



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.



Task Drivers			Task Name							
The following factors are affecting the start date of:			0	8023 - Local Area Network (LAN) upgrade						
Task: 6 - Secure core resources			1	Infrastructure Deployment Template						
Start: Thu 7/17/08			2	Scope						
• Predecessor Tasks:			3	Determine project scope						
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>Type</th> <th>Lag</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>5 - Define preliminary resources</td> <td>Finish To Start</td> <td>0d</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Name	Type	Lag	5 - Define preliminary resources	Finish To Start	0d	4	Secure project sponsorship
Name	Type	Lag								
5 - Define preliminary resources	Finish To Start	0d								
• Calendars:			5	Define preliminary resources						
Resource: Beebe Ann			6	Secure core resources						
			7	Scope complete						
			8	Analysis						
			9	Review Current Infrastructure						
			10	Review hardware environment						

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:			6	✓	5	Develop Auto mount kit prototype process
Task: 9 - Assembly prototype Auto satellite radio			7	✓	6	Develop Auto satellite radio assembly process
Start: Mon 1/22/07			8	✓	6	Produce prototype Auto mount kit
• Constraint:			9	☐	7	Assembly prototype Auto satellite radio
Type: Start No Earlier Than			10		9	Conduct internal product review
Date: Fri 1/19/07			11		10	Modify prototype process
• Calendars:			12		11	Develop plan for product quality testing
Resource: Team Auto Product			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