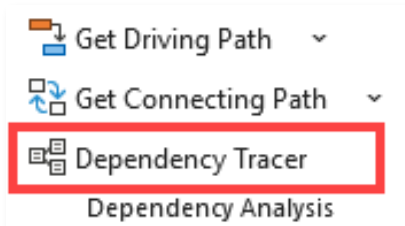


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SSi's Dependency Tracer Tool



SSi Dependency Tracer

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Currently selected task

Unique ID	Name	Start	Finish
30	Develop System Hardware Requirements	1/31/25	2/6/25

Predecessors

UID	Name	Type	Lag	Drv Slack	Start	Finish
☒ 29	Conduct Site Surveys	FF	0d	0d	1/31/25	2/6/25
☒ 28	Review CONOPS & Requirements Documents	FS	0d	0d	1/30/25	1/30/25
☐ Enter UID...						

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Successors

UID	Name	Type	Lag	Drv Slack	Start	Finish
☒ 33	Review System Environment and I/O Requireme...	FS	0d	0d	2/7/25	2/7/25
☒ 55	Define System Requirements	FS	0d	0d	2/7/25	3/13/25
☒ 56	Update the Requirements Traceability Matrix	FS	0d	15d	2/28/25	3/13/25
☐ Enter UID...						

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Overview

SSi's **Dependency Tracer Tool** provides a enhanced method of analyzing the immediate dependencies of activities in Microsoft Project. While the built-in MS Project **Task Form** provides basic visibility into task dependencies, the Dependency Tracer offers advanced capabilities to analyze relationships between activities more effectively. Key features include the ability to:

- Clearly identify which dependencies are driving or being driven.
- View additional task fields to see key information about dependencies
- Navigate to dependency activities and perform step-by-step analysis.

Understanding Driving Slack

Driving Slack is the amount of **schedule flexibility** (also known as **slack** or **float**) activities in a dependency chain have before they would begin to drive a designated **focus point**. In other words, it is the amount of time an activity's Start or Finish (depending on the dependency type) can be delayed before it begins to drive the focus point's **current** Start or Finish dates. A **focus point** refers to any task or milestone in the schedule that is selected as the starting point for analysis.

Unlike **Free Slack** or **Total Slack**, Driving Slack is *not* calculated or displayed by Microsoft Project. However, it is a meaningful and measurable concept that can be derived by analyzing the logical relationships between connected activities. Evaluating Driving Slack is the most accurate method for identifying true driving activities.

Understanding the differences between **Driving Slack**, **Free Slack**, and **Total Slack** is essential knowledge for any project scheduler to accurately interpret activity flexibility and schedule impacts.

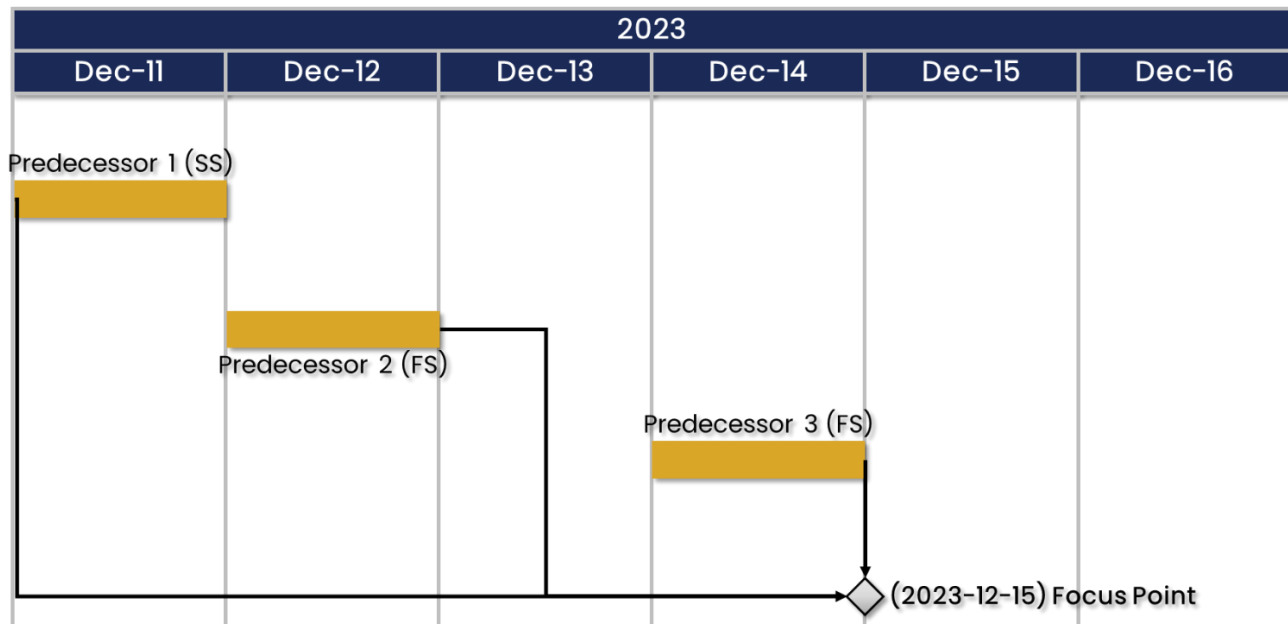
- **Driving Slack** – The amount of schedule flexibility activities logically connected to a **focus point** have before they would begin to drive it to its **current** dates. The “focus point” can be any task or milestone in the schedule and is determined at the time of the analysis. Activities *not* logically connected to the focus point will not have a driving slack value.
- **Free Slack** refers to the amount of schedule flexibility a task has relative to its nearest successor. Unlike Driving Slack, Free Slack does not account for whether the successor is part of a chain leading to the analysis focus point. As a result, a task's nearest successor may have no logical connection to the focus point.

Task Name	Free Slack
Perform Design Validation and Verification	0 d
Develop Deployment Plan	5 d

- **Total Slack** represents the amount of schedule flexibility a task has before it affects either a downstream task with a defined **deadline** or, if no deadlines exist in the workstream, the final task in the project. Total slack is useful for measuring how much time activities can be delayed without impacting critical deliveries or the end date of the project.

Task Name	Total Slack
Conduct User Acceptance Testing	0 d
Conduct Security Test and Evaluation	13 d

Understanding how Driving Slack is calculated is key to understanding how SSI's Dependency Analysis Tools work.



In the diagram above, a **milestone** is being used as the **focus point**. To calculate **Driving Slack**, the distance (in time) between the _____ of the **predecessor task** and the _____ of the **focus point** is measured. The blanks are filled with either **Start** or **Finish** based on the dependency type.

- **Predecessor 1** has a **Start-to-Start** relationship with the milestone, so Driving Slack is calculated by measuring the time between the start of **Predecessor 1** and the start of the **milestone**. This gives a Driving Slack value of **4 days**.
- **Predecessor 2** has a **Finish-to-Start** relationship with the milestone. Therefore, Driving Slack is the time between the finish of **Predecessor 2** and the start of the **milestone**, which is **2 days**.
- **Predecessor 3** also has a **Finish-to-Start** relationship with the milestone. Since Predecessor 3 finishes at the same time the milestone is scheduled to start, the Driving Slack is **0 days**.

When a task has **0 days of Driving Slack** to a focus point, it means the task is **directly driving** the start or finish of that activity—any delay in that task will immediately delay the focus point as well.

Understanding Out-of-Sequence Dependency Relationships

An Out-of-Sequence (OOS) dependency relationship occurs when a successor task begins or finishes before its predecessor logically allows.

Although **Driving Slack** technically can never be less than zero, it can be calculated as a **negative** number if certain Out-of-Sequence dependency relationship exists. Because the Dependency Tracer calculates dependency's Driving Slack, it can be a useful tool for finding and resolving Out-of-Sequence conditions.

The following conditions cause an Out-of-Sequence dependency relationship:

1. A predecessor and successor have a **Finish-to-Start** relationship, but the successor's start date is prior to the predecessor's start date

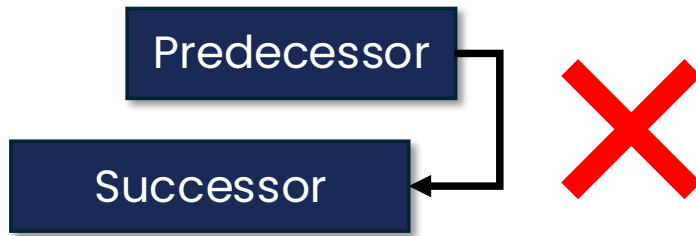


2. A predecessor and successor have a **Start-to-Start** relationship, but the successor's start date is prior to the predecessor's start date



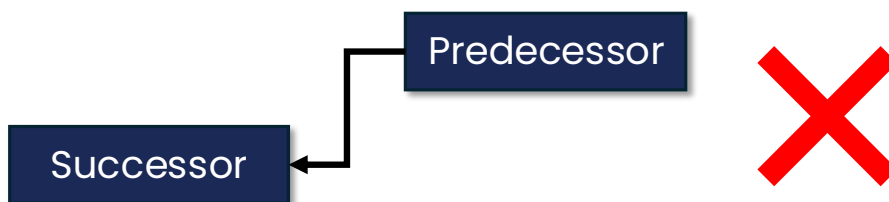
3. A predecessor and successor have a **Finish-to-Finish** relationship, but the successor's finish date is prior to the predecessor's finish date

•



4. A predecessor and successor have a **Start-to-Finish** relationship, but the successor's start date is prior to the predecessor's finish date

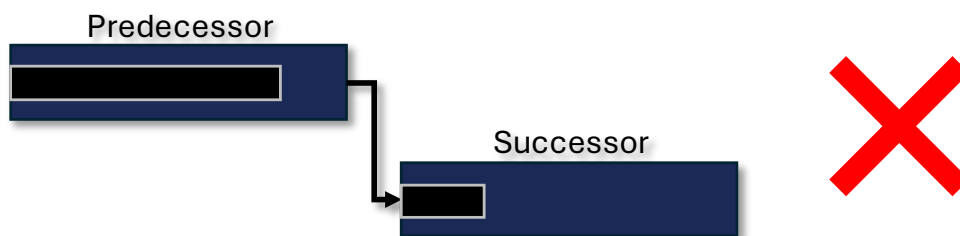
•



5. A predecessor and successor have a **Finish-to-Start** relationship, and the successor has an **Actual Start** without the predecessor having an **Actual Finish**

•

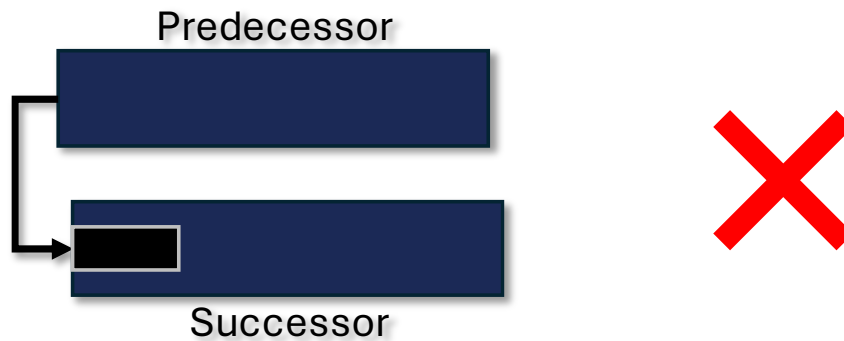
•



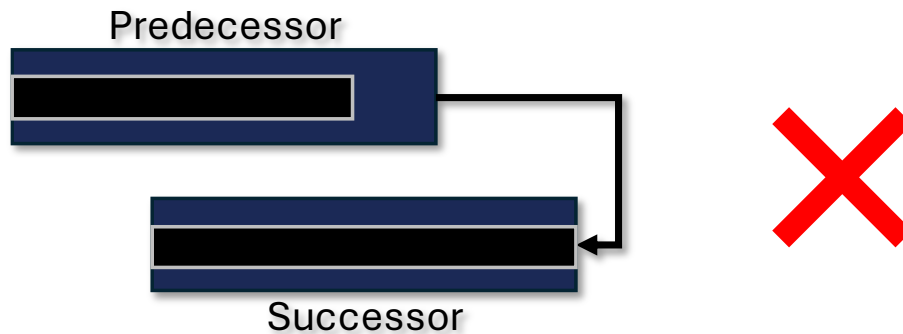
6. A predecessor and successor have a **Start-to-Start** relationship, and the successor has an **Actual Start** without the predecessor having an **Actual Start**

•

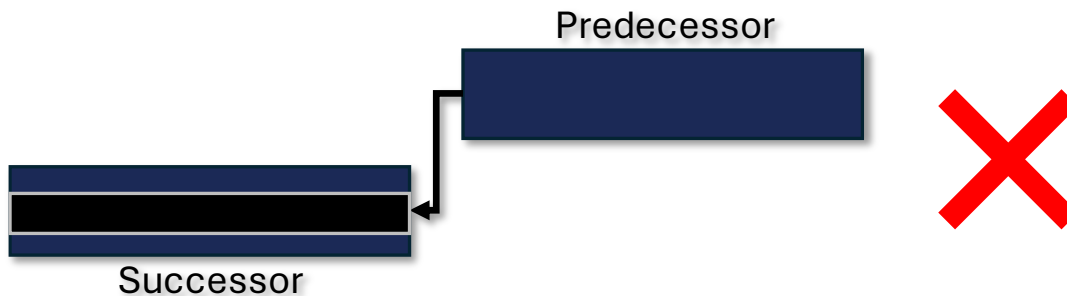
•



-
- 7. A predecessor and successor have a **Finish-to-Finish** relationship, and the successor has an **Actual Finish Start** without the predecessor having an **Actual Finish**
-



-
- 8. A predecessor and successor have a **Start-to-Finish** relationship, and the successor has an **Actual Finish** without the predecessor having an **Actual Start**
-



Note: Only the first four Out of Sequence conditions listed will cause Driving Slack to be calculated as a negative number

Other Definitions

Driving Predecessor

SSI defines a **Driving Predecessor** as an activity that has **zero days of Driving Slack** to the successor activity currently under examination. In other words, any delay to the start or finish of the driving predecessor would directly impact the timing of the successor being examined. The specific impact depends on the type of dependency between the two tasks:

- **Finish-to-Start (FS):** A delay in the Finish of the predecessor will delay the Start of the successor.
- **Finish-to-Finish (FF):** A delay in the Finish of the predecessor will delay the Finish of the successor.
- **Start-to-Start (SS):** A delay in the Start of the predecessor will delay the Start of the successor.
- **Start-to-Finish (SF):** A delay in the Start of the predecessor will delay the Finish of the successor.

