

CLOSING THE LOOP with Preactor and Defacto for Sage 1000

PLANNING & SCHEDULING

PLANNING

Working out what supply is needed to meet demand. Product, quantity and TARGET date.

SCHEDULING

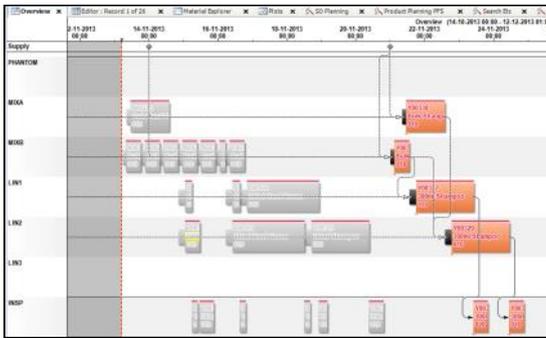
Making an efficient sequence in which to run the production jobs, giving an EXPECTED finish date.

A Make To Order Story

The company makes medical gas equipment, with multi-level BoMs and up to 10 process steps per works order. Plus many bought in components on each BoM, some with long lead times.

Preactor 400 APS is used by the company for both **planning** and **scheduling**. The "SO Planning" screen shows new sales orders from Sage. The "PRO" system does the **planning** by generating production orders for all BoM levels for all lines on the sales order. Then Preactor "Material Control" checks for shortages of bought items and calculates start dates for each PRO order based on supplier lead times.

Lin	W	Product	Qty	Required	Schedule Date	PRO Number Top Level	Description
1	P2	SHAMPOO300	4000	15/11/2013	23/11/2013	Y00327	300ml Shampoo
2	P2	SHAMPOO300	4000	15/11/2013	24/11/2013	Y00329	300ml Shampoo SPECIAL ORD



Now Preactor knows the earliest START dates, so it can create a schedule and predict the EXPECTED end dates for each works order. The **schedule** takes into account shift patterns, the existing schedule of works orders and the availability of materials, machines, people and tools.

Reports are then used to show:

- Predicted availability of finished goods for sales despatch. With a comparison against the sales order due date.
- A list of purchase orders that need to be raised to cover shortages. The required date will be from the schedule, and at the earliest on today + supplier lead time. Possibly later if resources are busy at that time.
- Capacity versus loading for each resource.
- A Work-To list for each resource.

And an extension of the Defacto Universal Import (UI) module converts the Preactor PRO orders into full Sage works orders, saving administrative time. Or the PRO orders can be discarded if this was just a speculative enquiry or a quotation only.

WIP TRACKING CLOSSES THE LOOP

Everyone wants to know which operations have run and which are not on schedule. The Defacto WIP Start / Stop module is used to capture bookings of time taken and quantity produced for each production employee. In this case the company deployed the module via Defcapture browser so that barcode guns, touch screens or regular mouse/screen systems can be used to enter the data.

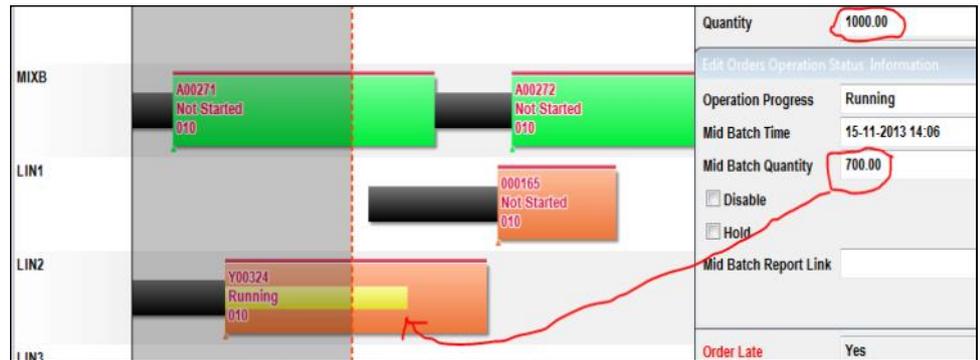
Sage is updated as if a regular WIP Tracking transaction has been performed. Administrative effort is saved by not having to write out time sheets and then re-key the data into regular Sage screens.

