

IMPORTING FROM PRIMAVERA (BATCH FILE)

Title	Importing from Primavera (batch file)
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INTRODUCTION

Primavera batch import/export

The Primavera Batch system creates or updates Primavera databases from a text file. This is done using a Primavera tool called PRMBATCH.EXE.

This is documented by Primavera in P330batch.pdf and is installed with every Primavera installation. Note that this is not available for SureTrak users.

SureTrak

It is easier to use MPX to import SureTrak programs into SitePlan. However, this will only be effective if an Outline Level was used to organise the data.

If a Code Structure was used then save the SureTrak program as a P3 Concentric file, open it in P3 and save it as a P3 file. The batch method will work perfectly on the P3 file.

Logic differences between SitePlan and P3

A Start Lead in P3 is the number of **days** from the start of a predecessor to the start of the successor.

A Start Lead in SitePlan is the number **of days of work done** in the predecessor before the successor can start.

This will cause differences in results when there is progress out of sequence. The same applies to End Lags.

What gets imported?

Program:

- Program start date and date now date (data date)
- Multiple calendars with holiday/workday exceptions
- Summary headers as a work breakdown structure (if there is one)
- Any eight of the code definitions

Activity:

Description

- Start and end dates
 - Precedence Logic (FS, SS, FF, SS+FF)
 - Actual dates
-

Resources:

- Definitions and resource type
- Allocations to activities with quantities

What does not get imported?**Activity:**

- Remarks and notes
- Hammocks
- Strange precedence logic i.e. SF, SS+FS and lags greater than 255 days

Resources:

- Cost type resources
- Resource offsets

Progress:

- Base program

Disclaimer

Due to differences in calculation and the activity types between products the responsibility for validating the results must lie with those providing the export file and those doing the import into SitePlan.

Problems

Email the file that is being imported/exported to siteplan@ccssa.com. Include your name, company, phone number (international format), version of CCS, version of the product that is attempting to open the file and any special information i.e. the file has been exported on a non-English machine.

If you are not a client of CCS then specify what company the file originated from and a contact person there.

METHOD**Step 1: To start**

The P3 side of this process requires a small text file called P3TOTEXT.OUT. This file can be found in the CCS Global directory (C:\CCSWIN\GLOBAL).

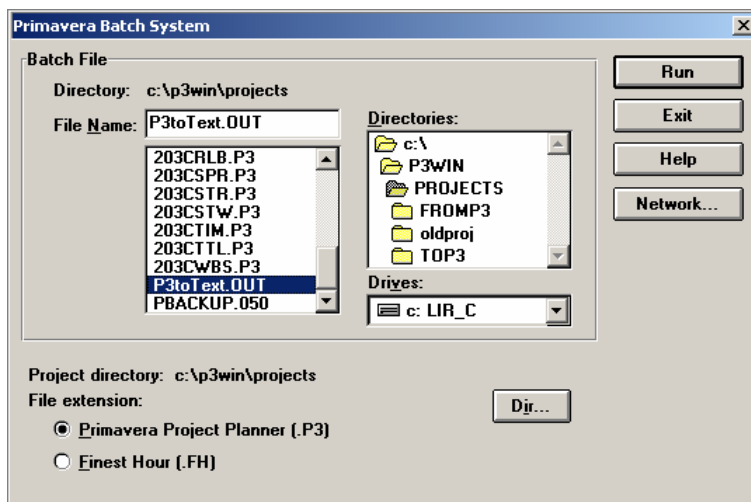
This needs to be copied onto the machine that has P3.

Step 2: Using PRMBATCH.EXE

The following must be done on the machine that is going to create the export file. It must have P3 correctly installed. The operator should know where P3 is installed. The following will assume that P3 is installed in C:\P3WIN.

- Copy the file P3TOTEXT.OUT to C:\P3WIN\P3OUT.
- Edit the file by double clicking on it. This will run a text editor called P3LOOK.EXE.
- Replace !!!!!!! with the logon name used to log into P3. Usually the login name of the computer will work – see the section on error messages below.
- Exit P3LOOK.EXE – the file will be saved (NOTE that the SAVE function does not seem to work).
- Make sure that there is no P3 project named CCS1. Alternatively use P3LOOK.EXE to replace ALL occurrences of CCS1 in the text file with a unique four-character project name.

- Make sure that P3 is not running in the background.
- Run C:\P3WIN\P3PROGS\PRMBATCH.EXE.



- Use the browse button to locate P3TOTEXT.OUT.
- Hit RUN. This will create a new text file called CCSIMP.OUT in C:\P3WIN\P3OUT.

Step 3: In SitePlan

- In the Program Manager hit the Import softkey.
- Choose Import P3 Batch File from the menu.
- Use the browse icon to locate the P3 export file CCSIMP.OUT.
- Hit start import.
- When asked choose which 8 codes (if any) that must be imported (see 'ordering activities' below).

Step 4: Ordering activities

If a Work Break Down structure is found then it will be imported as the header structure.