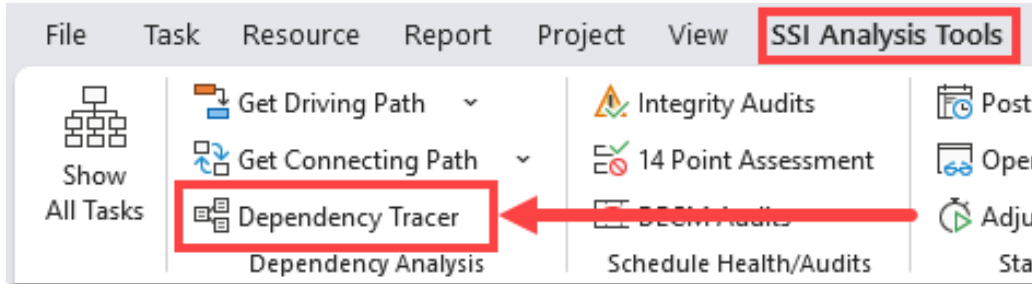
Driven Successor

SSI defines a **Driven Successor** as a successor activity to which the predecessor activity currently under examination has **zero days of Driving Slack** to. In other words, any delay to the start or finish of the predecessor under examination would directly impact the timing of the successor task. The specific impact depends on the type of dependency between the two tasks:

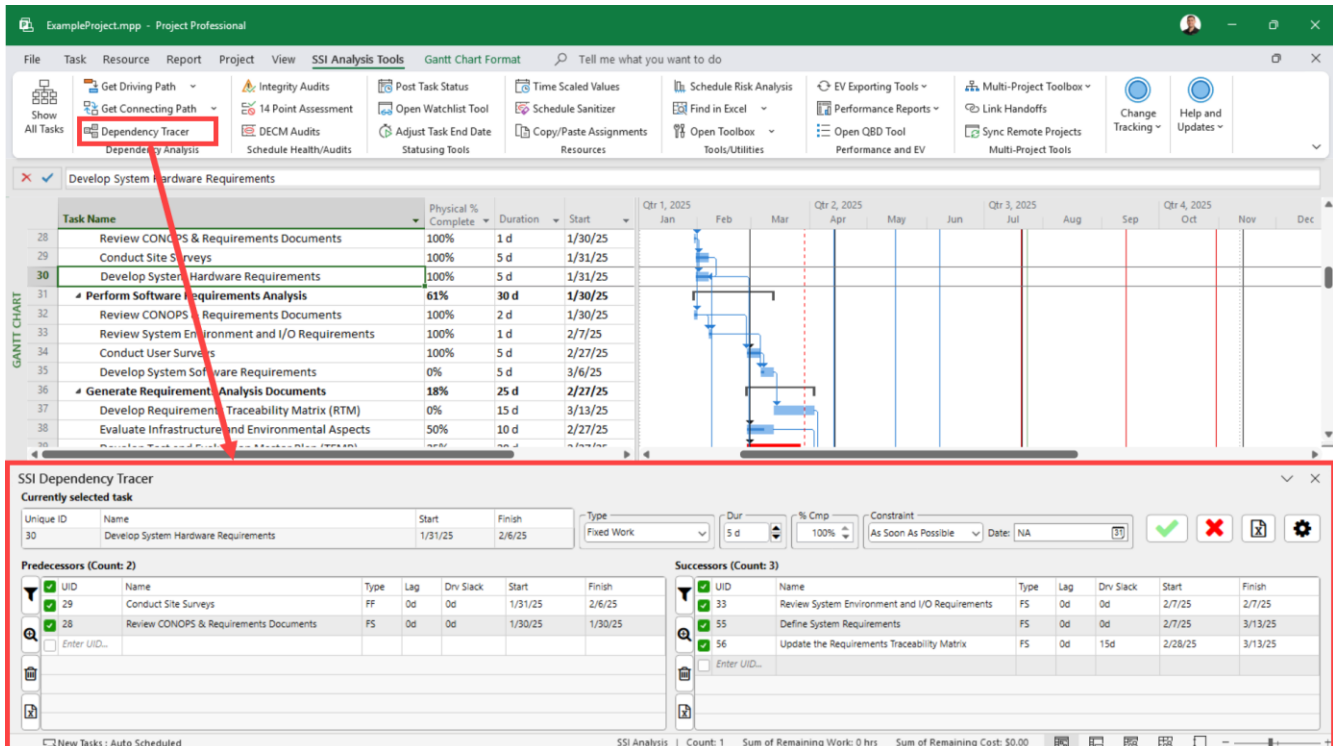
- **Finish-to-Start (FS):** A delay in the Finish of the predecessor will delay the Start of the successor.
- **Finish-to-Finish (FF):** A delay in the Finish of the predecessor will delay the Finish of the successor.
- **Start-to-Start (SS):** A delay in the Start of the predecessor will delay the Start of the successor.
- **Start-to-Finish (SF):** A delay in the Start of the predecessor will delay the Finish of the successor.

Using the SSI Dependency Tracer Tool

The Dependency Tracer can be accessed through the **Dependency Analysis Group** of the **SSI Analysis Tools Ribbon**.



By default, the Dependency Tracer will appear as a **task pane** docked at the bottom of the Microsoft Project window, similar in placement to the built-in Details pane.



Dependency Tracer Layouts

As a task pane, the Dependency Tracer's position is flexible. It can be expanded or collapsed, undocked to float freely as a standalone window, and redocked to any of the four sides (top, bottom, left, or right) of the Microsoft Project window. You can reposition the Dependency Tracer to suit your personal preferences. Its current location is automatically saved, so the next time you open it, it will appear in the same position as it was previously. The layout of the Dependency Tracer's controls automatically adjusts based on its position.

The Dependency Tracer has two Layout modes:

Horizontal:

SSI Dependency Tracer

Currently selected task

Unique ID	Name	Start	Finish	Type	Dur	% Cmp	Constraint
30	Develop System Hardware Requirements	1/31/25	2/6/25	Fixed Work	5 d	100	As Soon As Pr Date: NA

Predecessors (Count: 2)

UID	Name	Type	Lag	Drv Slack	Start	Finish
29	Conduct Site Surveys	FF	0d	0d	1/31/25	2/6/25
28	Review CONOPS & Requirements Doc...	FS	0d	0d	1/30/25	1/30/25

Successors (Count: 3)

UID	Name	Type	Lag	Drv Slack	Start	Finish
33	Review System Environment and I/O R...	FS	0d	0d	2/7/25	2/7/25
55	Define System Requirements	FS	0d	0d	2/7/25	3/13/25
56	Update the Requirements Traceability...	FS	0d	15d	2/28/25	3/13/25

Vertical:

SSI Dependency Tracer

Currently selected task

Unique ID	Name	Start	Finish
30	Develop System Hardware Requirements	1/31/25	2/6/25

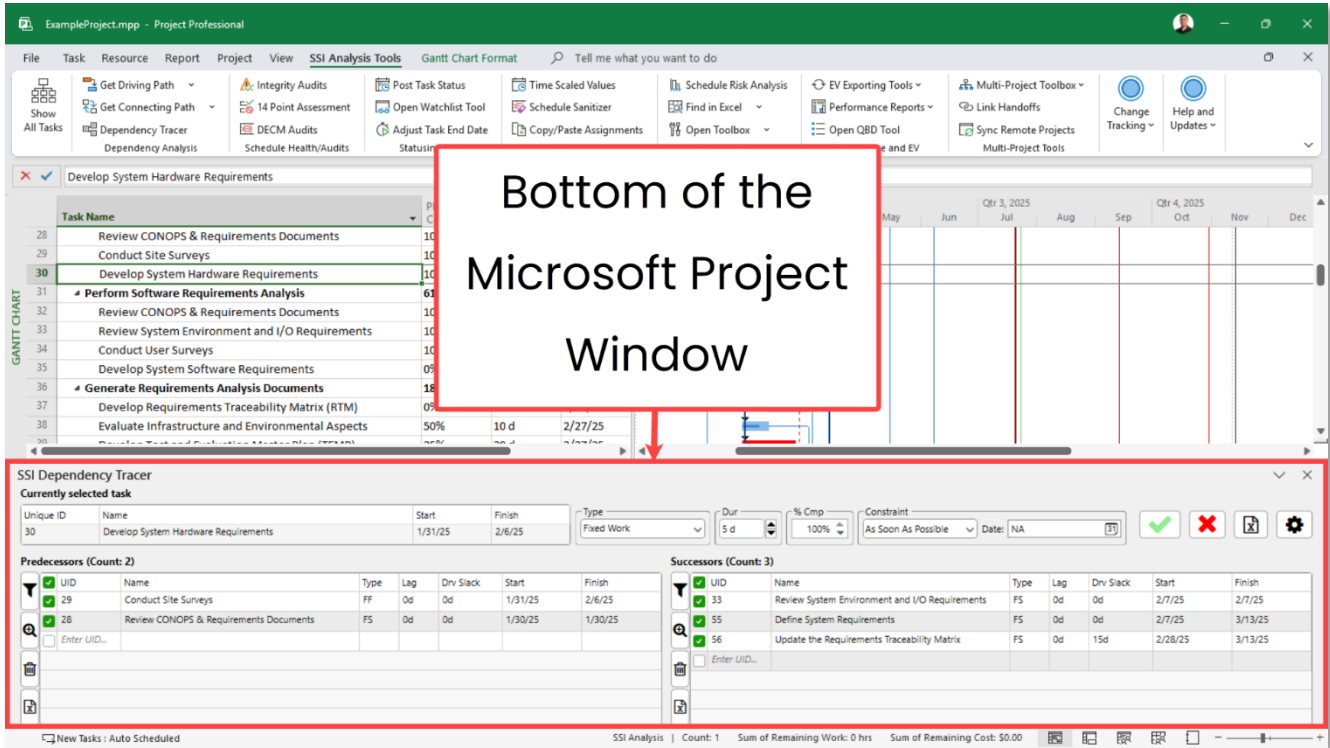
Predecessors

UID	Name	Type	Lag	Drv Slack	Start	Finish
29	Conduct Site Surveys	FF	0d	0d	1/31/25	2/6/25
28	Review CONOPS & Requireme...	FS	0d	0d	1/30/25	1/30/25

Successors

UID	Name	Type	Lag	Drv Slack	Start	Finish
33	Review System Environment an...	FS	0d	0d	2/7/25	2/7/25
55	Define System Requirements	FS	0d	0d	2/7/25	3/13/25
56	Update the Requirements Trac...	FS	0d	15d	2/28/25	3/13/25

The **Horizontal Layout** is displayed when the Dependency Tracer is docked to either the bottom or Top of the Microsoft Project Window:



Bottom of the Microsoft Project Window

SSI Dependency Tracer

Currently selected task

Unique ID	Name	Start	Finish	Type	Dur	% Cmp	Constraint
30	Develop System Hardware Requirements	1/31/25	2/6/25	Fixed Work	5 d	100%	As Soon As Possible