"Before Preactor we spent 4-6 hours planning a new sales order, and typically took 7-14 days to get an answer to customer services.
 Now we spend between 15-45 minutes and get a BETTER promise date to sales within 2-5 days, depending on supplier responses. And the WO get created automatically for all BoM levels.
 The planning process now adds value to the business instead of being one long paper chase."

Dan Austin
 Senior Production Planner
 Penlon MGS

Time is collected, so efficiencies can be calculated and run rates made more accurate, for better planning and costing.

And Preactor becomes a production monitoring system. For example here this operation has started, with 700 out of 1000 produced:



Options for Make to Stock / Forecast

The **Preactor GMPS** module is ideal for FMCG companies or other manufacturers who make to stock or are driven by customer forecasts and next day delivery requests.

The purpose of GMPS is to propose, for finished goods items, a production plan that keeps the days cover of stock within satisfactory upper and lower limits.

DATABASE SCALABILITY

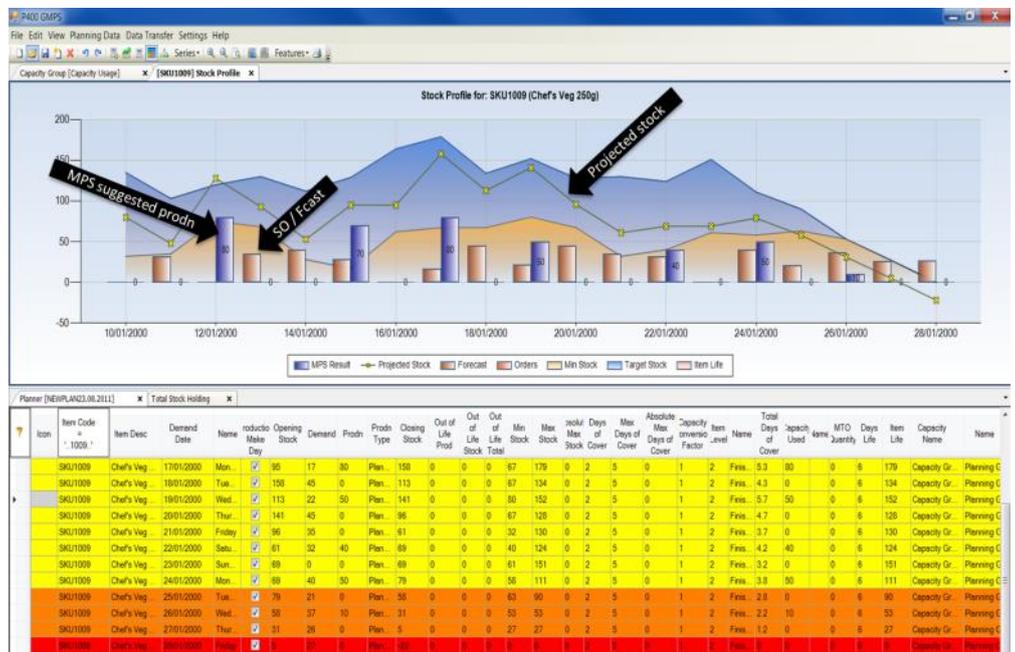
Many companies use spreadsheets to generate their MPS. It's a very user friendly experience. But is it scalable and does it depend too much on the person who created the formulae? Preactor GMPS utilises a SQL database and the well known capabilities of Preactor's scheduling tools.

And you can quickly change the suggested production, by typing in the grid area OR by drag and drop on the graph elements!

The signed off MPS plan can be fed directly to a regular Preactor APS system for scheduling.

But usually the GMPS suggestions are sent to Sage and used to drive MRP and suggest production requirements for sub-assemblies or purchase orders for bought in items.

MRP recommendations to raise new works orders can then be imported to Preactor APS for scheduling along with firm works orders.



Closing some more loops!