A WBS describes the hierarchy of activities with header titles. It does not have an inherent order for those headers. SitePlan will do an ascending sort on the WBS definitions. This suits data that was originally exported from SitePlan because the WBS codes are numeric i.e. 02 follows 01. This may not be the case for alphanumeric codes.

If a WBS does not exist then the coding structure will have to be used to order the data. Relevant codes are chosen during the import. The chosen codes correspond to SitePlan codes as follows:

to Zone
to Area
to User
to Trade
to Subbie

Use Order By Code in Siteplan to view data in an appropriate order. The person who created the original program will have to specify which P3 codes must be chosen and in what order.

NOTE that once SitePlan data has been sorted or an order-by-code applied the sort can be made permanent as long as no header activities exist. This will be the case just after a successful import.

Possible errors that PRMBATCH might report

Most errors are directed to a file called c:\p3out\p3.out.

Possible errors that SitePlan might report

There are three main types of errors.

Fatal: SitePlan will give an error and cancel the import. These are usually problems with the import file OR not being able to find data in the import file that is required to make a SitePlan program.

Warnings: Messages that will come up during or after import. These refer to inconsistencies in the import file where SitePlan has made an assumption.

Changes to logic/types: These are changes made to activities during import and are described in the next section.

Errors reported at the end of the import

Warning messages where an error has been found or an assumption has been made are reported in a box that comes up after a successful import.

Errors that are specific to an activity are also reported here. These are also recorded against each activity in the notes column.

The following are common warnings:

Calendar does not start on expected day (MON) - P3 does not have a start day that applies to all calendars. SitePlan relies on this information and makes an assumption by looking at the "start day of week" used for reporting. When a calendar does not match this then this warning message appears. This does not apply to a 7 day calendar.

TUE is not a valid start of week - Monday will be assumed – Imported calendars "start day of week" in SitePlan can only start on a MON or a SAT.

Changes to logic, types, progress

Use the "import checker" view to check which SitePlan activity number corresponds to which P3 activity id by looking at the "import reference" column.

Problems during import that correspond to particular activities can be found in the "activity notes" column. Double click on the text if it does not fit in the column. Below is a description of some of the notes that are commonly found:

Activity Logic:

SE dropped - a Start-to-end link was dropped during import because SitePlan does not allow this type of logic. Use a link duration to emulate the P3 logic or use a Start to start/End to end link.

Lead greater than act duration - SitePlan does not allow a Start-to-Start link to have a lead longer than the duration of the activity.

This is because SitePlan demands that N days of work on the activity must be achieved NOT N days must elapse before the successor can start. This type of logic allows concrete to be poured into a hole that has not been sufficiently excavated!

Use a link duration OR change the logic.

Lag greater than successor duration - Same as above, but for end-to-end logic.

SSEE offsets not compatible – This will occur if either the lead exceeds the duration of the activity OR the lag exceeds the duration of the successor. In these cases the both the lead and lag are zeroed even if only one is faulty.

Can't mix SS/EE/SSEE - P3 allows SS/EE or SSEE links to have an extra restraint ie a End-to-start link. SitePlan does not allow this. NOTE that which ever link comes first will be kept.

Lead/lag out of range – Leads and lags in SitePlan can not exceed 254 days. Can add a link duration to extend this another 127 days. However, it is strongly suggested that the logic is reviewed in these cases.

Link dur out of range – A link duration may not exceed 127 days. In some cases SitePlan is forced to import a lead or lag as a link duration. In this case, if the lead/lag exceeds 127 days this message will appear.

The following are the cases where SitePlan will use a link duration:

SitePlan imports an End-to-start link with lead as a normal ES link with a link duration representing the lead. This is because an ES link in SitePlan may not have a lead.

SitePlan imports a negative lead or lag as a 0 lead/lag with a link duration that represents the lead/lag.

The lead has exceeded the duration of the activity OR the lag has exceeded the duration of the successor (NOT in the SSEE case).

Hammock - deleted successors – Hammocks are not the same as T-TYPES in SitePlan. The feeder logic in P3 creates a loop Successors of the Hammock activity are deleted to avoid loops.

Activity Types:

Type EF unknown - Finish-no-earlier-than, a P3 type that SitePlan has no equivalent. Try putting a fixed start on the activity OR just link it properly.

Date corrected DATE – A start or end date either was before start date of program or the date was not interpreted correctly i.e. might have been in incorrect form or not in English.

Type overwritten – P3 allows many types to be added to an activity i.e. start and a Hammock. SitePlan allows only one type. The last type imported wins.

Activity Progress:

Actual start 07/02/2002 clipped to within proj start/datenow – Any actual date (start OR end) will be clipped to within the project start and the data date.

Actual start date 09/04/2002 > actual finish, used proj start – Zero day durations are dealt with as a special case. In all other cases where the actual start and actual finish dates are not in the correct order, the project start is used to make it stand out.

Actual finish date 09/04/2002 < actual start, used date now – As above, except date now is used to make the actual end date stand.