

Asta Powerproject

New Features in Version 14.0.03

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Asta Powerproject: The power behind successful projects



Introduction

This latest in a series of Asta Powerproject releases adds some key functionality to core components to help monitor and illustrate progress. It also includes major changes to the way Site Progress Mobile integrates with the product to improve the data flow between project plans and mobile users. In addition this release adds significantly to the 4D BIM scheduling side of the tool based on customer feedback on the earlier versions. This document gives an overview of the new functionality which is made available in this release. If you would like to see more detail on how to use these new features, please see the online help file within the Asta Powerproject software.

Core improvements

Use logical paths to monitor the erosion of total float

Monitoring the erosion of total float on a project enables you to take preventative action before the planned finish date of a project is delayed. Asta Powerproject now helps with this via "logical paths", a method of analysing the paths of tasks that are not critical, but that may become critical if predecessor activities are delayed, or take longer than planned.

Font scaling for Windows 10 improvements

A number of improvements have been made to help handle font scaling in Windows 10. Asta Powerproject now calculates font sizes differently behind the scenes, which means that font sizes should no longer change dramatically when you switch display devices. You can also now specify font sizes using point sizes of up to one decimal place; for example, font sizes 9.5 or 10.2.

Copy progress from one project to another

You can now copy the progress from one project to another project, if these projects are similar. Therefore, if you have a duplicate plan but track ongoing progress in the original project, you can transfer the progress from one copy to the next. This feature is vital if you want to manage multiple scenarios showing the various diverging ways in which a project could develop.



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Display coloured progress on summary tasks, expanded tasks and hammocks

It is now possible to show progress coloured according to the progress period on summary tasks, expanded tasks & hammocks. This can help you to identify areas of a project that are not progressing as planned, and in what period the problems occurred, as previously the shading at these levels was a universal colour.

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Other core improvements include:

- Scroll the bar chart by clicking and dragging in the date zone
- Display calendar exceptions (such as holidays) in the histogram pane
- Specify a project-wide "date zero"
- New ribbon button to enable and disable automatic rescheduling quickly
 Profile the number of people (allocation) of permanent resources in the resource usage view as well as the man-hours (effort)
- Format the columns, header and cells of the resource usage view
- Copy calendar exceptions to the Windows Clipboard and paste them into Microsoft Excel
- Improved colour selectors in Asta Powerdraw
- Filter for tasks on particular logical paths
- Filter for tasks with a particular total float variance

Site Progress Mobile changes

Site Progress Mobile now integrated into Asta Powerproject

Before this release, using Site Progress Mobile required a separate application (Site Progress Manager) to move data from project plan to mobile device. To simplify this workflow, the Site Progress Mobile functionality has now been integrated into Asta Powerproject itself via a new Site Progress Mobile tab on the Backstage view and controls on the Project tab of the Ribbon.



Separate licences to use Site Progress Mobile are still required but all system configuration and data transfer options sit within the one interface to make the software easier for both IT staff to deploy and users to manage.

Export progress requests based on resource on code assignment

Before this release, a project could only be filtered by the natural hierarchy when being sent to a mobile user (e.g. assign an entire summary section to a named site manager). Now, the report requests can be based on resource or code assignments as well. For example, you can export all tasks assigned to the plastering team from across all summaries and send that to the plastering team leader. This helps to ensure the right person is recording the progress within a project.

Record notes against stages on the Ticksheet screen

Mobile users have always been able to record notes against tasks on the Turnaround screen. With this release, mobile users can now also record notes against stages on the Ticksheet screen (on the Android™ or iOS® app).

Approve progress report before applying data to plan

An optional new step in the Site Progress Mobile process allows the planner to review and approve/reject line by line the updates submitted by the mobile user, before these changes are applied to the live project plan. This also gives a clear view of all the date and percent complete changes made in the report.

Site Progress Mobile Settings	×
 Import settings Use the default progress period, updating its report date for each import Create a new progress period for each import Imported progress requires approval Export settings 	







Asta Powerproject BIM innovations

Add site objects into IFC model window

You can now add site objects such as cranes or portacabins to the IFC model display, to give a better visual representation of how a site will appear at various stages of a project. Site objects will need to still exist as individual IFC files, but can be imported and added to the IFC group model.



