FEATURE AND TECHNICAL COMPARISON

Asta Easyplan is an easy-to-use planning tool designed specifically for the planning, managing and delivery of smaller projects. To help make it easier for novice users it includes 7 project wizards to take you step-by-step through the planning and management of projects. It is only available as a standalone software licence.

Asta Powerproject offers a proven, best-in-class, project, portfolio and resource management solution for the successful planning, managing and delivery of projects of any size and complexity. It has flexible licensing allowing single, concurrent or multi-user access which enables multiple users to modify the same project at the same time.

This document is is not a complete reference guide to the functionality of either product, it is an outline of the functionality differences between the two products.

INTERFACE

Asta Powerproject	Asta Easyplan
Manages up to 150,000 tasks (hardware dependent).	Maximum of 250 tasks, with a maximum of 10 tasks per bar. It is possible to open larger projects – for example projects that have been created in Asta Powerproject – but only opened as read-only.
Familiar Microsoft Office 2010-style Ribbon interface, with the option to go back to working in "Toolbar mode" – ie using the traditional menu and toolbar-driven interface of Asta Powerproject Version 11.	Familiar Microsoft Office 2010-style Ribbon interface, with no option to go back to working in "Toolbar mode".
Windows Explorer style interface for hierarchical library management.	Windows Explorer style interface for library management, but cannot organise permanent resources, consumable resources or cost centres into hierarchies; they are non-hierarchical lists. These hierarchies do appear if you open projects that have been created in Asta Powerproject, but they are not editable.
Create formulae to display user-definable information in spreadsheet.	Formulae are not available.
View based: create and edit your own fully editable views of filtered and sorted data.	Only one view of the project available, although this single view can be edited and different sorts, tables and filters can be applied to the view.
The depth and colour of task, resource and cost bars can be made dependent on certain criteria to add extra dimensions to plans. For example, the height and colour of tasks could be made dependent on their cost.	Feature not available.
Many standard templates and reports included.	A smaller number of templates and reports provided.
Password security.	No password security, except when attempting to open a password-protected project that has been created in Asta Powerproject.
Completely extensible data structure with 'user-defined fields' on every object. String, integer, float, date and boolean fields supported.	User-defined fields not available.
Includes the industry standard macro language, Microsoft Visual Basic for Applications: use this to create macros for your own use.	Microsoft Visual Basic for Applications macro language not included; cannot create macros for your own use.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT FEATURES

Asta Powerproject	Asta Easyplan
Multiple tasks per line (which can overlap) and task per line mode for compatibility with other products.	A maximum of 10 tasks per line; overlapping tasks not available; task per line mode not available.
Comprehensive calendar control. All working conditions accommodated. Any task or resource can have any calendar. Plans can have a folding calendar to focus on working time.	As Asta Powerproject, but can only create a maximum of 10 calendars.
Unlimited number of comprehensive task level baselines with all original details retained. Full comparison and variances. Items can be edited and limited data added.	Baselines not available.
Baseline data can be seen on own rows. Special 'revert to' option for storing and recovering 'What-If' scenarios rather than historical information.	Baselines not available.
Buffer tasks, also known as 'contingency tasks', can be used within projects to protect important dates and reduce excess float	Feature not available.
Projects (and parts of projects) can be rescheduled (critical path analysis).	Critical path analysis not supported, as Asta Easyplan cannot perform full rescheduling. Asta Easyplan can re-align tasks according to their link logic, but this is very simplistic compared to a full reschedule.
Multiple critical paths if required.	Critical path analysis not supported, as Asta Easyplan cannot perform full rescheduling
Unique line of balance histograms to optimise resources through project including immediate setting of number of workforces that can work at a time to accelerate completion of project.	Feature not available.
Organise related tasks into summary groups (using summary tasks) or subcharts (using expanded tasks).	Organise related tasks into summary groups, but not into subcharts.
Hammock tasks supported. Full editing and roll-ups. Links can be created from hammock tasks.	Hammocks not available.
Hide non-driving links.	Non-driving link identification not supported, as Asta Easyplan cannot perform full rescheduling.
'Push' links to maintain offsets between tasks as well as normal 'pull' behaviour.	'Push' links to maintain offsets between tasks not available.
Extensive task constraints can be established: Start On, Start On or After, Start On or Before, Finish On, Finish On or Before, Finish On or After, Work-Between.	Only Start On or After constraints available.
Backward and forward scheduling supported.	Asta Easyplan cannot perform full rescheduling.
Can configure Asta Powerproject to reschedule the current view or the entire project automatically, each time an edit is made – allows you to see instantly the way in which your edits affect the scheduling of projects.	Automatic rescheduling not supported, but you can configure Asta Easyplan to align tasks automatically as you draw links between them, so that successor tasks are moved automatically according to the links that lead into them.
Negative float can be generated.	Float not calculated or displayed, as Asta Easyplan cannot perform full rescheduling.