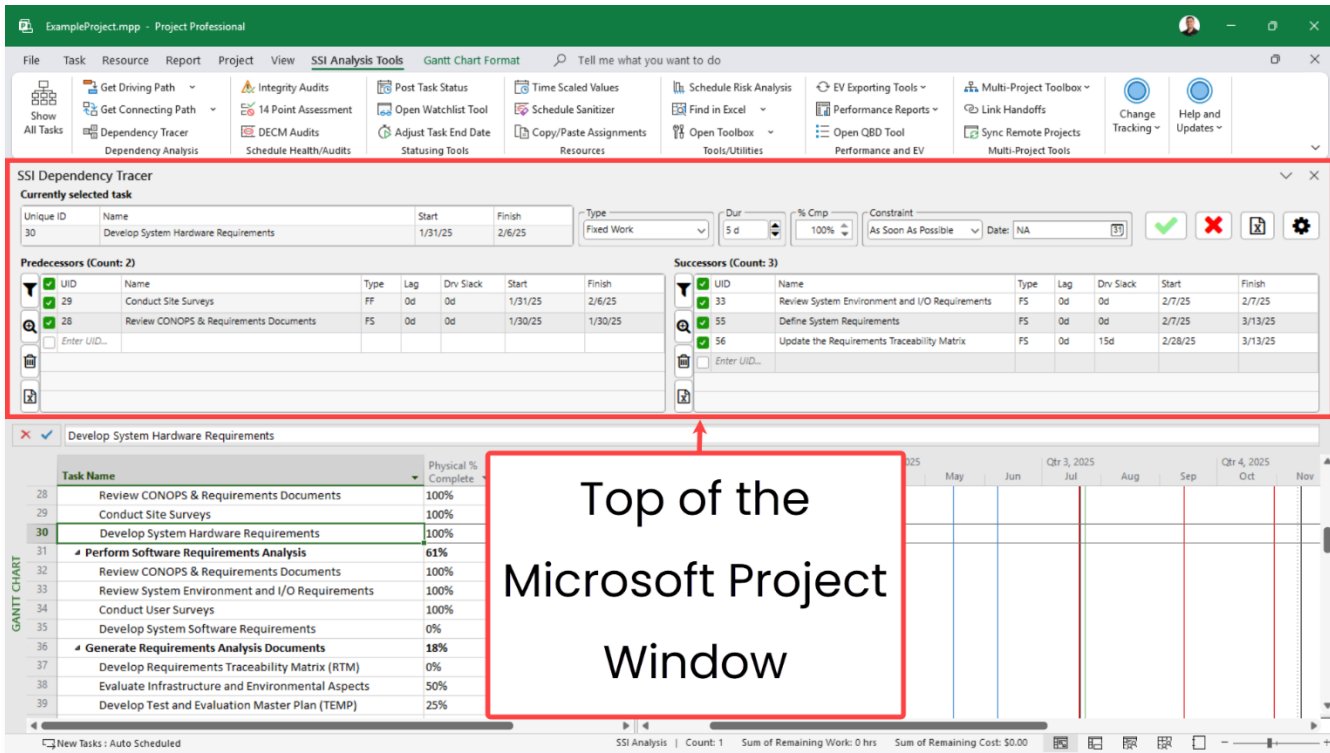
Predecessors (Count: 2)

UID	Name	Type	Lag	Drv Slack	Start	Finish
29	Conduct Site Surveys	FF	0d	0d	1/31/25	2/6/25
28	Review CONOPS & Requirements Documents	FS	0d	0d	1/30/25	1/30/25

Successors (Count: 3)

UID	Name	Type	Lag	Drv Slack	Start	Finish
33	Review System Environment and I/O Requirements	FS	0d	0d	2/7/25	2/7/25
55	Define System Requirements	FS	0d	0d	2/7/25	3/13/25
56	Update the Requirements Traceability Matrix	FS	0d	15d	2/28/25	3/13/25

SSA Analysis | Count: 1 | Sum of Remaining Work: 0 hrs | Sum of Remaining Cost: \$0.00



Top of the Microsoft Project Window

SSI Dependency Tracer

Currently selected task

Unique ID	Name	Start	Finish	Type	Dur	% Cmp	Constraint
30	Develop System Hardware Requirements	1/31/25	2/6/25	Fixed Work	5 d	100%	As Soon As Possible

Predecessors (Count: 2)

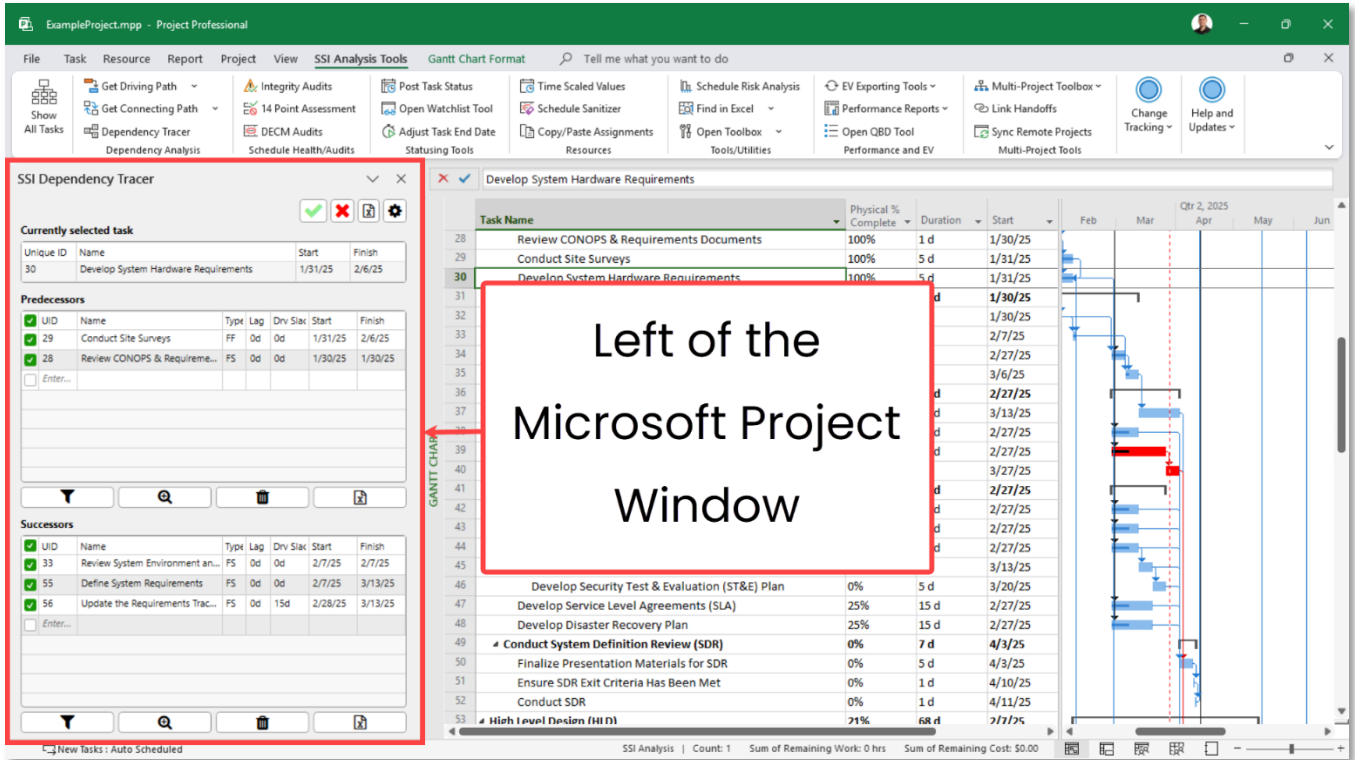
UID	Name	Type	Lag	Drv Slack	Start	Finish
29	Conduct Site Surveys	FF	0d	0d	1/31/25	2/6/25
28	Review CONOPS & Requirements Documents	FS	0d	0d	1/30/25	1/30/25

Successors (Count: 3)

UID	Name	Type	Lag	Drv Slack	Start	Finish
33	Review System Environment and I/O Requirements	FS	0d	0d	2/7/25	2/7/25
55	Define System Requirements	FS	0d	0d	2/7/25	3/13/25
56	Update the Requirements Traceability Matrix	FS	0d	15d	2/28/25	3/13/25

SSA Analysis | Count: 1 | Sum of Remaining Work: 0 hrs | Sum of Remaining Cost: \$0.00

The **Vertical Layout** is displayed when the Dependency Tracer is docked to either the left or right of the Microsoft Project Window or undocked (floating) from the window completely:



The screenshot shows the Microsoft Project Professional interface. The SSI Dependency Tracer is docked on the left side of the window. A red box highlights the text "Left of the Microsoft Project Window" with an arrow pointing to the Dependency Tracer window.

Currently selected task

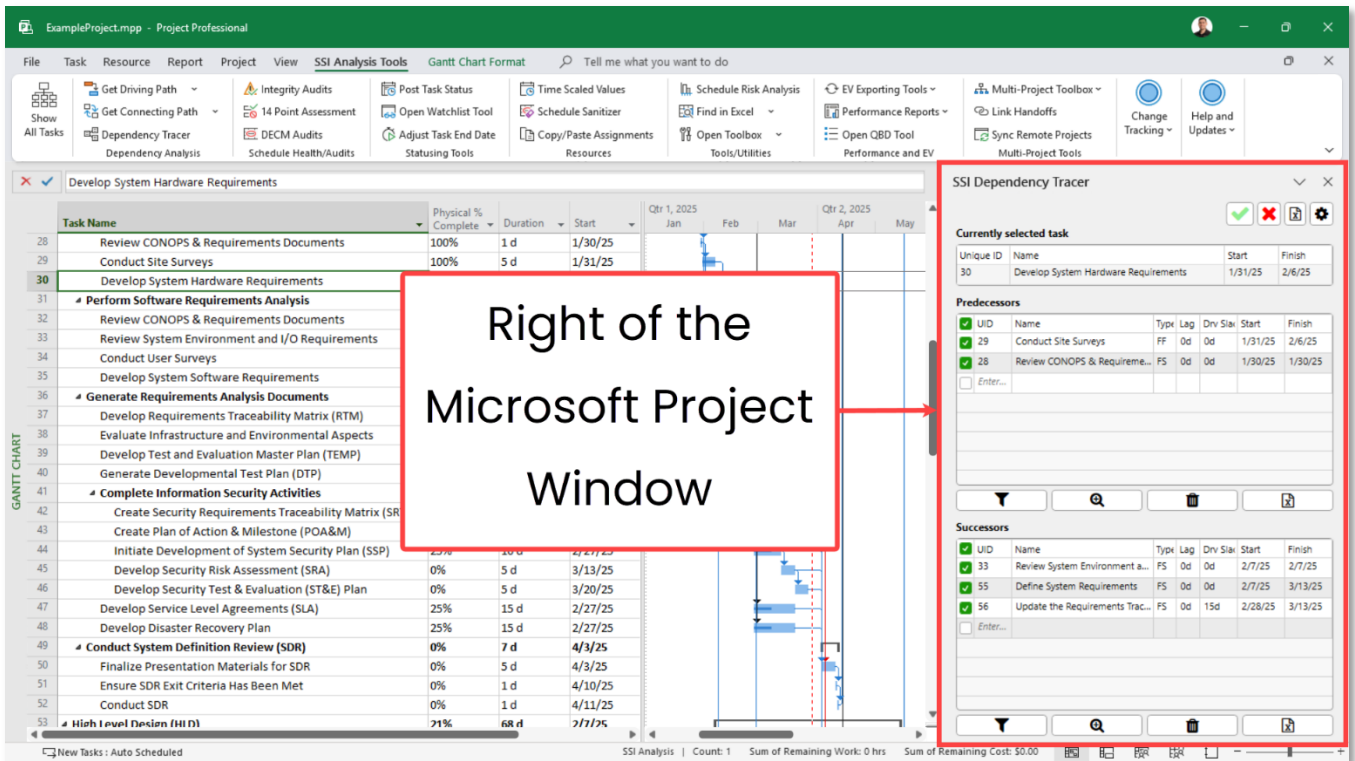
Unique ID	Name	Start	Finish
30	Develop System Hardware Requirements	1/31/25	2/6/25

Predecessors

UID	Name	Type	Lag	Drv	Slak	Start	Finish
29	Conduct Site Surveys	FF	0d	0d		1/31/25	2/6/25
28	Review CONOPS & Requireme...	FS	0d	0d		1/30/25	1/30/25

Successors

UID	Name	Type	Lag	Drv	Slak	Start	Finish
33	Review System Environment an...	FS	0d	0d		2/7/25	2/7/25
55	Define System Requirements	FS	0d	0d		2/7/25	3/13/25
56	Update the Requirements Trac...	FS	0d	15d		2/28/25	3/13/25



The screenshot shows the Microsoft Project Professional interface. The SSI Dependency Tracer is docked on the right side of the window. A red box highlights the text "Right of the Microsoft Project Window" with an arrow pointing to the Dependency Tracer window.

