

Anyplan[®]: Keys to Successful Earned Value

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Introduction

Anyplan is a new, innovative enterprise planning software for project, manufacturing and maintenance management and planning. All processes are planned in the same network (Smartnet®) using the same resources and calendars. Anyplan is an in-memory solution and all plans and planning data are always up-to-date without the need for batch processing.

INTENDED AUDIENCE

This White Paper is intended for planners and managers who struggle with getting correct Earned Value (EV) information from their projects. Anyplan solves this problem for both individual projects and for total EVs across aggregated project (portfolios).

RELATED READING

Please read the “Anyplan® Product Overview” White Paper for a general view of Anyplan® product features or see www.anyplan.co.

LATEST RELEASE

The latest release is Anyplan V4.0

Uniform planning

The most important factor in successfully introducing EV and EV analysis to an organization is to make sure that everybody plans in the same way.

This should be simple but some planning tools have too many features that allow planners to create “any” plan. In such environments it is not easy to enforce the same type of planning.

Changes start at the top. Management has to understand the important issues and decide on the principles and standards for uniform project planning. Benefits of changing the way projects are planned include:

- **“ONE PLAN”**
Some companies have multiple versions of the same project plan so that they can report separately to internal stakeholders and to customers. With Anyplan there is no need for more than one plan. Different types of user see what they need to see and no more.
- **ECONOMIES OF SCALE**
If all projects are planned in the “same” way, then planners can easily move from project to project. Combined with improved reporting (see “Status Reporting”) companies experience significant savings and improved planning quality.

Project resources

Resourcing a project should follow the standards mentioned above. Resources are, or should be, the starting point for successful EV.

For example, combining WBS weighting with resources does not lead to good EV.

COST

Cost is the easiest way to achieve successful EV.

Therefore, plan projects in detail and allocate cost to activities (and not WBS elements) if possible.

Some argue that cost is not useful because engineering cost is minor compare to, for example, third-party deliverables. Such arguments should be ignored. It all boils down to how the project is organized and how planners can report the project.

Anyplan allows planners to filter away activities or work packages containing third party elements.

Alternatively, planners can use the smart “group by” functionality to simultaneously see how the engineering and sub-contractors perform.

UNITS OF MEASURE

In an engineering environment is important to keep track of all hours.

Because of this, some companies only plan the hours and not the cost. If parts of the project rely on “cost” elements, then the project plan will not reflect a realistic EV.

Anyplan allows planners to plan with both cost and hours (or other units of measure) and to report on both.

Status Reporting

Detailed planning requires more when reporting ‘as of’ the status date.



If actual cost/hours and percent completes have to be entered manually, then it may be looked upon as too big a task, and planners start reporting at WBS levels using milestones.

Anyplan Reporting simplifies and improves all reporting:

- Seamless integration between the ERP and planning systems
- Paperless reporting on any number of activities
- Get percent complete for all activities
- Report progress using activity progress “templates”
- Reminders if reporting starts too late or if it gets delayed
- Notifications to management to maintain the performance
- Planner approval of progress before updating projects

In Anyplan reporting is so simple that there is just “No Excuse” for not reporting on time and for every activity in all projects.

Earned Value

Anyplan produces EV automatically for any project, whether the planner looks at the entire project or a filtered version.

EV depends on the baseline. Anyplan keeps baseline data with the project and switching between baselines takes no time at all. The resulting EV data is always calculated correctly.

PROGRESS HISTORY

The EV curve relies on progress history.

No matter what method is used to get to a new percent complete, Anyplan always keep track of the number and the date for which this percent complete is valid.

Similarly, Anyplan keeps track of actual resource usage over time. That way the actual/forecast (ACWP) curve can be charted as well.

EV METHOD

We have already argued that cost is the common denominator to measure project progress and performance.

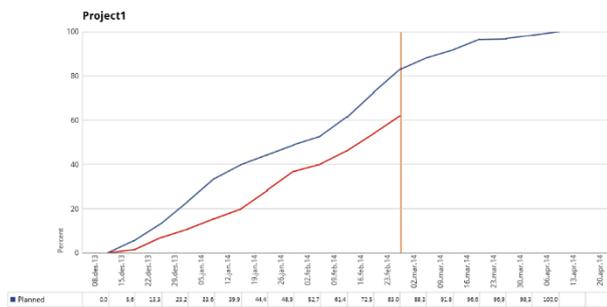


Figure 1 EV curves, Red EV curve stopped at status date

However, that does not stop Anyplan from producing EV curves and information based on any of the following:

- **COST**
Normally the default method
- **HOURS**
Switch to “Hours” to see EV curves based on e.g. engineering hours
- **OTHER UNITS OF MEASURE**
There might be other units of measure in a project. If so, Anyplan can produce the curves
- **OTHER METHODS**
Activity weighting, count and working time are just some other methods that can be used

The EV curves can be produced showing the cost or hours as values or as a percentage of the total (See figure 1).

More information?

Did you find this white paper interesting?

Please do not hesitate to ask us for more information on topics like e.g.:

- [Anyplan: Baselineing, Progress and Earned Value](#)
- Anyplan Reporting
- Anyplan Portfolio
- Baselineing and Variation Orders
- Snapshots
- Scenario planning

For more information please contact Xymphonic Systems:

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