

P2WORLD Planning Version 1.2.1

This report covers the Bronze Stage assessment of P2WORLD Planning from Quality Projects (Consulting) Ltd. that I conducted on Friday, 4 March 2005.

This project planning tool is centered around the PRINCE2 concept of product-based planning. The user is provided with a simple drag and drop Product Breakdown Structure interface in which to create the product hierarchy, in tree format, for the products that will be required and produced during the life of a project. Product grouping can be organised according to the user's requirements and the structure can be easily amended.

A Product Flow Diagram is then used to organise the products into chronological order of production and to illustrate the dependencies between them and also any external dependencies.

As products are created, a checklist is automatically compiled. Its tree structure matches that created in the Product Breakdown Structure and it provides fields that enable basic tracking information to be entered. Provision is made for the entry of detailed product descriptions and a template is provided for this purpose.

The activities required to produce the products can be listed. Project stages are set up and work packages are defined within the stages. Products can then be allocated to their appropriate work packages by dragging and dropping them from the Product Checklist.

Although basic project tracking is possible within P2WORLD Planning, the project can be exported to Microsoft Project (and other project management tools) should a more powerful tool be required.

Quality Projects (Consulting) Ltd. has indicated that, in their opinion, the design and use of this product fall within the field of guidance offered by the OGC Business Change Guidance document covering Project Management. I am in agreement with this opinion. My initial impression was that P2WORLD Planning supplies a set of tools that will assist a manager to follow the relevant guidance on project planning and management provided in this document.

The product has been designed and constructed to enable users to follow the product-based planning processes supported by PRINCE2 and, at this stage, I have found nothing to suggest that this is not the case. I am of the opinion that it appears to follow PRINCE2 procedures closely.

In my view, this assessment should now proceed to the Silver Stage and I have therefore agreed a Silver Stage assessment plan with Quality Projects (Consulting) Ltd.

S. Cotterell

23 March 2005