

Customer Case Study

Deltek Acumen Fuse

Bombardier

How the Acumen Fuse solution improves efficiencies and tracks performance on large scale projects

Highlights

- Incorporating a Bombardier-specific set of schedule quality checks into Fuse ensures a standardized project assessment process.
- Clear and concise reports mean analysis and performance is presented quickly to key members of the project team.
- Advanced forensic analysis enables Bombardier to track schedule updates and ensure improvements are being made

Working on large rail modernization project schedules frequently involves inherent complexities, including contributions from multiple planners, a growing number of activities, and increasingly complex logic. To assist on such projects, Bombardier Transportation’s Rail Control Solutions (RCS) Division chose the metric assessment, project comparison, and reporting capabilities of Acumen Fuse®, which provides for effective control of the project plan to ensure the best path to project success.

The Implementation Decision

Bombardier understands the importance of implementing scheduling best practices and standards to ensure their planners and schedulers build a schedule of sound quality. However, as projects have grown in size and scope the process of evaluating frequent schedule updates has become increasingly time consuming and difficult to manage.

Therefore a solution was needed to improve efficiency and track performance on larger scale projects. With its ease of use, customization, reporting and automated schedule quality assessment, the decision to go with Acumen Fuse® was simple.

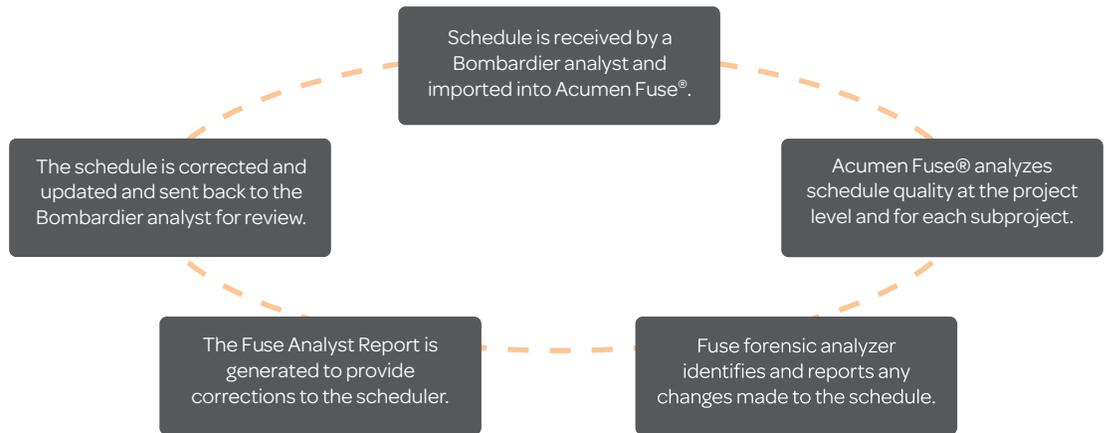
Acumen Fuse’s automated analysis and reporting benefits Bombardier by guaranteeing accurate assessment of schedule quality across multiple updates and freeing up the project team’s time.

In addition to quality analysis, Bombardier needs to be able to track changes made between weekly schedule updates. Fuse provides an automated comparison across each update in a single workbook, tracking not only what has changed, but how changes have impacted the project plan.

These advantages, coupled with Acumen’s demonstrated customer service and support, were all factors in Bombardier’s decision to move forward with Acumen Fuse.



Acumen Fuse uses custom and pre-defined metrics to analyze schedule quality.



“The Acumen team was incredibly helpful in setting up the schedule checks...I was very impressed by their availability and willingness to make sure our implementation process went smoothly. This kind of customer service is becoming increasingly rare with our software vendors and is one of the reasons I prefer working with Acumen.”

» Jeremy Clarke, Head of Bombardier RCS Primavera Competence Center

Bombardier Analysis Process

Bombardier Use Case

- **Targeted Quality Check** – At Bombardier, the ability to analyze the quality of each of the sub-projects integrated into the master schedule was key; Fuse was used to group all activities by sub-project and then compare the metric results for individual groupings.
- **Internal Customization** – As well as providing many Fuse-standard checks for schedule quality the acceptable thresholds could be amended to meet specific project demands.
- **Clear Communications** – An Excel-based analyst report highlighted areas of the schedule requiring correction, in a clear and easy-to-understand format. This report provided an easy means of communicating necessary updates to the project team.