Currently selected task

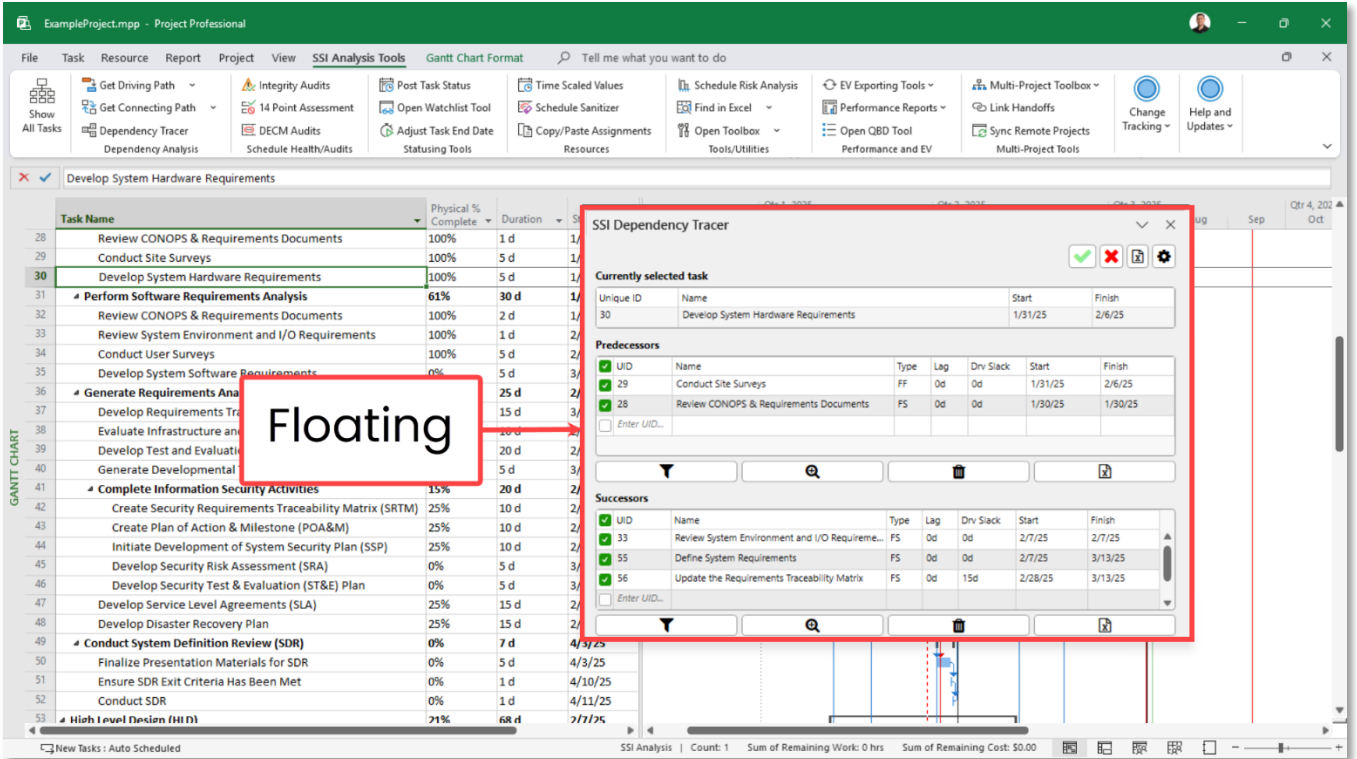
Unique ID	Name	Start	Finish
30	Develop System Hardware Requirements	1/31/25	2/6/25

Predecessors

UID	Name	Type	Lag	Drv	Slak	Start	Finish
29	Conduct Site Surveys	FF	0d	0d		1/31/25	2/6/25
28	Review CONOPS & Requireme...	FS	0d	0d		1/30/25	1/30/25

Successors

UID	Name	Type	Lag	Drv	Slak	Start	Finish
33	Review System Environment a...	FS	0d	0d		2/7/25	2/7/25
55	Define System Requirements	FS	0d	0d		2/7/25	3/13/25
56	Update the Requirements Trac...	FS	0d	15d		2/28/25	3/13/25

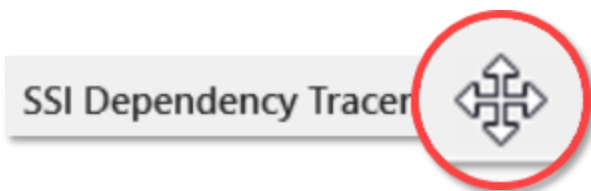


Floating

Note: No matter what layout the Dependency Tracer is in, it will always display a section for the currently selected task, a predecessors table, and a successors table. When the Dependency Tracer is in the **Horizontal Layout**, additional controls for the currently selected task become available that are not available in the Vertical Layout.

Repositioning the Dependency Tracer

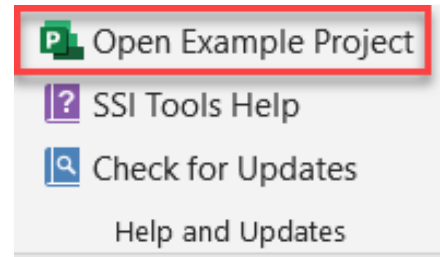
To reposition the Dependency Tracer, hover your mouse over the task pane near the title "SSi Dependency Tracer." and watch for your cursor to change to a four-arrow icon indicating movement:



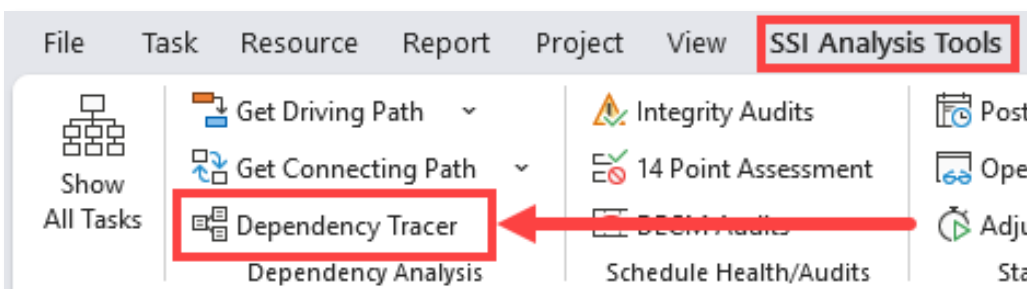
From here, press and hold the left mouse button. Then, drag the pane to your desired location. If you move it slowly toward any edge of the Microsoft Project window, it will automatically dock to that side.

Class Exercise – Repositioning the Dependency Tracer

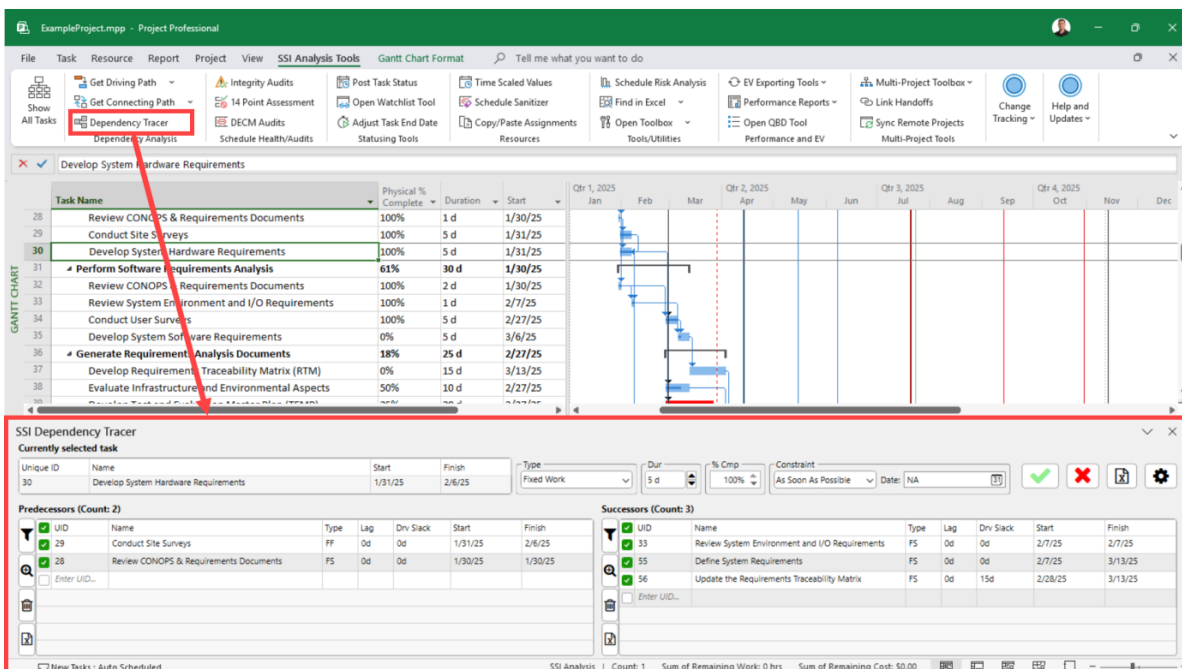
1. Open the SSI Example Project file in Microsoft Project by clicking the **Open Example Project** button on the far-right side of the **SSI Analysis Tools Ribbon**.



2. Click the **Dependency Tracer** button in the **Dependency Analysis Group** of the **SSI Analysis Tools Ribbon**:



3. By default, the Dependency Tracer opens docked at the bottom of the Microsoft Project window. However, if you have previously repositioned it, the tool will reopen in the last location it was used.

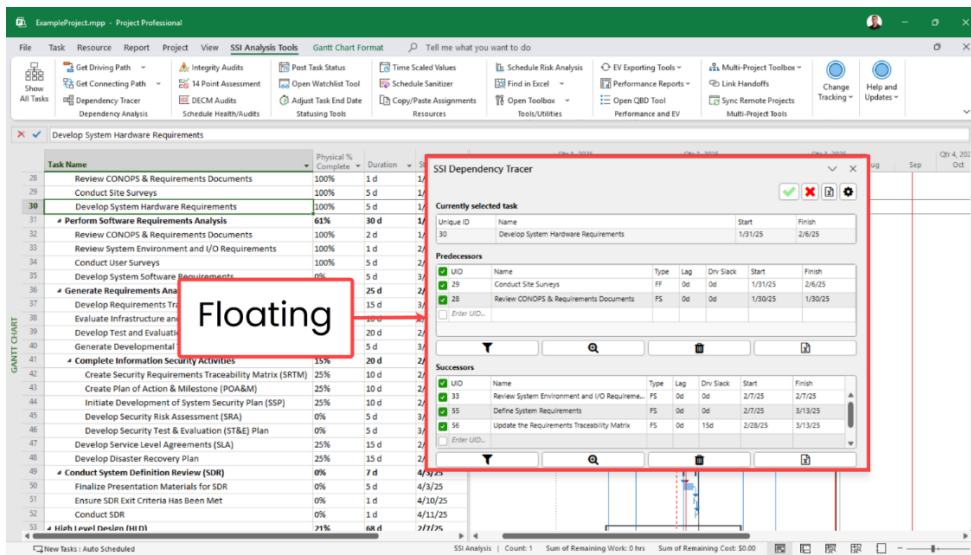


- Move your cursor to the top edge of the Dependency Tracer. When the cursor changes to the icon shown in the image to the left, it indicates the pane is ready to be moved.

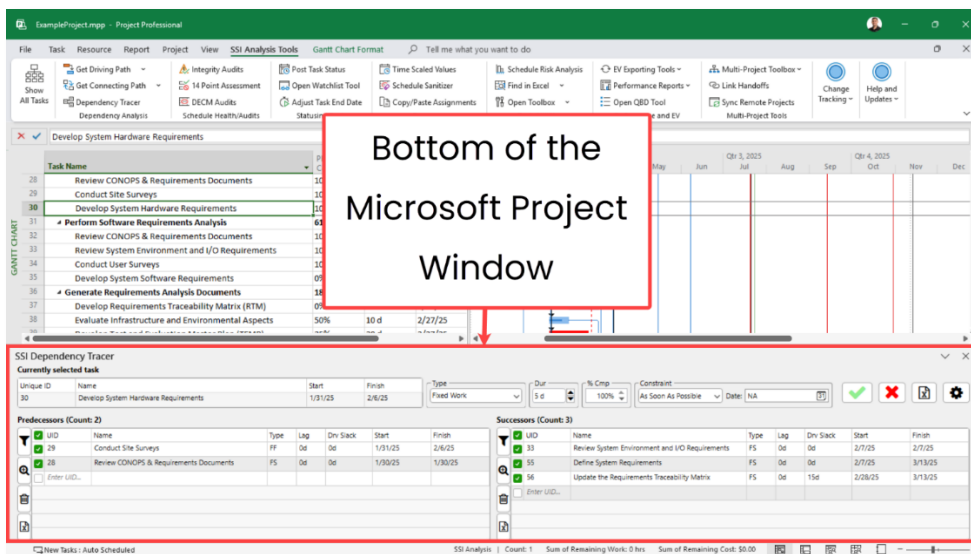
SSI Dependency Tracer



- Click and drag the Dependency Tracer. If it was docked to a side of the Microsoft Project Application window, it will undock and move to the **floating** state:



- Redock the Dependency Tracer to the bottom of the Microsoft Project window:



End of Practice Exercise

Accepting or Canceling Changes

Similar to Microsoft Project's **Task Form** or **Task Details Form**, the Dependency Tracer allows you to make edits to the currently selected task as well as its Predecessors and Successors. However, changes made within the Dependency Tracer are not immediately applied to the project.

To apply the changes, you must click the **Accept** button—only then will the updates take effect in the Microsoft Project file.



