

Software Assessment Form (SAF)

ProjectControlsOnline (PCO, <http://www.projectcontrolsonline.com/>) uses this Software Assessment Form (SAF) as a simple assessment tool to evaluate the technical project management software.

By using this consistent set of criteria (scoring based assessment) for assessing the technical software, PCO will make it more efficient and easier for our members to compare and distinguish when reviewing/selecting the appropriate tools for use in their organisation/project with consideration of their unique requirements. We use the scoring based assessment criteria below:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Negative				Neutral					Positive

PCO Team is assessing the software totally independent of the vendors and while taking the maximum effort to be accurate, does not accept any responsibility of the software application/s and/or its performance in the practical environment. Users are encouraged to do their own assessment of the software before making the decision for any application.

1. Name of Assessor
Pedram Daneshmand, Senior Associate Director, Blue Visions Management Pty Ltd,
pedramd@bluevisions.com.au
2. Name of Software
Scheduler Cracker SC 1.3
3. Producer
Schedule Cracker, <http://www.schedulecracker.com>
3943 Irvine Blvd #127, Irvine, Ca 92602, USA, sales@schedulecracker.com
4. Cost Information and Pricing Options
Details are not available in their website.
5. Trial Software Version
 - a. Trial version is available – YES
 - b. Number of days for trial version – 14 days
 - c. Are there any feature limits in the trial version? – YES, limit of 6 project files to be imported at a time

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Negative				Neutral					Positive

6. System Requirements
Details are not available in their website.
7. Software Application
Schedule Cracker© is an enterprise class scheduling analysis and business intelligence tool for Project Management.

8. Efficient Documentation within the software – no help is available within the software although a brief description of each item is provided.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Negative				Neutral					Positive

9. Support Material

- a. Software offers help at any stage – Very limited
- b. Software provides users with additional resources like web sites – NO
- c. Software provides an easy platform for receiving feedback from users – YES
- d. Tutorial Material is available – YES but it is not comprehensive. Some terms like “Baseline Execution Index” or “Resource check” not clearly explained.

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Negative				Neutral					Positive

10. Online Support – the website does offer limited Online Support and email is provided.

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Negative				Neutral					Positive

11. Technical Features

- a. Presentation and Layouts
 - i. Layout is clear and intuitive – YES
 - ii. It is easy to navigate through the information to find features – YES
 - iii. Layout is logical – Acceptable
 - iv. Layout is consistent in different places – Acceptable

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Negative				Neutral					Positive

- b. Administration and Operation
 - i. Easy to use and follow – YES
 - ii. All links work properly – a couple of links did not work
 - iii. Clear and complete directions are available – not comprehensive
 - iv. The software is easy to enter and exit – YES
 - v. Customisation – not really, rules/reports can not be customised.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Negative				Neutral					Positive

- c. Integration with External Software
 - i. Integration with Primavera – only P6 not P3
 - ii. Integration with other tools – NO integration with MSP and Asta, integrated with Outlook
 - iii. Integration with Excel – YES (just export to XLS)
 - iv. Integration with other software – NO with Access

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Negative				Neutral					Positive

- d. Printing – acceptable but some reports like “Dashboard” which include more than one table or graph, cannot be printed in consolidated format. Each element has to be printed separately.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Negative				Neutral					Positive

- e. Reports (excluding graphics)
- i. Pre-built standard reports are available – YES, comparison and analysis reports are available in both graphical and tabular formats. Also both detailed and summary level reports are available.
 - ii. Custom reports are available – not all features are available for analysing “Individual Project” as well as “Projects Comparison”, like resource view is only available for “Projects Comparison” but not for individual project analysis.
“Forecast Trend” does not estimate the trends of individual resources by using the history of the actual production.
 - iii. Query Builder for reports – not very comprehensive, for example the resource comparison report only provides change in “Total Planned Units” and “Remaining Early Units” of any resource assigned to any activity.
 - iv. Reports to be exported as .csv, .xls and .pdf – YES
 - v. Auto reports generation and distribution – has not been checked

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Negative				Neutral					Positive

- f. Graphics and Multimedia
- i. Graphics are well designed and rendered – Acceptable
 - ii. Background and text are pleasing and easy to read – Acceptable
 - iii. Effective colors been used – YES, more features to customise needed
 - iv. Animation and Multimedia capability – N.A

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12. Future Releases
Schedule Cracker 1.4 Beta will be available soon including the MS Project support.

13. Opportunities for further development
- Integration with other software like MS Project, Asta, etc.
 - More control to customise the reports
 - More customisation features for graphics and printing
 - Trend Analysis for resources on the basis of the actual performance

Overall Score

10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
Negative				Neutral					Positive

75