



**Product Development**

# **Using Critical Path EVM for the Microsoft Project Desktop Application**

Readme



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# Using Critical Path EVM for the Microsoft Project Desktop Application

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For the latest information, please see <http://www.vsdonline.com/products/critical-path-evm>

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## Introduction

With Critical Path EVM you can spend your time managing your projects instead of developing status charts. Critical Path EVM provides the Earned Value Management (EVM) reports you need with a single mouse click. You no longer have to search through confusing Microsoft Project information to plot earned value charts. Critical Path EVM uses your Microsoft Project data to deliver appealing earned value charts and performance index information to help you quickly identify the status of your project. Critical Path EVM also makes it easy for you to use these charts in Microsoft PowerPoint presentations by giving you the ability to export them in a PowerPoint compatible format. Stop spending your time briefing your projects and start managing them.

Before using this plug-in, Project Managers should be familiar with the following:

- Creating a Microsoft Project plan with resources assigned and leveled
- Conducting scheduled resource work updates

## System Requirements

To install and use the Critical Path EVM plug-in, you must meet the following minimum requirements:

- Sufficient permissions to install the plug-in package and create Project plans
- Meet all the requirements for Project or Project Professional

## Installing the Critical Path EVM Package

This section explains how to install the Critical Path EVM plug-in for Microsoft Project.

1. Download [Critical Path EVM Plug-In Edition](#) by clicking on the "Try It For Free" download link. You will be required to select a product version and option (Free or License) and complete a customer information form. Once you have completed and submitted the customer information sheet, you will receive an email with download instructions.
2. When prompted, do **one** of the following:

- Click **Open** to install the package. The Setup Wizard starts.
    - Note:** If a security alert appears, choose to trust content only if the source of the file is VSD, LLC.
  - Click **Save** to save a copy, and then type the location on the local files system to save the package. After the download is complete, locate the downloaded file and double-click **Setup** to start the Setup Wizard.
    - Note:** The installation file must be saved to the local files system before running.
3. The Setup Wizard starts. Click **Next** to install the package.
  4. You must accept the EULA to continue installing the package. Select the **"I accept the terms in the license agreement"** option and then click **Next**.
  5. In the text boxes provided, enter your name and organization and then click **Next**.
  6. Click **Install** to begin the installation.
    - Note:** The installation of Critical Path EVM requires the system to have Visual Studio Tools for Office (VSTO) 2003 or greater, Microsoft Office Primary Interop Assemblies (PIAs) 2003 or greater, .Net Runtime 2.0 or greater, and Adobe Flash Player ActiveX 10.0 or greater to operate. If these files are not already installed on the system, you will be prompted to install them during the setup wizard installation process.
  7. The Confirm Installation page appears. Click **Next** to continue.
  8. The Installation Complete page appears. Click **Close** to close the Setup Wizard.

## Launching the Critical Path EVM Window

This section explains how to launch the Critical Path EVM window.

1. Click **Start**, point to **All Programs**, point to **Microsoft**, and click **Microsoft Office Project**.
2. On the **File** menu, click on **Open**.
  - OR-
  - Press **CTRL+O**.
  - Depending on your version of Microsoft Project, you will either be prompted to select a location on the local files system **or** with a list of projects published to the Microsoft Project Server.
3. Choose a project file from the local files, or a published project name, to load and click **Open**.
  - The project file will now load in Microsoft Project work environment.
4. To view the project's EVM data, click the **Critical Path EVM** button that was loaded into the toolbar during installation.
  - Note:** You must have a properly loaded and resource leveled project plan for the Critical Path EVM plug-in to work properly.

## Saving a Critical Path EVM Chart

This section shows how to save a Critical Path EVM generated chart in JPEG format. JPEG images can be saved for the following views:


Critical Path EVM (Overall View)

PV S-Curve



SPI/CPI Index

SV/CV Variance



### To save a Critical Path EVM (Overall View) JPEG image

1. Launch the Critical Path EVM window.
2. Click the **JPEG Image**  button on the upper right section of the window.
3. Choose a location on the local files system to save the file and click **Save**.



### To save a PV S-Curve Chart JPEG image

1. Launch the Critical Path EVM window.
2. Click the **Up Arrow**  button on the upper right corner of the PV S-Curve display box.
3. Click the **JPEG Image**  button on the upper right section of the window.
4. Choose a location on the local files system to save the file and click **Save**.

### To save a SPI/CPI Index Chart JPEG image



1. Launch the Critical Path EVM window.
2. Click the **Up Arrow**  button on the upper right corner of the SPI/CPI Index display box.
3. Click the **JPEG Image**  button on the upper right section of the window.
4. Choose a location on the local files system to save the file and click **Save**.

### To save a SV/CV Variance Chart JPEG image

1. Launch the Critical Path EVM window.
2. Click the **Up Arrow**  button on the upper right corner of the SV/CV Variance display box.
3. Click the **JPEG Image**  button on the upper right section of the window.
4. Choose a location on the local files system to save the file and click **Save**.

### Viewing the Data behind the Graphs

All graphs are created using data pulled directly from the project plan that is currently being viewed. The data, after collection, is loaded into data tables associated with the graph. You can freely move between views (Graph and Data)

by clicking either the **Graph**  button or the **Data**  button located in the bottom left corner of each graph display box.

### Conclusion

The Critical Path EVM plug-in can save a Project Manager many hours in creating and displaying Earned Value Management graphs and data.

**For more information:** <http://www.vsdonline.com/products/critical-path-evm>



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