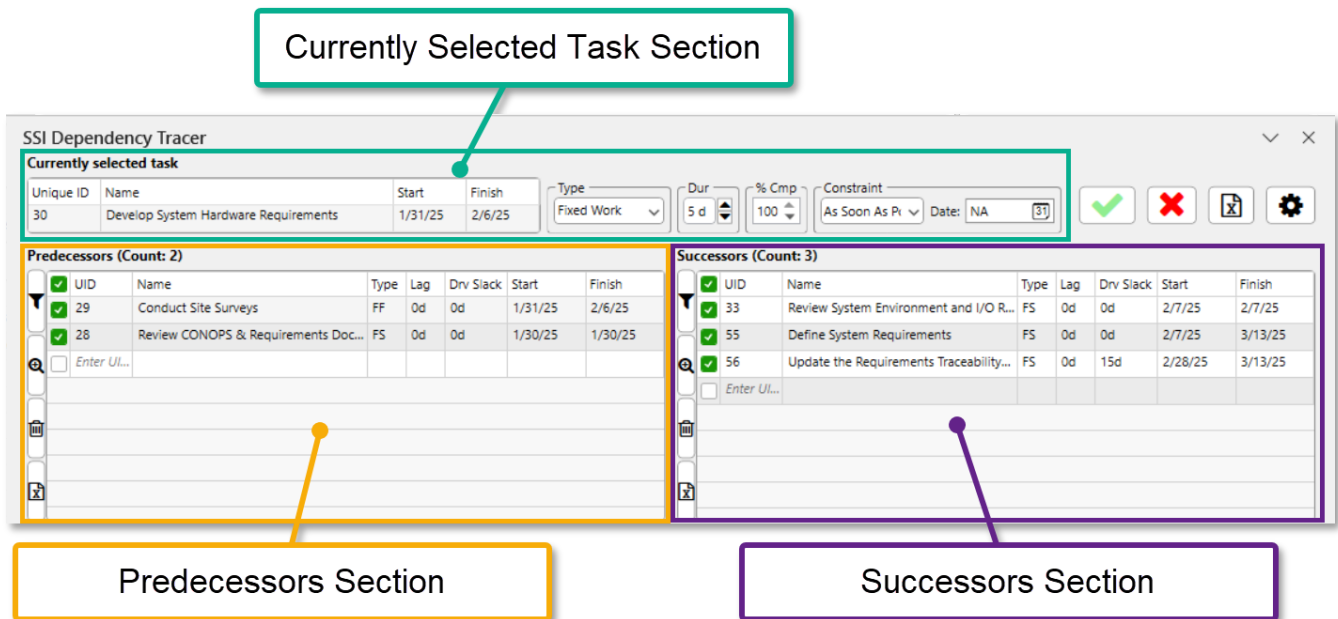
If you choose *not* to proceed with the changes, clicking the **Cancel** button will discard all edits made within the Dependency Tracer. In this case, no modifications will be applied to the project.



The Sections of the Dependency Tracer

The Dependency Tracer can be broken down into three major sections:

- The Currently Selected Task Section
- The Predecessors Section
- The Successors Section



Currently Selected Task Section

SSI Dependency Tracer

Currently selected task

Unique ID	Name	Start	Finish	Type	Dur	% Cmp	Constraint
30	Develop System Hardware Requirements	1/31/25	2/6/25	Fixed Work	5 d	100	As Soon As Pr

Predecessors (Count: 2)

UID	Name	Type	Lag	Drv	Slack	Start	Finish
29	Conduct Site Surveys	FF	0d	0d		1/31/25	2/6/25
28	Review CONOPS & Requirements Doc...	FS	0d	0d		1/30/25	1/30/25

Successors (Count: 3)

UID	Name	Type	Lag	Drv	Slack	Start	Finish
33	Review System Environment and I/O R...	FS	0d	0d		2/7/25	2/7/25
55	Define System Requirements	FS	0d	0d		2/7/25	3/13/25
56	Update the Requirements Traceability...	FS	0d	15d		2/28/25	3/13/25

Predecessors Section

Successors Section

The Currently Selected Task Section

Currently selected task

Unique ID	Name	Start	Finish	Type	Dur	% Cmp	Constraint
30	Develop System Hardware Requirements	1/31/25	2/6/25	Fixed Work	5 d	100	As Soon As Pr

Date: NA 31

The Currently Selected Task section of the Dependency Tracer displays details about the task currently selected in Microsoft Project. If multiple tasks are selected, it will show information for the first task in the selection only.

The **Currently Selected Task Table** displays information about the currently selected task that cannot be adjusted from the Dependency Tracer itself:

Currently selected task

Unique ID	Name	Start	Finish
30	Develop System Hardware Requirements	1/31/25	2/6/25

In the image above, you can see the **Unique ID**, **Name**, **Start**, and **Finish** dates of the currently selected task. The columns displayed in this table can be adjusted through the Dependency Tracer Configuration.

If the Dependency Tracer is in the Horizontal Layout, additional controls for the Currently Selected Task section become available:

Type

Type

Fixed Work

This control allows you to select the [Task Type](#) you wish to change the currently selected task to.

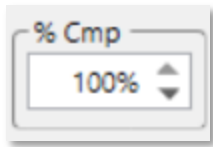
Duration

Dur

5 d

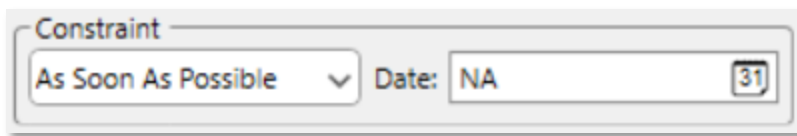
This control lets you set the **scheduled duration** you wish to change currently selected task to. Clicking the up-arrow increases the duration by one day, while the down-arrow decreases it by one day. The duration cannot be reduced below zero. Alternatively, you can manually enter a value directly into the textbox.

% Complete

A screenshot of a software control labeled "% Cmp". It features a text box containing "100%" and a small up/down arrow button to its right.

This control lets you set the **% Complete** you wish to change currently selected task to. Clicking the up-arrow increases the percentage by one, while the down-arrow decreases it by one. The % Complete cannot be increased beyond 100 or reduced below zero. Alternatively, you can manually enter a value directly into the textbox.

Constraint Type and Date

A screenshot of a software control titled "Constraint". It contains a dropdown menu with "As Soon As Possible" selected, followed by the text "Date: NA" and a small calendar icon with the number "31" inside.

These controls allow you to set the [Constraint Type](#) and Constraint Date you wish to change the currently selected task to.

Note: **As Soon as Possible** and **As Late As Possible** Constraint Types do not have an associated Constraint Date.

The Predecessors Section

Predecessors (Count: 2)							
☒	UID*	Name	Type*	Lag*	Drv Slack	Start	Finish
☒	29	Conduct Site Surveys	FF	0d	0d	1/31/25	2/6/25
☒	28	Review CONOPS & Requirements Documen...	FS	0d	0d	1/30/25	1/30/25
☐	Enter UID...						

The **Predecessors Section** of the Dependency Tracer displays all tasks that are directly linked to the currently selected task as predecessors and contains controls for navigation and analysis.

The Predecessors Table

☒	UID*	Name	Type*	Lag*	Drv Slack	Start	Finish
☒	29	Conduct Site Surveys	FF	0d	0d	1/31/25	2/6/25
☒	28	Review CONOPS & Requirements Documen...	FS	0d	0d	1/30/25	1/30/25
☐	Enter UID...						

Each row in the **Predecessors Table** represents a predecessor activity linked to the currently selected activity. The columns provide two types of information: attributes of the predecessor task itself—such as **UID** and **Name**—and details about the dependency relationship between the predecessor and the selected task—such as **Type**, **Lag**, and **Driving Slack**. You can quickly navigate the schedule to any of the predecessor activities displayed by double clicking on any cell in its row in the table.

Columns with an asterisk (*) at the end of the header indicate that the field is editable within the Predecessor Table. The following fields are editable in the Predecessors Table: **Unique ID**, **ID**, **Type**, and **Lag**.

The Predecessor Driving Slack Column

☒	UID*	Name	Type*	Lag*	Drv Slack	Start	Finish
☒	29	Conduct Site Surveys	FF	0d	0d	1/31/25	2/6/25
☒	28	Review CONOPS & Requirements Documen...	FS	0d	0d	1/30/25	1/30/25
☐	Enter UID...						

The **Driving Slack** column displays how much Driving Slack each predecessor has to the currently selected task. These values are calculated in real time by the Dependency Tracer and are not pulled from any existing field in Microsoft Project. Additionally, the Dependency Tracer does not write these values in any task field within the project file.

Predecessor activities in the Predecessors Table are always sorted by the amount of Driving Slack they have to the currently selected activity, with those having the least driving slack appearing at the top, and those with the most at the bottom:

☒	UID*	Name	Type*	Lag*	Drv Slack	Start	Finish
☒	37	Develop Requirements Traceability Matrix...	FS	0d	0d	3/13/25	4/2/25
☒	40	Generate Developmental Test Plan (DTP)	FS	0d	0d	3/27/25	4/2/25
☒	46	Develop Security Test & Evaluation (ST&E)...	FS	0d	5d	3/20/25	3/26/25
☒	45	Develop Security Risk Assessment (SRA)	FS	0d	10d	3/13/25	3/19/25
☒	47	Develop Service Level Agreements (SLA)	FS	0d	10d	2/27/25	3/19/25
☒	48	Develop Disaster Recovery Plan	FS	0d	10d	2/27/25	3/19/25
☒	38	Evaluate Infrastructure and Environmental...	FS	0d	15d	2/27/25	3/12/25
☒	42	Create Security Requirements Traceability...	FS	0d	15d	2/27/25	3/12/25
☒	43	Develop Security Requirements Traceability...	FS	0d	15d	2/27/25	3/12/25

The Dependency Tracer updates the Driving Slack values of predecessor activities to the currently selected activity in real time as changes are made to the schedule.

Note: If Driving Slack is ever calculated as a negative number, it indicates an [Out-of-Sequence dependency relationship](#) between the predecessor activity and the currently selected task.

The Predecessor Table Buttons

Predecessors (Count: 2)

	☒	UID	Name	Type	Lag	Drv Slack	Start	Finish
☒	29	Conduct Site Surveys	FF	0d	0d	1/31/25	2/6/25	
☒	28	Review CONOPS & Requirements Doc...	FS	0d	0d	1/30/25	1/30/25	
	☐	Enter Ul...						
								
								

The buttons located to the left of the Predecessor Table offer options to view, filter, delete, and export the selected predecessor activities.

Understanding the Predecessor Checkbox Controls

Each of the **Predecessor Table** buttons operate based on the predecessors currently selected using the checkboxes in the first column of the Predecessors Table:

Predecessors (Count: 2)

	☒	UID	Name	Type	Lag	Drv Slack	Start	Finish
	☒	29	Conduct Site Surveys	FF	0d	0d	1/31/25	2/6/25
	☒	28	Review CONOPS & Requirements Doc...	FS	0d	0d	1/30/25	1/30/25
	☐	Enter UI...						

You can quickly select or deselect all predecessors by using the checkbox control at the top of this column:

Predecessors (Count: 2)

☒	29	Conduct Site Surveys	FF	0d	0d	1/31/25	2/6/25
☒	28	Review CONOPS & Requirements Doc...	FS	0d	0d	1/30/25	1/30/25
☐	Enter UI...						

The Filter Button (Predecessors Table)



Clicking this button will **filter** the Gantt Chart for the currently selected task **and** any checked predecessors in the Predecessors Table. This button clears any other existing filters.

The Add to View Button (Predecessors Table)



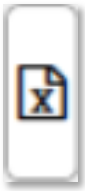
Clicking this button will **add** the checked predecessors in the Predecessors Table into the current filter in the Gantt Chart if they are not already included. Unlike the filter button, this button does not remove any existing filters, instead it adds additional content into them.

The Trash Button (Predecessors Table)



Clicking this button will **remove** the checked predecessors from the Predecessors Table view. This action only removes them from the interface itself. The actual predecessor relationships are not deleted from the currently selected task in Microsoft Project until the **Accept** button is clicked.

The Export to Excel Button (Predecessors Table)



Clicking this button will **Export** the checked predecessors from the Predecessors Table to an Excel spreadsheet. The export will automatically open in Excel once it is completed.

The Successors Section

Successors (Count: 3)

☒	UID*	Name	Type*	Lag*	Drv Slack	Start	Finish
☒	33	Review System Environment and I/O Requir...	FS	0d	0d	2/7/25	2/7/25
☒	55	Define System Requirements	FS	0d	0d	2/7/25	3/13/25
☒	56	Update the Requirements Traceability Matrix	FS	0d	15d	2/28/25	3/13/25
☐	Enter UID...						

The **Successors Section** of the Dependency Tracer displays all tasks that are directly linked to the currently selected task as successors and contains controls for navigation and analysis.

The Successors Table

☒	UID*	Name	Type*	Lag*	Drv Slack	Start	Finish
☒	33	Review System Environment and I/O Requir...	FS	0d	0d	2/7/25	2/7/25
☒	55	Define System Requirements	FS	0d	0d	2/7/25	3/13/25
☒	56	Update the Requirements Traceability Matrix	FS	0d	15d	2/28/25	3/13/25
☐	Enter UID...						

Each row in the **Successors Table** represents a successor activity linked to the currently selected activity. The columns provide two types of information: attributes of the successor task itself—such as **UID** and **Name**—and details about the dependency relationship between the successor and the selected task—such as **Type**, **Lag**, and **Driving Slack**. You can quickly navigate the schedule to any of the successor activities displayed by double clicking on any cell in its row in the table.

Columns with an asterisk (*) at the end of the header indicate that the field is editable within the Successor Table. The following fields are editable in the Successor Table: **Unique ID**, **ID**, **Type**, and **Lag**.

The Successor Driving Slack Column

✓	UID*	Name	Type*	Lag*	Drv Slack	Start	Finish
✓	29	Conduct Site Surveys	FF	0d	0d	1/31/25	2/6/25
✓	28	Review CONOPS & Requirements Documen...	FS	0d	0d	1/30/25	1/30/25
☐	Enter UID...						