Project Management Features Continued

Asta Powerproject	Asta Easyplan
Link categories can be omitted from a reschedule for alternative logical schemes.	Not available, as Asta Easyplan cannot perform full rescheduling.
Interruptible tasks where work can start earlier and can be interrupted at some point before the finish of the task.	Feature not available.
Tasks can be set to ALAP or ASAP.	ALAP/ASAP positioning not supported, as Asta Easyplan cannot perform full rescheduling.
Hide selected tasks.	Feature not available.
Use task work and a work rate to set duration of task without adding resources.	Feature not available.
Progress tasks by task work done	Feature not available.
View-based with named views. A view has a filter, sort order, spreadsheet table and project scope. Fully editable.	Only one view of the project available, although this single view can be edited.
Display part-critical highlighting on tasks.	Critical path analysis not supported, as Asta Easyplan cannot perform full rescheduling.
Excellent progress features. Actual dates and values can be entered.	As Asta Powerproject, although the lack of a full reschedule means that you cannot automatically move uncompleted sections of tasks to the right of a progress line.
Jagged progress line highlights problem areas.	As Asta Powerproject, although the lack of a full reschedule means that you cannot automatically move uncompleted sections of tasks to the right of a progress line.
Unique 'progress periods' with date and colour. Identify work done by a specific period to exactly model the actuals per period – actual cost per period, EVA per period etc– not just actual start and actual end, but how you got there with gaps between tasks (multiple resume dates).	As Asta Powerproject, but EVA fields not available.
Highlight tasks and library entries to 'book out' sections of a project for local/off-line editing. 'Book out' statuses Read-Only, Read-Write, Read-Write-Delete supported. 'Book in' changes to update central plan.	Book in/book out functionality not available.
Use "task pools" as templates for the creation of multiple, similar networks of tasks.	"Task pools" not available.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Asta Powerproject	Asta Easyplan
Resource libraries can be organised as a hierarchy of skills/types. Resources can have multiple skills. Resource assignment groups also supported.	Cannot organise permanent resources or consumable resources into hierarchies; they are non-hierarchical lists. Multiple skilled resources not available. Resource assignment groups not available.
Various resource modelling methods including effort and work-driven task durations. Resource toolbar facilitates rapid editing.	Resource modelling not available.
Resource Breakdown Structure view (RBS) shows the tasks assigned to each resource in a structured and editable view.	RBS view not available.
Identify tasks with no resource assignments automatically using the unassigned tasks pane; also use this pane to quickly assign resources to unassigned tasks.	Unassigned tasks pane not available.
Project Manager/Resource Manager dialogue facilitated by assignment of 'demand' resources (PM) and satisfying with 'Scheduled' resource allocations (RM).	Assignment of demand resources not available.
Resource Assignment View identifies which resource, meeting a skill, has available time. Full resource editing facilities.	Resource Assignment View not available.
Navigable, definable graphs. Skill and individual resource histograms. Tasks contributing to resource overassignment easily identified in editable view. Baseline data included on graphs. Graphs extensible by formulae. Single click copy.	Limited number of histograms available, but no skill histograms, no reference to baseline data and graphs not extensible by formulae.
Resource levelling. Define date range, specify resources and priority for levelling. Extend end date or balance resource usage. Resource assignments can be split, stretched and have minimum resource levels defined.	Resource levelling not available.
Publish details of allocations automatically to permanent resources as tasks or appointments in Microsoft Outlook, or send details of allocations automatically via email.	Functionality not available.

COST MANAGEMENT

Asta Powerproject	**Asta Easyplan**
Resources can have costs and income rates for different pay & charge rates.	Cost and income rates for resources not available.
Cost libraries can be organised as a hierarchy of cost centres. Allocate the same cost centre many times.	Cannot organise cost centres into hierarchies; they appear in a non-hierarchical list.
Various cost modelling methods including fixed, time variable and quantity variable. Cost Toolbar facilitates rapid editing.	Cost modelling toolbar not available.
Cost Breakdown Structure view (CBS). Grouped cost allocations identified and summarised on editable view.	CBS view not available.
Identify tasks with no cost assignments automatically using the unassigned tasks pane; also use this pane to quickly assign cost centres to unassigned tasks.	Unassigned tasks pane not available.
Navigable, definable graphs. Group and individual cost graphs. Baseline data included on graphs. Graphs extensible by formulae. Single click copy.	Limited number of histograms available, but no histograms of cost groups (ie cost folders, as they are not supported), no reference to baseline data and graphs not extensible by formulae.
Earned Value Analysis (EVA) data available (ACWP, ACWS etc).	EVA information not available.

GRAPHICS

Asta Powerproject	**Asta Easyplan**
Assign a SQL filter to an annotation to trigger an event.	Filters not available in Asta Easyplan.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS – Asta Powerproject And Asta Easyplan

	MINIMUM	RECOMMENDED
Processor	Intel compatible 400 MHz	Intel compatible 1 GHz or greater
Operating System	Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7, Windows 8	Windows Vista, Windows 7, Windows 8
Memory	1 gigabyte (GB) RAM (32-bit) or 2 GB RAM (64-bit)	1.5 gigabyte (GB) RAM (32-bit) or 2.5 GB RAM (64-bit)
Hard Disk	150 Mb disk space	250 Mb disk space
Drive	CD-ROM	CD-ROM

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