some advantages of a network diagram

1. These diagrams display logical relationships among various activities in a project.
2. It lets the project manager see how the various activities flow towards completion in chronological order.
3. It provides how resources are utilized in a project for a given time period which could help the manager to perform if necessary.

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