The **Driving Slack** column displays how much Driving Slack the currently selected task has to each of its successors. These values are calculated in real time by the Dependency Tracer and are not pulled from any existing field in Microsoft Project. Additionally, the Dependency Tracer does not write these values in any task field within the project file.

Successor activities in the Successor Table are always sorted by the amount of Driving Slack the currently selected activity has to them, with those that it has the least Driving Slack to appearing at the top, and those that it has the most to at the bottom:

✓	UID*	Name	Type*	Lag*	Drv Slack	Start	Finish
✓	37	Develop Requirements Traceability Matrix...	FS	0d	0d	3/13/25	4/2/25
✓	40	Generate Developmental Test Plan (DTP)	FS	0d	0d	3/27/25	4/2/25
✓	46	Develop Security Test & Evaluation (ST&E)...	FS	0d	5d	3/20/25	3/26/25
✓	45	Develop Security Risk Assessment (SRA)	FS	0d	10d	3/13/25	3/19/25
✓	47	Develop Service Level Agreements (SLA)	FS	0d	10d	2/27/25	3/19/25
✓	48	Develop Disaster Recovery Plan	FS	0d	10d	2/27/25	3/19/25
✓	38	Evaluate Infrastructure and Environmental...	FS	0d	15d	2/27/25	3/12/25
✓	42	Create Security Requirements Traceability...	FS	0d	15d	2/27/25	3/12/25
✓	43	Develop Security Requirements Traceability...	FS	0d	15d	2/27/25	3/12/25

The Dependency Tracer updates the Driving Slack values the currently selected task has to successor activities in real time as changes are made to the schedule.

Note: If Driving Slack is ever calculated as a negative number, it indicates an [Out-of-Sequence dependency relationship](#) between the currently selected activity and the successor activity.

The Successor Table Buttons

Successors (Count: 3)

	☒	UID*	Name	Type*	Lag*	Drv Slack	Start	Finish
	☒	33	Review System Environment and I/O Requir...	FS	0d	0d	2/7/25	2/7/25
	☒	55	Define System Requirements	FS	0d	0d	2/7/25	3/13/25
	☒	56	Update the Requirements Traceability Matrix	FS	0d	15d	2/28/25	3/13/25
	☐	Enter UID...						
								
								
								

The buttons located to the left of the Successor Table offer options to view, filter, delete, and export the selected predecessor activities.

Understanding the Successor Table Checkbox Controls

Each of the **Successor Table** buttons operate based on the successors currently selected using the checkboxes in the first column of the Predecessors Table:

Successors (Count: 3)

	☒	UID*	Name	Type*	Lag*	Drv Slack	Start	Finish
	☒	33	Review System Environment and I/O Requir...	FS	0d	0d	2/7/25	2/7/25
	☒	55	Define System Requirements	FS	0d	0d	2/7/25	3/13/25
	☒	56	Update the Requirements Traceability Matrix	FS	0d	15d	2/28/25	3/13/25
	☐	Enter UID...						

You can quickly select or deselect all successors by using the checkbox control at the top of this column:

Successors (Count: 3)

	☒	UID*	Name	Type*	Lag*	Drv Slack	Start	Finish
	☒	33	Review System Environment and I/O Requir...	FS	0d	0d	2/7/25	2/7/25
	☒	55	Define System Requirements	FS	0d	0d	2/7/25	3/13/25
	☒	56	Update the Requirements Traceability Matrix	FS	0d	15d	2/28/25	3/13/25
	☐	Enter UID...						

The Filter Button (Successors Table)



Clicking this button will **filter** the Gantt Chart for the currently selected task **and** any checked successors in the Successors Table. This button clears any other existing filters.

The Add to View Button (Successors Table)



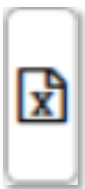
Clicking this button will **add** the checked successors in the Successors Table into the current filter in the Gantt Chart if they are not already included. Unlike the filter button, this button does not remove any existing filters, instead it adds additional content into them.

The Trash Button (Successors Table)



Clicking this button will **remove** the checked successors from the Successors Table view. This action only removes them from the interface itself. The actual successor relationships are not deleted from the currently selected task in Microsoft Project until the **Accept** button is clicked.

The Export to Excel Button (Successors Table)



Clicking this button will **Export** the checked successors from the Successors Table to an Excel spreadsheet. The export will automatically open in Excel once it is completed.

Editing The Predecessors or Successors Tables

You can rearrange the column order in the Dependency Tracer tables to match your preferences. To move a column, simply click and hold its header, then drag it to your desired position.



✓ UID*	Name	Drv Slack	Type*	Lag	Drv Slack	Start
✓ 52	Conduct SDR	FS	0d	0d		4/11/

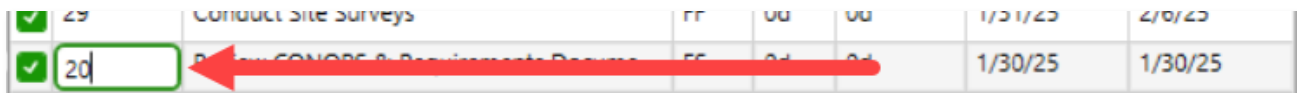
Columns with an asterisk (*) at the end of the header in either the Predecessors or Successors Table indicate that the data in that column is editable within the Table. The following fields are editable in both tables: **Unique ID, ID, Type, and Lag**.

Editing Number Data

To edit a displayed **Unique ID, ID, or Lag** value, begin by clicking inside the cell containing the data you want to change. From there, you can enter editing mode using any of the following methods:

- Press the F2 key on your keyboard.
- Click the cell a second time to activate editing mode.
- Begin typing a number using any numeric key on your keyboard.

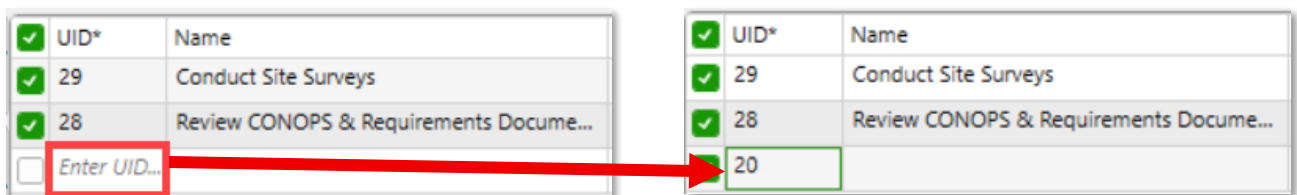
When editing mode is activated, a flashing cursor will appear inside the cell, and the cell's border will become more prominent to indicate it is active.



✓ 29	Conduct Site Surveys	FF	00	00	1/31/23	2/6/23
✓ 20	Review CONOPS & Requirements Docume...	FF	01	01	1/30/25	1/30/25

Adding Additional Dependencies

Additional Dependencies can be added to either table by entering a **Unique ID** or **ID** value into the first empty row:



✓ UID*	Name
✓ 29	Conduct Site Surveys
✓ 28	Review CONOPS & Requirements Docume...
Enter UID...	

✓ UID*	Name
✓ 29	Conduct Site Surveys
✓ 28	Review CONOPS & Requirements Docume...
20	

Note: In Master Project schedules that include “linked” subproject files, new dependencies can only be added using the **Unique ID**. Similarly, to modify an existing dependency and link it to a different activity, the **Unique ID** must be used. The **ID** field cannot be used for either of these actions.

Removing Existing Dependencies

Dependencies can also be removed from their corresponding tables by clicking on any cell in the row of the dependency you wish to remove and pressing the **Delete** key on the keyboard.

Editing Dependency Types

To edit the displayed **Dependency Type**, click on the cell in the **Type** column for the desired predecessor. This will display a drop-down control within the cell:

☒	UID*	Name	Type*	L
☒	29	Conduct Site Surveys	FF ▼	0

Clicking on the **down arrow** on the drop-down control will expand the menu, allowing you to select a new dependency type:

☒	UID*	Name	Type*	Lag*
☒	29	Conduct Site Surveys	FF ▼	0d
☒	28	Review CONOPS & Requirements Docume...	FF	0d
☐	Enter UID...		FS	
			SF	
			SS	

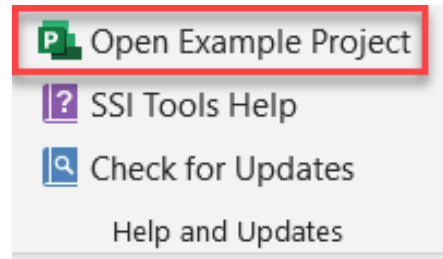
Any changes made to the data in the Predecessors or Successors Tables, including added or deleted dependencies, do not take effect until the **Accept** button in the Dependency Tracer has been clicked.

Navigating to Dependencies in the Project

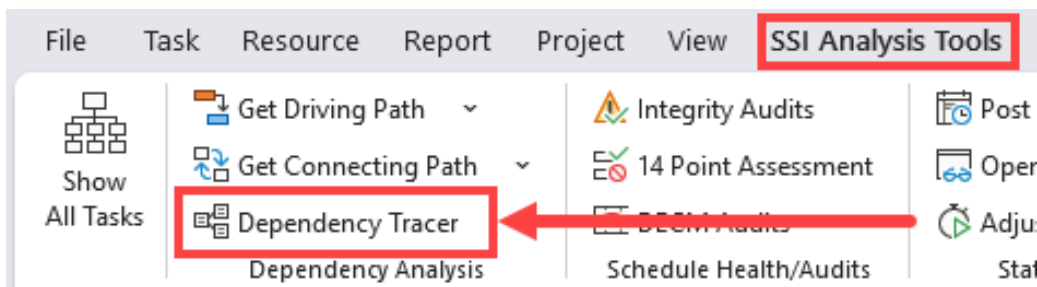
You can navigate to any dependency listed in the Predecessors or Successors table by **double-clicking** any cell within the corresponding row. When this action is performed, the Dependency Tracer will locate and automatically select that activity in the Gantt Chart. If the activity is hidden due to a currently applied filter, the Dependency Tracer will first clear all filters and then reattempt the search to ensure the task is displayed.

Class Exercise – Adjusting Data in the Dependency Tracer

1. Open the SSI Example Project file in Microsoft Project (if it is not already open) by clicking the **Open Example Project** button on the far-right side of the **SSI Analysis Tools Ribbon**.



2. Click the **Dependency Tracer** button in the **Dependency Analysis Group** of the **SSI Analysis Tools Ribbon**:



3. Select any cells on row 50 **Finalize Presentation Materials for SDR**.

Task Name	
48	Develop Disaster Recovery Plan
49	▲ Conduct System Definition Review (SDR)
50	Finalize Presentation Materials for SDR
51	Ensure SDR Exit Criteria Has Been Met

4. Adjust the Duration in the currently selected task section to 10 days.



5. Click the **Accept** button on the upper right side of the Dependency Tracer.



6. Observe the duration of row 50 change from 5 days to 10 days:

Task Name		Duration
48	Develop Disaster Recovery Plan	15 d
49	▲ Conduct System Definition Review (SDR)	12 d
50	Finalize Presentation Materials for SDR	10 d
51	Ensure SDR Exit Criteria Has Been Met	

7. Keep your selection on row 50. In the Predecessors Table, click the checkbox control at the top of the first column to deselect all predecessors:

Predecessors (Count: 10)

☒	UID*	Name	Type*	Lag*	Drv Slack
☒	37	Develop Requirements Traceability Matrix (RTM)	FS	0d	0d
☒	40	Generate Developmental Test Plan (DTP)	FS	0d	0d
☒	46	Develop Security Test & Evaluation (ST&E) Plan	FS	0d	5d
☒	45	Develop Security Risk Assessment (SRA)	FS	0d	10d

Predecessors (Count: 10)

☐	UID*	Name	Type*	Lag*	Drv Slack
☐	37	Develop Requirements Traceability Matrix (RTM)	FS	0d	0d
☐	40	Generate Developmental Test Plan (DTP)	FS	0d	0d
☐	46	Develop Security Test & Evaluation (ST&E) Plan	FS	0d	5d
☐	45	Develop Security Risk Assessment (SRA)	FS	0d	10d

8. Check **only** the first two predecessors in the table:

Predecessors (Count: 10)

☐	UID*	Name	Type*	Lag*	Drv Slack
☒	37	Develop Requirements Traceability Matrix (RTM)	FS	0d	0d
☒	40	Generate Developmental Test Plan (DTP)	FS	0d	0d
☐	46	Develop Security Test & Evaluation (ST&E) Plan	FS	0d	5d
☐	45	Develop Security Risk Assessment (SRA)	FS	0d	10d

9. Click the **Filter** button to the left of the Predecessors Table.



10. Observe the Gantt Chart is now filtered for **Finalize Presentation Materials for SDR** AND the two predecessor activities checked:

Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish	Mar	Qtr 2, 2025 Apr
Requirements Analysis	57 d	1/30/25	4/18/25		
Generate Requirements Analysis Documents	25 d	2/27/25	4/2/25		
Develop Requirements Traceability Matrix (RTM)	15 d	3/13/25	4/2/25		
Generate Developmental Test Plan (DTP)	5 d	3/27/25	4/2/25		
Conduct System Definition Review (SDR)	12 d	4/3/25	4/18/25		
Finalize Presentation Materials for SDR	10 d	4/3/25	4/16/25		

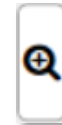
11. Keep your selection on row 50. Uncheck all predecessors:

