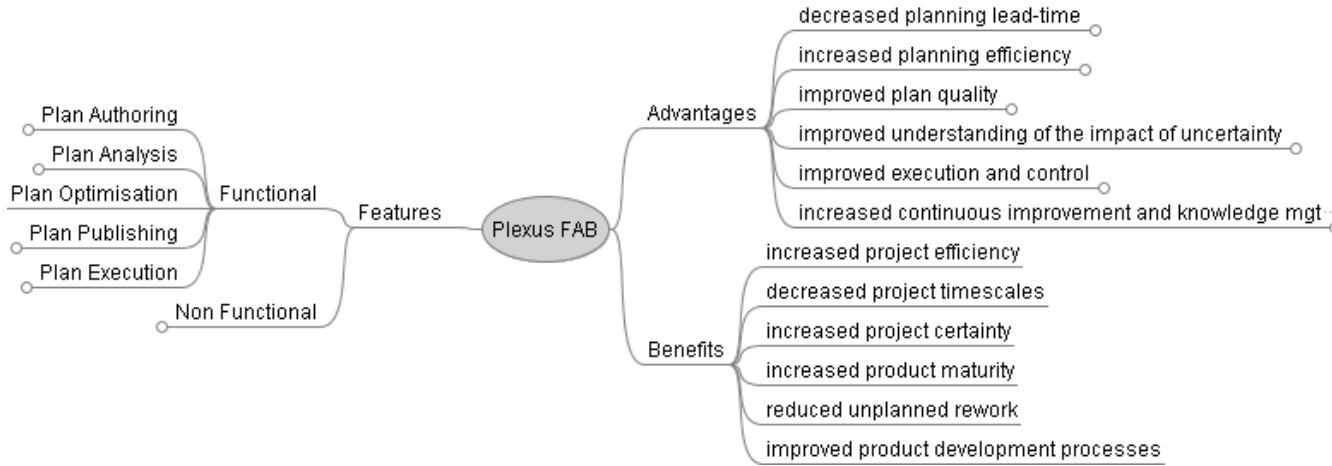
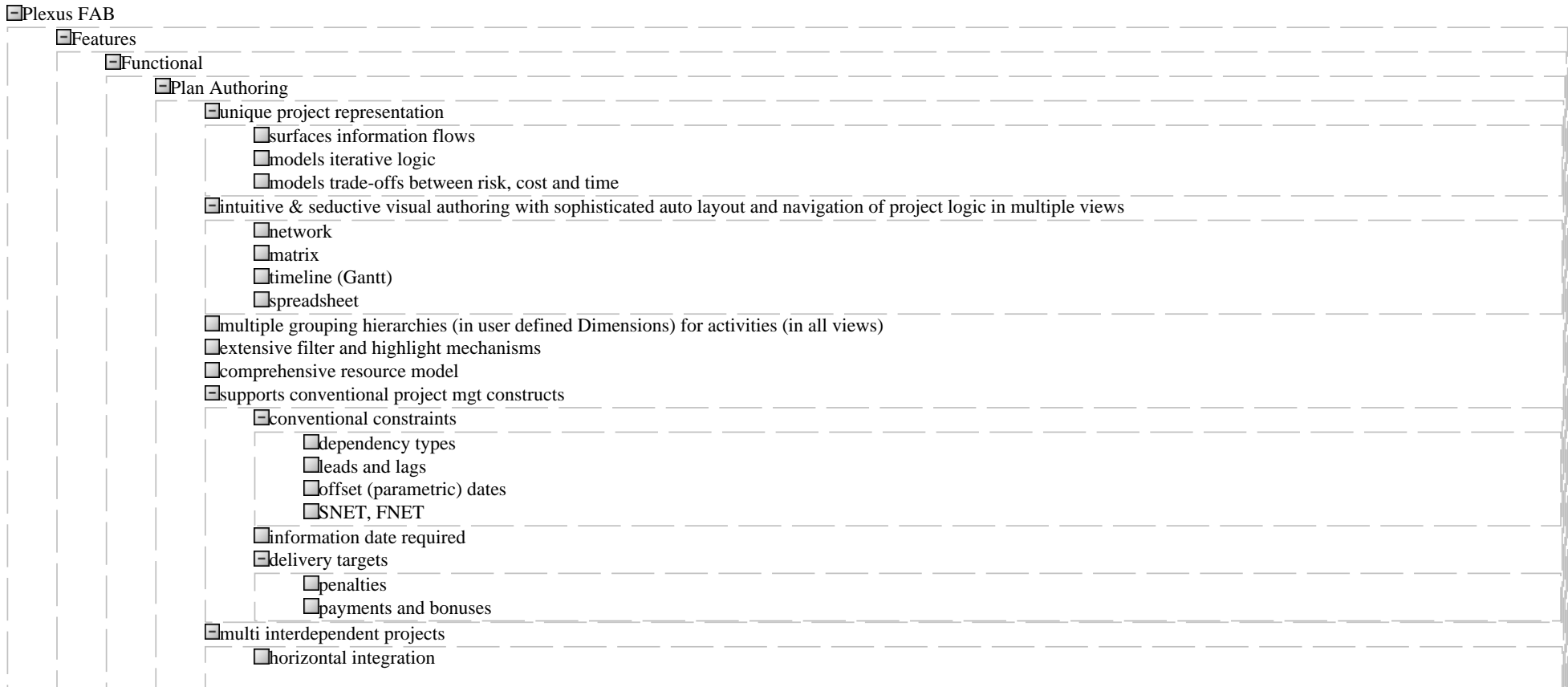