Acumen Fuse® Functionality

- **Slice and Dice Capability** – Fuse allows activities to be grouped by a common field or attribute to analyze and compare each segment individually. Drill down into any part of the project to target the weaker parts of the schedule and easily identify necessary improvements.
- **Editable Metrics** – The Fuse metric builder makes creating custom metrics and editing existing metrics, simple. Each metric can be

customized (including the thresholds) for use company-wide or project to project.

- **Quick and Efficient Reporting** – The Fuse analyst report is an automatically generated ‘to-do list’ that allows the scheduler to view problematic activities and make corrections quickly in the native scheduling tool - eliminating time wasted sifting through thousands of activities manually.

Bombardier and Fuse: Specific Use Case

Bombardier is currently leveraging Acumen Fuse on a high-profile, complex project with over 10,000 activities, involving teams and multiple planners in different countries around the world. Fuse is helping to generate an efficient reporting process and performance tracking method that is providing a clear visual across multiple sub-projects. The automated analysis and reporting ensures time-efficient weekly updates and keeps stakeholders in the know.

Working with Acumen

For Bombardier, the first step in beginning to use Acumen Fuse was to build a ‘metric library’, or standard metric assessment that evaluated

“The fast turnaround makes all the difference on complex projects. We are able to see, report, and resolve issues in real time.”

» Jeremy Clarke, Head of Bombardier RCS Primavera Competence Center

each schedule for compliance with Bombardier’s internal reporting standards. Bombardier worked closely with Acumen to create several custom metrics, and choose the appropriate Fuse-standard metrics for their needs.

Liaising with Acumen’s US-based support team, customer service representatives, and the Acumen Europe office was a key factor in Bombardier’s implementation process. Within days the Acumen team was able to customize the Fuse solution for Bombardier and get the project team up and running with the software.

Schedule Quality Management

Bombardier is using a top-down schedule quality management method. A project controls manager is in charge of reviewing, approving, and reporting on the status of the integrated master schedule. Fuse allows the team to look at the integrated schedule and quickly score schedule quality. After reviewing the overall project score, the project analyst groups activities for targeted scores and quality reviews helping them find problematic activities and determine which sub-projects need attention.

Project Reporting and Tracking

Every week the integrated master schedule is updated. The weekly updates require a close coordination of the submission, analysis, and reporting process. Fuse’s built-in analyst report does a lot of the heavy lifting.

Analyst Report

Each week, an automatic analyst report, which exports to Microsoft Excel, shows an exact facsimile of the project analysis and individual activities that have failed to meet the metric threshold. These ‘to-do list’ reports are then sent to schedulers, as both a report card and task assignment, to make improvements in the project schedule - a huge time saving over trying to identify and correct activities manually.

Forensic Analysis

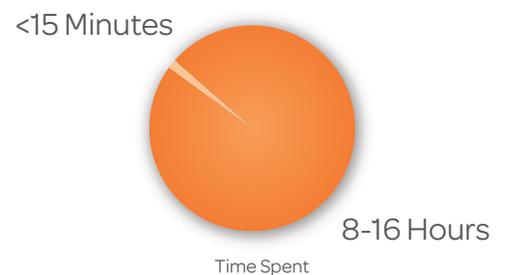
With weekly schedule updates, it became clear that a way to track updates and the implementation of schedule improvements was needed. With Fuse’s forensic analyzer, Bombardier compares each update in a single view to identify differences such as added and removed activities, critical path changes, and cost or duration variance. The forensic analyzer also helps the team track which sub-projects are improving and which continue to need work.

Acumen Fuse® Time Savings

Analyzing a major project schedule (with over 10.000 activities) using a manual process typically requires between 8 and 16 hours. With Acumen Fuse, this process is not only reduced to minutes, but leaves little room for error and automatically provides results in an easy-to-understand, publishable format.

Manually creating a comprehensive list of activities that do not meet project requirements is close to impossible. With the Fuse analyst briefing, not only is this report a reality, but it is done in just seconds.

Acumen Fuse is the fastest and most reliable approach to improving schedule quality.



About Bombardier

Headquartered in Montreal, Canada, Bombardier is the world's only manufacturer of both planes and trains and employs 70,000 people. Looking far ahead while delivering today, Bombardier is evolving mobility worldwide by answering the call for more efficient, sustainable and enjoyable transportation everywhere.

Bombardier Transportation's Rail Control Solutions portfolio covers the whole range of BOMBARDIER CITYFLO mass transit solutions, from manual to fully automatic, as well as communications-based systems. It also provides INTERFLO mainline solutions, from conventional to ERTMS Level 2 systems and a complete palette of wayside and onboard signalling products.

Bombardier has set the standard of excellence in aircraft, rail vehicles, and transportation systems and solutions worldwide.

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