Predecessors (Count: 10)					
	UID*	Name	Type*	Lag*	Drv Slack
☐	37	Develop Requirements Traceability Matrix (RTM)	FS	0d	0d
☐	40	Generate Developmental Test Plan (DTP)	FS	0d	0d
☐	46	Develop Security Test & Evaluation (ST&E) Plan	FS	0d	5d
☐	45	Develop Security Risk Assessment (SRA)	FS	0d	10d

12. Check **only** the third and fourth predecessor in the table:

Predecessors (Count: 10)					
	UID*	Name	Type*	Lag*	Drv Slack
☐	37	Develop Requirements Traceability Matrix (RTM)	FS	0d	0d
☐	40	Generate Developmental Test Plan (DTP)	FS	0d	0d
☒	46	Develop Security Test & Evaluation (ST&E) Plan	FS	0d	5d
☒	45	Develop Security Risk Assessment (SRA)	FS	0d	10d

13. Click the **Add to View** button to the left of the Predecessors Table.



14. Notice the additional predecessor added into the exiting filtered view in the Gantt Chart:

Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish	Mar	Qtr 2, 2025
Requirements Analysis	57 d	1/30/25	4/18/25		
Generate Requirements Analysis Documents	25 d	2/27/25	4/2/25		
Develop Requirements Traceability Matrix (RTM)	15 d	3/13/25	4/2/25		
Generate Developmental Test Plan (DTP)	5 d	3/27/25	4/2/25		
Complete Information Security Activities	20 d	2/27/25	3/26/25		
Develop Security Risk Assessment (SRA)	5 d	3/13/25	3/19/25		
Develop Security Test & Evaluation (ST&E) Plan	5 d	3/20/25	3/26/25		
Conduct System Definition Review (SDR)	12 d	4/3/25	4/18/25		
Finalize Presentation Materials for SDR	10 d	4/3/25	4/16/25		

15. Keep your selection on row 50. Check **only** the fourth predecessor in the table:

	UID*	Name	Type*	Lag*	Drv Slack
☐	37	Develop Requirements Traceability Matrix (RTM)	FS	0d	0d
☐	40	Generate Developmental Test Plan (DTP)	FS	0d	0d
☐	46	Develop Security Test & Evaluation (ST&E) Plan	FS	0d	5d
☒	45	Develop Security Risk Assessment (SRA)	FS	0d	10d

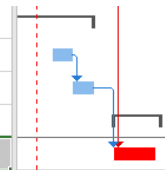
16. Click the **Trash** button to the left of the Predecessors Table.



17. Click the **Accept** button on the upper right side of the Dependency Tracer.



18. Notice the link has been removed:

Complete Information Security Activities	20 d	2/27/25	3/26/25	
Develop Security Risk Assessment (SRA)	5 d	3/13/25	3/19/25	
Develop Security Test & Evaluation (ST&E) Plan	5 d	3/20/25	3/26/25	
Conduct System Definition Review (SDR)	12 d	4/3/25	4/18/25	
Finalize Presentation Materials for SDR	10 d	4/3/25	4/16/25	

19. Keep your selection on row 50. Scroll to the bottom of the Predecessors Table and enter **45** in the cell that says *Enter UID...*

Predecessors (Count: 9)

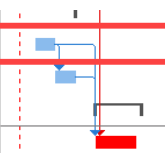
✓	UID*	Name	Type*	Lag*	Drv Slack
✓	47	Develop Service Level Agreements (SLA)	FS	0d	10d
✓	48	Develop Disaster Recovery Plan	FS	0d	10d
✓	38	Evaluate Infrastructure		0d	15d
✓	42	Create Security Re		0d	15d
✓	43	Create Plan of Act		0d	15d
✓	44	Initiate Development of System Security Plan (SSP)	FS	0d	15d
✗	Enter UID...				

Type 45 in here

20. Click the **Accept** button on the upper right side of the Dependency Tracer.



21. Observe the link has been recreated:

Complete Information Security Activities	20 d	2/27/25	3/26/25	
Develop Security Risk Assessment (SRA)	5 d	3/13/25	3/19/25	
Develop Security Test & Evaluation (ST&E) Plan	5 d	3/20/25	3/26/25	
Conduct System Definition Review (SDR)	12 d	4/3/25	4/18/25	
Finalize Presentation Materials for SDR	10 d	4/3/25	4/16/25	

22. Keep your selection on row 50. Change the relationship **type** to **SS** and set the **lag** to **2**:

Predecessors (Count: 10)

✓	UID*	Name	Type*	Lag*	Drv Slack	Start
✓	37	Develop Requirements Traceability Matrix (RTM)	SS	2	0d	3/13/25
✓	40	Generate Developmental Test Plan (DTP)	FS	0d	0d	3/27/25
✓	46	Develop Security Test & Evaluation (ST&E) Plan	FS	0d	5d	3/20/25
✓	47	Develop Service Level Agreements (SLA)	FS	0d	10d	2/27/25

23. Click the **Accept** button on the upper right side of the Dependency Tracer.



24. Observe how the Driving Slack values change afterwards:

Predecessors (Count: 10)

✓	UID*	Name	Type*	Lag*	Drv Slack
✓	40	Generate Developmental Test Plan (DTP)	FS	0d	0d
✓	46	Develop Security Test & Evaluation (ST&E) Plan	FS	0d	5d
✓	47	Develop Service Level Agreements (SLA)	FS	0d	10d
✓	48	Develop Disaster Recovery Plan	FS	0d	10d
✓	45	Develop Security Risk Assessment (SRA)	FS	0d	10d
✓	37	Develop Requirements Traceability Matrix (RTM)	SS	2d	13d

25. Keep your selection on row 50. Ensure all predecessors in the Predecessors Table are selected, then click the **Export to Excel** button.



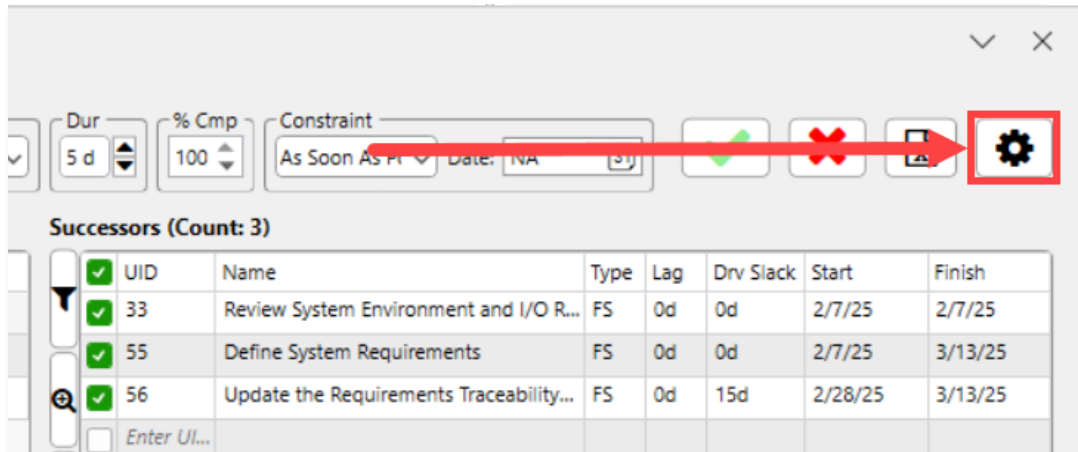
26. Observe the Excel Workbook generated:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Parent Task Information:								
2	Unique ID	Name	Start	Finish	Type	Duration	% Complete	Constraint Type	Constraint Date
3	50	Finalize Presentation Materials for SDR	4/3/25	4/16/25	Fixed Work	10 d	0%	As Soon As Possible	NA
4									
5	Predecessor Information:								
6	Unique ID	Name	Relationship Type	Lag	Driving Slack	Start	Finish		
7	40	Generate Developmental Test Plan (DTP)	FS	0d	0d	3/27/25	4/2/25		
8	46	Develop Security Test & Evaluation (ST&E) Plan	FS	0d	5d	3/20/25	3/26/25		
9	47	Develop Service Level Agreements (SLA)	FS	0d	10d	2/27/25	3/19/25		
10	48	Develop Disaster Recovery Plan	FS	0d	10d	2/27/25	3/19/25		
11	45	Develop Security Risk Assessment (SRA)	FS	0d	10d	3/13/25	3/19/25		
12	37	Develop Requirements Traceability Matrix (RTM)	SS	2d	13d	3/13/25	4/2/25		
13	38	Evaluate Infrastructure and Environmental Aspects	FS	0d	15d	2/27/25	3/12/25		
14	42	Create Security Requirements Traceability Matrix (SRTM)	FS	0d	15d	2/27/25	3/12/25		
15	43	Create Plan of Action & Milestone (POA&M)	FS	0d	15d	2/27/25	3/12/25		
16	44	Initiate Development of System Security Plan (SSP)	FS	0d	15d	2/27/25	3/12/25		

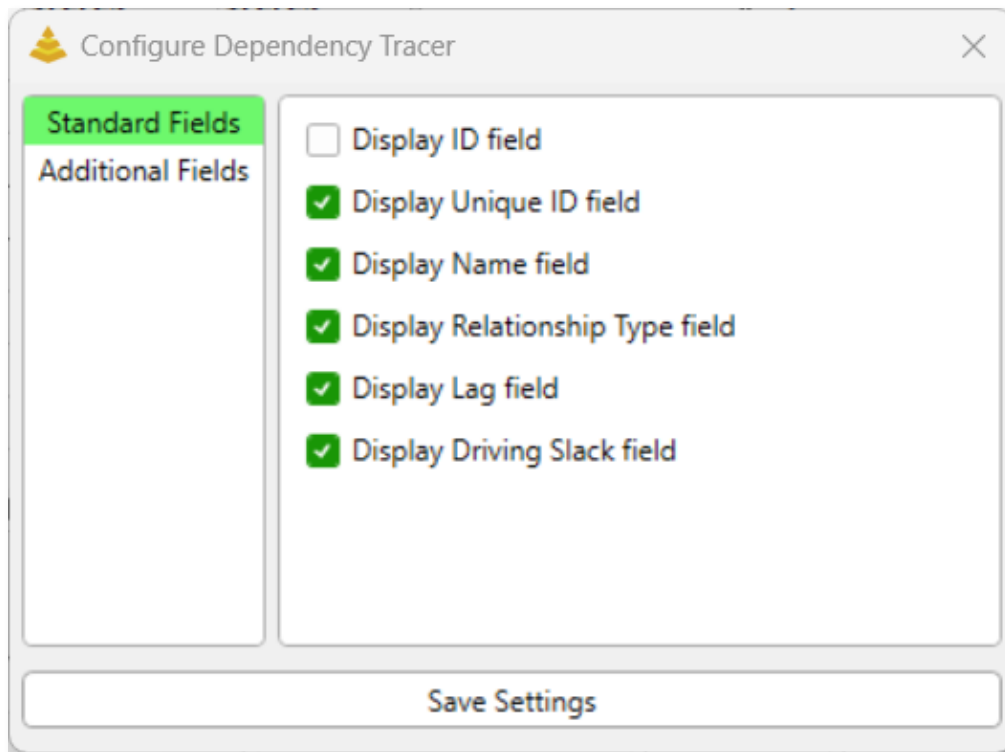
End of Practice Exercise

Adjusting the Dependency Tracer Configuration

The Microsoft Project task fields displayed for the Currently Selected Task, Predecessors, and Successors can be configured to fit your preferences. To modify which fields are shown, click the Settings button located in the upper-right corner of the Dependency Tracer:



When this button is clicked, the **Configure Dependency Tracer** dialog will open:



The **Configure Dependency Tracer** dialog is made up of two tabs:

- Standard Fields
- Additional Fields

Adjusting Standard Fields

Standard Fields	
Additional Fields	☐ Display ID field ☒ Display Unique ID field ☒ Display Name field ☒ Display Relationship Type field ☒ Display Lag field ☒ Display Driving Slack field

Standard Fields are either visible or not. **ID**, **Unique ID**, and **Name** are all **Task Fields**, while **Relationship Type**, **Lag**, and **Driving Slack** are **Dependency Fields**.

Task Fields appear for the Currently Selected Task, as well as in the Predecessors and Successors tables. **Dependency Fields**, however, are only displayed in the Predecessors and Successors tables.

You can use the checkbox control by each standard field to choose what you would like to see, and what you would like to be hidden. By default, all standard fields *except* ID are visible. At least **one** standard field must *always* be visible.

