CHECKLIST

The Ultimate Checklist
For Developing Gantt Chart
Applications That Users Love

Developing graphical scheduling applications can be overwhelming if you don't know where to begin. There are many facets with a significant influence on the user experience and on the information value of your application. Use this checklist to ask yourself the right questions before you develop a Gantt chart application.

TYPE OF PROJECT: EXISTING OR NEW APPLICATION

☐ Do you develop a complete new scheduling application or do you want to replace an existing application?

☐ If you replace an existing application, please list the three capabilities of your current solution, which you value most and which you definitely need to have in the new solution.

☐ Likewise, please list the three capabilities that you miss most with the current solution.

☐ Be prepared to provide screenshots of the existing application respectively sketches of the desired look and feel of the new application.

APPLICATION USE CASE

☐ What kind of application do you develop?

☐ What problem/business issue do you want to solve with the application?

☐ Who is a typical user of your application?

☐ What process should get visualized in the Gantt chart?

☐ Are there any kind of KPIs (key performance indicators) which you want to monitor/manage with the scheduling application?

☐ Will you have just one planner and multiple viewers of the schedule or do you consider a multi-user application (meaning that many people can interactively change the data at the same time)?

GANTT CHART ESSENTIALS

☐ Are there resource groups that need to get visualized?

☐ If there are groups: how many hierarchical levels are required?

☐ Are there dependencies between the tasks that need to get visualized?

⊶⊷ NETRONIC

GANTT CHART ESSENTIALS (continued)

☐ Are there specific calendars e.g. shift calendars or workfree periods to take into account?

☐ Do the tasks have different statuses and do you want to visualize them?

☐ Do you need any feedback about the changes made in the application?

☐ Get an understanding (at least: a gut feel) of how many tasks and links between the tasks you need to visualize once your scheduling solution goes live: Dozens? Hundreds? Thousands? Or More?

☐ Will you need different views on the same data (e.g. an order based-view and a resource-based view)?

☐ Do you want to use the Gantt chart for reporting purposes (viewing only) or for scheduling purposes (data editing, changing and saving)?

BUSINESS LOGIC

☐ Do you require specific visual alerts e.g. for certain scheduling conflicts (please specify) or if a certain data property has a certain value (please specify)?

☐ More general: are there any data fields and properties that you want to specifically highlight?

☐ Are there businesses rules that need to get taken into account e.g. during the drag & drop interaction (e.g. certain machines that cannot handle certain orders; interaction thresholds for delivery dates, etc.)?

☐ Do you need any kind of auto-assignment or scheduling?

☐ If yes: are there any rules that need to get taken into account (e.g. JIT or ASAP)?

DEVELOPMENT-RELATED

☐ Which programming language do you (want to) use?

☐ What is your runtime environment? ActiveX? Java? .NET Framework? If .NET: which version?

DATA INFRASTRUCTURE

☐ How shall the application be integrated into your existing system?

☐ Do you use other applications in the same workflow? Does the Gantt application need to interact with other applications?

☐ Are you using a database to store task information?

☐ What kind of database?

☐ Are you using any kind of framework for object-relational mapping?

☐ In case we should develop the application for you: in which format will you provide the data?