CEE538 Computer-Aided Project Management

How do I download the example Primavera P6 Pro Layout?

The example "layout" file for Primavera P6 Pro is available on the course website on Canvas. This P6 layout file provides most of the required formatting for Lab1. Its name is:

2025-Lab1-ChemLab_Target-Gantt-Network-Example.plf

The file extension "plf" stands for Primavera Layout File.

Where should I store the example Primavera P6 Pro Layout File?

If you are working on your own PC you can save the example P6 layout file anywhere.

If you are working on CAEN, save the example P6 layout file to your CAEN Home Directory "N:" so you can open it from inside Primavera P6 Pro easily.

You will import this layout file into your "Personal" SQLite P6 database and from that point on this layout will always be available every time you work with your Personal database.

How do I import the example P6 Layout File into my own P6 SQLite database?

Run P6, select your Personal database, and open any project (e.g., "Lab 1 Chem Lab").

Important: Make sure that the "Activities tab" is the currently active P6 tab (i.e., the active tab should not be the Projects tab). Then use the P6 menus to select:

- "View" > "Layout" > "Open Layout" > "Import"

Browse to where you saved the example layout file, select it, and click OK.

Then in the dialog box click "Save". (If P6 shows an error, see below.)

Why do I get an error when I try to import the example P6 Pro Layout File?

If you try to import the example P6 layout file while the "Projects tab" is active (i.e., when P6 shows a list of "projects"), the import will fail and P6 will show an error message that states:

- "The file is not a valid project layout".

This error occurs because the file you are trying to import is a valid "Activities" layout file (which determines the layout of the "Activities tab"), and not a valid "Project" layout file (which determines the layout of the "Projects tab").

How do I avoid getting an error when I try to import the example P6 Pro Layout?

To avoid getting an error when you import the provided example P6 layout file, run Primavera P6 Pro and open a project so you can see the project's activities. The currently active tab in P6 must be the "Activities" tab". It must not be the "Projects tab". Then import the layout file.

How do I customize the example Primavera P6 Pro Layout for myself?

In P6 select from the menu: File > Page Setup.

You will need to modify the header and footer in "page setup" so that the headers and footers display the correct information: student name, course, lab, report, etc.

Once you have made the necessary personal changes, use the menu:

- View > Layout > Save Layout As

Save the layout under a different name so that you may reuse it in the future.

IMPORTANT: The Gantt chart and the Network diagram have separate "page setup" and thus have separate "header" and "footer", each in their own "page setup". The designs for these two "page setups" are stored in the same P6 "Layout". You must edit both "page setups" separately to make the "header" and "footer" for each diagram show the appropriate information.

How do I save the positions of the Nodes for a Network diagram in P6?

You can spend a significant amount of time moving and arranging the nodes of a P6 Network diagram (to achieve the desired network layout to be printed) only to find out that all your work has been lost because the positions of the nodes for the Network diagram are not saved in the P6 Layout (and thus they are not stored in the P6 database).

You must remember to save the node positions for a Network diagram in a separate file before you change the P6 View to another view (such as a Gantt chart). To do that:

1. Position the nodes for a P6 Network diagram manually to achieve the desired network layout.
2. Select the menu:

   View > Activity Network > Save Network Positions...
3. Save the positions for the network nodes in a separate file on disk. This file will have the file extension "anp" (for "activity node positions").

Important: This "anp" file can be applied only to the project from which it was saved.

The activity network positions file (.anf) cannot be used to apply the same saved Network node positions to another project. Even if you make an exact copy of the original project (for which the anp file was saved), you cannot apply the same anp file to the copied project (because each project and the activities in it have different "internal ID"s that the user cannot see or change).

Conclusion: Each separate project in a P6 database must have its own "anp" file saved on disk.