



PMP Specialists

Task Drivers – What are They?

In the case of Microsoft Project 2007, Task Drivers are defined as the factors that affect the Start Date of a particular task. In Project Professional, on the Menu Bar, under Project, is the option to display Task Drivers. When a task is selected and Task Drivers are displayed, information about what is affecting that task's start date is shown. For clarification purposes, the name of the task and the start date are displayed in the top section of the Task Driver's pane.

In the lower section of the pane the information is subdivided by different headings with the pertinent information. If a certain driver doesn't exist for a task, it isn't displayed. For example, if you didn't apply leveling to your task, then the Leveling Delay driver will not be displayed.

The potential drivers and causes for why they might appear are:

<u>Driver</u>	<u>Cause</u>
Actual Start and Assignments	Actual data was entered
Leveling Delay	Resource leveling was done
Constraint Type/Date	A constraint is set
Summary Task	A constraint is set on a task's summary task
Predecessor Tasks	Linked tasks
Subtasks	A summary task will list the subtasks
Calendar	If a calendar is affecting the task (may display as the Resource name because of their calendar)

Examples:

A simple example of this is explained here. For the task selected, task id 6 "Secure Core Resources" we see the task information in the top part of the pane. In the bottom part of the pane, we see the predecessor task and that the calendar for the resource "Ann" is affecting the start date.

The screenshot shows the 'Task Drivers' pane for task '6 - Secure core resources'. The start date is 'Thu 7/17/08'. Under 'Predecessor Tasks', there is a table:

Name	Type	Lag
5 - Define preliminary resources	Finish To Start	0d

Under 'Calendars', it lists 'Resource: Beebe Ann'. To the right, the task list shows task 6 'Secure core resources' selected and highlighted with a black box.



PMP Specialists

In this example, task id 9 has a predecessor but the real driver on the start date is that a “Start no earlier Constraint” has been set and the calendar being used for the resource is affecting it.

Task Drivers		Predecessors	Task Name
The following factors are affecting the start date of:			
9 - Assembly prototype Auto satellite radio			
Task: prototype Auto satellite radio			
Start: Mon 1/22/07			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constraint: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Type: Start No Earlier Than Date: Fri 1/19/07 Calendars: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resource: Team Auto Product 			
6	✓	5	Develop Auto mount kit prototype process
7	✓	6	Develop Auto satellite radio assembly process
8	✓	6	Produce prototype Auto mount kit
9	📅	7	Assembly prototype Auto satellite radio
10		9	Conduct internal product review
11		10	Modify prototype process
12		11	Develop plan for product quality testing
13		12	Conduct preliminary manufacturing process review
14			Concept Evaluation
15		13	Conduct marketing/technical review
16		15	Conduct technology/parts review
17		16	Prepare preliminary manufacturing design