Each site object can then be associated to a task in your project, for example allowing you to link a portacabin

with a "Site Hut" task, with start and finish dates that reflect when the site hut will be on site.

Align the IFC models in an IFC group model

When site objects are imported, Asta Powerproject BIM now allows you to move them into the appropriate place in relation to the other IFC models. In addition, if IFC models have been exported with misaligning coordinates (such as the M&E model being at 90° to the structural model), you can now realign these to save you from having to go back to the people who provided you the files.

Split objects in an IFC model manually

Asta Powerproject BIM already included several ways to split objects in an IFC model. An additional method now means you can split manually, by clicking and dragging on the object to define precisely where you want to split it. You can split objects on any surface and use any number of points to define the shape used for the split.

Select multiple objects in the IFC Model pane by clicking and dragging

You can now select multiple objects in the IFC Model and IFC Comparison Model pane by holding down SHIFT and clicking and dragging. Different selections are made based on your movement: for example, either only items wholly within the bounding box, or alternatively including those partially selected.



Colour objects in an IFC model according to codes

Objects linked to tasks can now be coloured according to the colour of a code library also assigned to that task. Once you select the relevant code library you wish to use, the background colours of the codes are used to colour the objects in the IFC model.

Display a moving dropline across the bar chart during timeline simulation

A vertical dropline in a colour of your choosing can now run across the bar chart when a timeline simulation is running. Displaying this dropline helps you to see which tasks are being worked on and highlights those which are behind or ahead of schedule.

Omit non-working time from timeline simulations



There are potentially long periods in a simulation when nothing may be happening – for example, during a holiday period. You can now specify the working time units for use in timeline simulations, meaning that non-working time can be omitted.

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New video creation features

The Create Timeline Video dialogue has been enhanced with the following new features:

- Annotate videos with week numbers, rather than set dates.
- Annotate the IFC Comparison Model pane in videos with different text or information to the IFC Model pane.
- Add images to the start and end of a video, and add a "watermark" image that overlays the entire video, partiallytransparent if required. For example, you may want to insert your corporate logo at the start or end of a video, or display on screen during the simulation.

Create flipbooks of timeline simulations

A flipbook is an ordered series of images exported at a set interval, such as the first working day of the week or month. If a fly past is selected when you create a flipbook, the flipbook will represent the different viewpoints of the fly past accurately.

Flipbooks are useful if you need to create a series of images that depict the progress of a project – ideal for use in a presentation.

Use IFC simulation profiles to specify how objects are "built" during timeline simulations

This release introduces IFC simulation profiles as an alternative method of specifying the way in which objects are "built". IFC simulation profiles define appearance settings such as build behaviour, transparency, build colour and on time, early and late/critical colours.



Using IFC simulation profiles enables you to set up a series of different appearance settings that you can use with any IFC model or IFC group model.

Include IFC model view when printing

A new print area is now available in Asta Powerdraw to allow you to create borders which embed the current IFC Model view when printing; the printout will show the model in the current state based on camera position and timeline. BIM related fields can also be added to the borders.

IFC Properties pane now displays calculated area and volume information

The IFC Properties pane now displays Calculated Area and Calculated Volume information when an object is selected in the IFC Model pane. If more than one object is selected, the IFC Properties pane displays Total Area and Total Volume information for all the selected objects.

Unlike many other properties, these values are not taken from the IFC file; instead, they are calculated by Asta Powerproject BIM using the available dimensions. This results in a more accurate value and gives the planner extra information to help them construct the plan.

Other BIM improvements include:

- Rotate IFC models using a new view cube displayed in the 3D windows
- Improved performance when re-opening complex IFC models
- IFC Properties pane now displays the number of objects that are currently selected
- Additional IFC-related fields available to help determine 4D plan. The following extra fields mean more information is available for determining durations or changes between revisions. These fields can also be accessed via formula:
 - IFC product area
 - IFC product build order
 - IFC product count
 - IFC product entity
 - IFC product volume
 - IFC simulation profile