Plexus FAB



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- vertical integration (IMS)
- imports from other planning systems (including Excel)
- intelligent tools that cut, copy and splice reusable project logic from auditable sources into new project models (c.f. standard networks)

Plan Analysis

- automatic activity classification based on topology
- uncertainty (risk) analysis
 - three point estimating
 - duration
 - work
 - probabalistic analysis
 - timescale
 - cost
 - being on the critical path (or chain) between two activities
- nominal critical path (and chain) analysis between two activities
- Design Structure Matrix method (DSM)
- impact analysis of working with immature information

Plan Optimisation

- discrete event (project) simulator (DES)
- multiple resource scenarios for what if analysis
- automatic schedule generation through sophisticated optimisation, DES, and trade-off surface analysis
 - We trade the mitigation of risk through the application of resource
 - complex iterative blocks of activity are resolved into linearised plans that minimise the technical risk of assumptions and minimise unnecessary rework
- choice of schedules can take into account robust measures for time and cost as well as maturity

Plan Publishing

- baseline, live and what-if project schedules can be viewed within the tool
- MS Project
- Excel ToDo lists
- HTML

Plan Execution

- capture of actual and forecast progress
- BRAG reporting
- export to earned value reporting tools
- supports intelligent reprogramming of the project due to significant changes of circumstance
 - rescheduling
 - rebaselining
- Integrated Master Schedule (IMS) for what if analysis as well as reporting

Non Functional

- underpinned by a relational database through a vendor independent layer
- multi-user
 - concurrent & geographically dispersed modelling
 - role-based permissions based on context (WBS, Work Centre etc.)
 - database provides authentication and authorisation
 - audit
- version control
- automatic error checking and warnings
- extensive i/o
 - Excel
 - MS Project
 - SAP
 - CSV, XML

Advantages

decreased planning lead-time

- removes logistical obstacles to planning (diary and travelling)
- allows more concurrent planning to happen during timetabled workshops
- promotes reuse of project logic
- removes the scheduling overhead (this is automated)

 increased planning efficiency

- fully consistent with the RR 12 step planning process (supports at least 10 of the 12 steps)
- makes planning systematic
- promotes good method and behaviours
- can fully engage geographically dispersed participants economically
- logic can be built up using the most convenient and intuitive representation of the project (network, timeline, matrix)
- supports efficient splicing of reusable and bespoke project logic
- removes constant schedule rework during plan development (since this is automatically derived)

 improved plan quality

- allows and encourages planning to be done at correct level of detail
- participants are warned about common modelling errors and poor practice in real-time leading to improved plans
- promotes consistent application of proven reusable project frameworks and logic
- identifies the optimum sequence and schedule of activities within and outside of blocks of iteration whilst respecting resource and other constraints and targets
- allows the trade off of resource application and risk mitigation to be analysed and optimised
- determines resource profiles required for planning and cost estimating purposes, across the whole project or programme

 improved understanding of the impact of uncertainty

- identifies and communicates iteration in the project and the activities and risks associated with them
- provides confidence intervals for cost and time (from 3 point estimates and monte-carlo analysis)
- provides a probabalistic view of the critical path & chain

 improved execution and control

- gives clear visibility of what information is needed, its fidelity and when
- gives clear visibility of the information dependency structure up and down the supply chain
- turns the IMS into a pro-active tool for what if analysis
- provides a deep understanding of the critical paths and extends this to take into account resource pinch points
- provides an excellent basis for earned value analysis (not merely completion of activities)
- allows progress and plan detail to be appropriately reported for a given audience or EVA system
- is consistent with the existing executive project system
- allows the whole organisation to see how they contribute to the project and thereby encourages good behaviours (e.g. doing what you said you would do)

 increased continuous improvement and knowledge mgt 

- allows the ability to record for audit and lessons learnt purposes, the assumptions made during the project
- allows reuse and progressive refinement of the models and plans produced - the integration of reusable logic with bespoke
- yields a complete historical account of what was done on the project and when

 Benefits

- increased project efficiency
- decreased project timescales
- increased project certainty
- increased product maturity
- reduced unplanned rework
- improved product development processes