

CHAPTER 8

SUMMARY

Summary. The above information is intended as a basic introduction to Network Analysis Systems. The figures are examples of the software scheduling programs which are on the market. All systems depend on accurate input schedule information. Once that is obtained, valuable information can be derived from the analysis. Examples have been included of management computer sorts which will be of different value for different managers. Other sorts and presentations are available or a specific report can be designed by the user. Each user must determine what information he/she needs and specify only that required. Techniques such as shortened versions of certain sorts are recommended in order to limit the volume of each report. Current software allows the design of almost any kind of data arrangement desired. The computer reports, if based on accurate input data, will project completion and display the causes of delay if the project is behind schedule. The manager can then use this information to decide on the most appropriate course of action under the contract. NAS schedules, properly used, can be a definite aid in executing the Government's responsibilities under a contract and requiring the contractor to execute his or her responsibility.

a. When the Work is Changed. It is very important that the logic diagram be revised to reflect any appropriate revisions of logic, restraints, new or deleted activities, revised durations, and monetary values. With progress data posted as of the next update the impact of these changes on the project can be evaluated. The determination of impact on time and money should be made concurrently; it must consider the status of the project at the time the change occurs; and it must not be delayed for later determination.

b. Time Scaled Diagrams. Network Diagrams can be constructed to a horizontal time scale. This is favored by some who see benefit in the visibility afforded by such a method. A vertical line representing the current date can be drawn and analysis made on whether posted progress is left or right, of the line. This is often a good briefing technique on a summary diagram. Also numerous computer plotting systems will generate time scaled and bar chart diagrams from the schedule information. These may be useful tools for briefing purposes. However, basic information necessary for project management should be obtained from the standard computer printouts illustrated previously.