Standard Fields	
☒ Display ID field	
☐ Display Unique ID field	
☒ Display Name field	
☐ Display Relationship Type field	
☐ Display Lag field	
☒ Display Driving Slack field	

SSI Dependency Tracer

Currently selected task

ID	Name	Type	Dur	% Cmp	Constraint
5	System Definition Review (SDR)	Fixed Units	0 d	0%	As Soon As Po

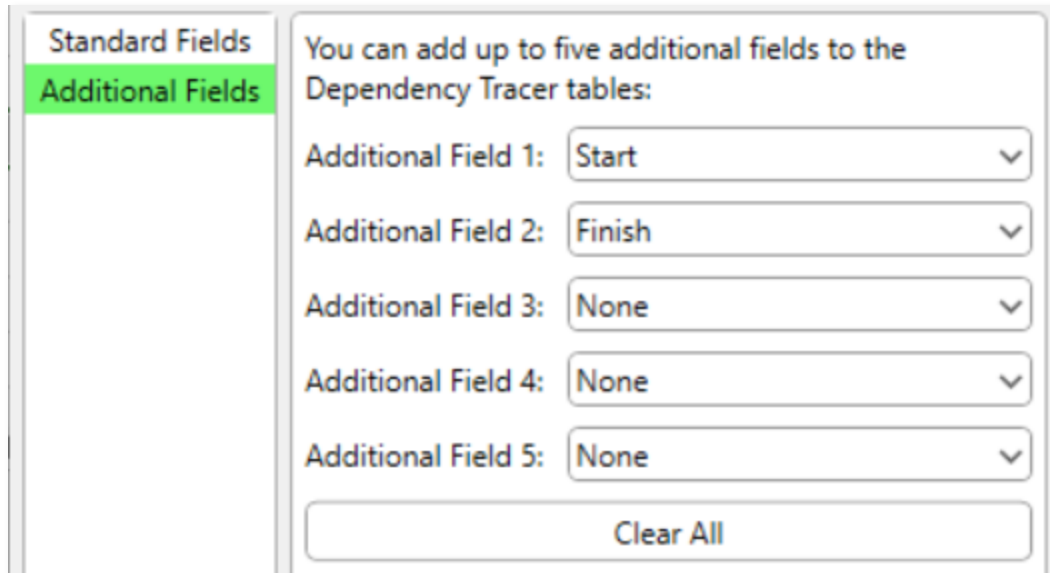
Predecessors (Count: 1)

ID*	Name	Drv Slack
☒ 52	Conduct SDR	0d
☐ Enter ID...		

Successors (Count: 1)

ID*	Name
☒ 58	Develop Data
☐ Enter ID...	

Adjusting Additional fields



Standard Fields

Additional Fields

You can add up to five additional fields to the Dependency Tracer tables:

Additional Field 1: Start

Additional Field 2: Finish

Additional Field 3: None

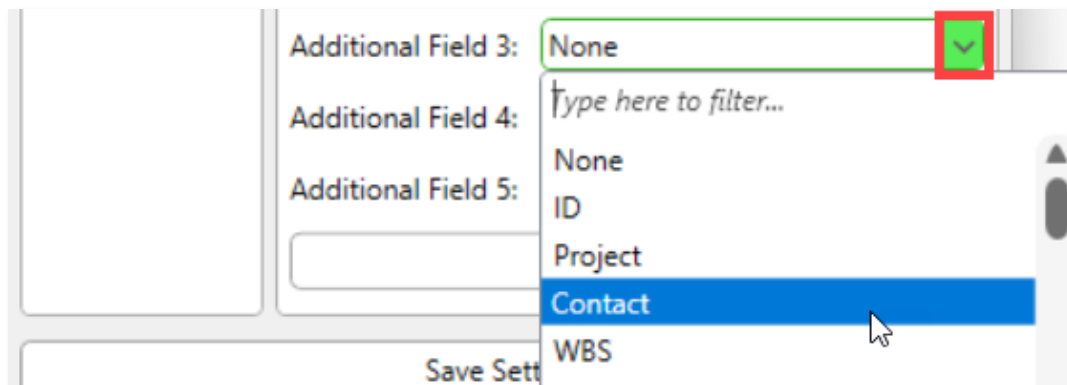
Additional Field 4: None

Additional Field 5: None

Clear All

Additional fields are any other **Task Fields** in Microsoft Project you wish to see data from in the Currently Selected Task, Predecessors, and Successors sections of the Dependency Tracer. You can add up to five Additional Fields. By default, **Start** and **Finish** are set as the first two Additional Fields.

To add an Additional Field, select the field you would like to see from the drop-down menu control:



Additional Field 3: None

Additional Field 4: Type here to filter...

Additional Field 5: None

ID

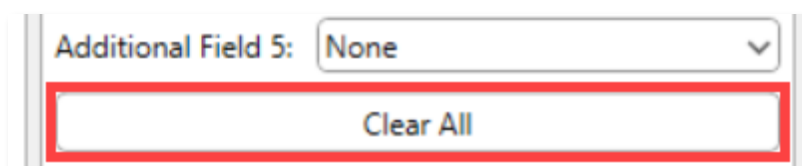
Project

Contact

WBS

Save Settings

If you would like an Additional Field to be hidden, set its value to **None**. To set all Additional Fields to **None** at the same time, click the **Clear All** button located at the bottom of the Additional Fields tab:



Additional Field 5: None

Clear All

Standard Fields	You can add up to five additional fields to the Dependency Tracer tables:	
Additional Fields		
Additional Field 1:		Start
Additional Field 2:		Finish
Additional Field 3:		% Complete
Additional Field 4:		Text1 (WP ID)
Additional Field 5:	None	



SSI Dependency Tracer
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Currently selected task

ID	Name	Start	Finish	% Complete	WP ID
30	Develop System Hardware Requirements	1/31/25	2/6/25	100%	WP2.3

Predecessors

☒	ID*	Name	Drv Slack	Start	Finish	% Complete	WP ID
☒	29	Conduct Site Surveys	0d	1/31/25	2/6/25	100%	WP2.2
☒	28	Review CONOPS & Requirements Docu...	0d	1/30/25	1/30/25	100%	WP2.1
☐	Enter ID...						

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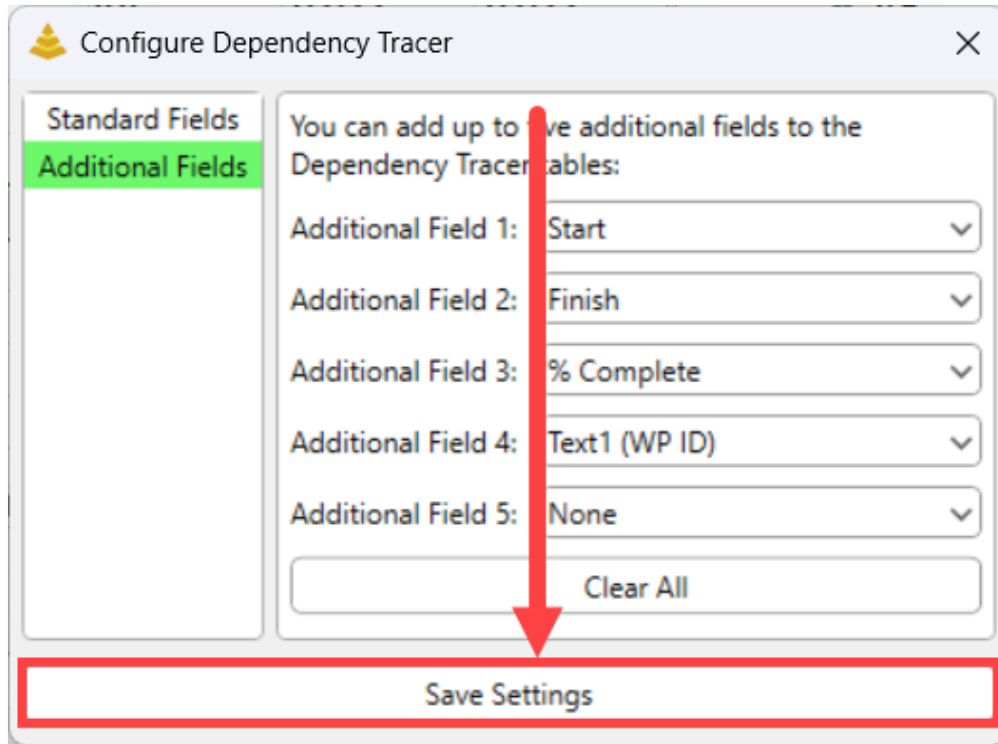
Successors

☒	ID*	Name	Drv Slack	Start	Finish	% Complete	WP ID
☒	33	Review System Environment and I/O R...	0d	2/7/25	2/7/25	100%	WP2.5
☒	55	Define System Requirements	0d	2/7/25	3/13/25	84%	WP3.1
☒	56	Update the Requirements Traceability...	15d	2/28/25	3/13/25	60%	WP3.2
☐	Enter ID...						

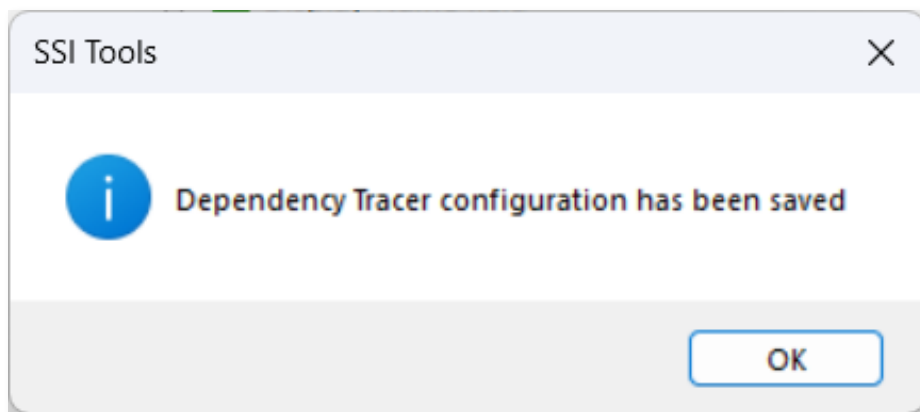
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Saving the Dependency Tracer Configuration

Clicking the **Save Settings** button at the bottom of the Configure Dependency Tracer dialog will save the configuration applied for both the **Standard** and **Additional Fields**



After this button is clicked, a message will be displayed indicating that the configuration has been saved:

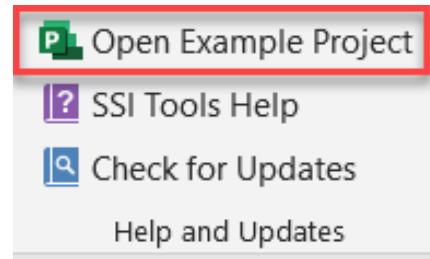


The Dependency Tracer will automatically update to reflect the new configuration.

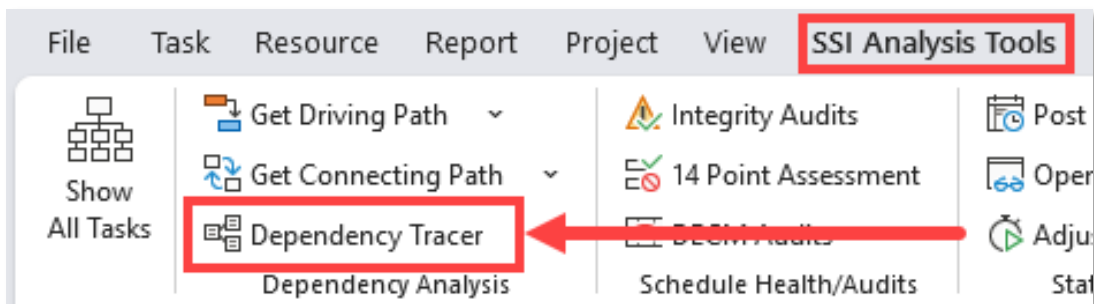
Note: Dependency Tracer Configurations are specific to each project and therefore are saved at the individual **Project level**. The Project .mpp file must also be saved for the settings to be remembered.

Class Exercise – Adjusting the Dependency Tracer Configuration

1. Open the SSI Example Project file in Microsoft Project (if it is not already open) by clicking the **Open Example Project** button on the far-right side of the **SSI Analysis Tools Ribbon**.



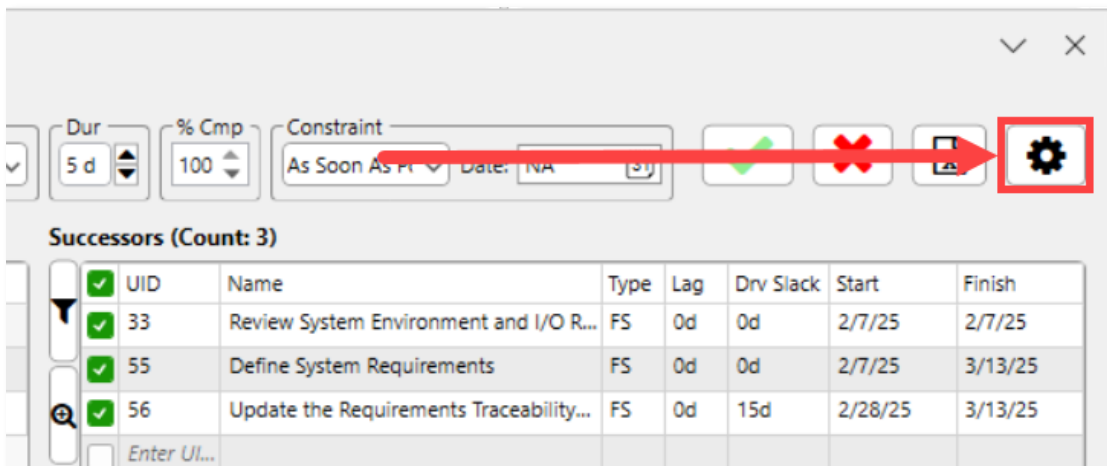
2. Click the **Dependency Tracer** button in the **Dependency Analysis Group** of the **SSI Analysis Tools Ribbon**:



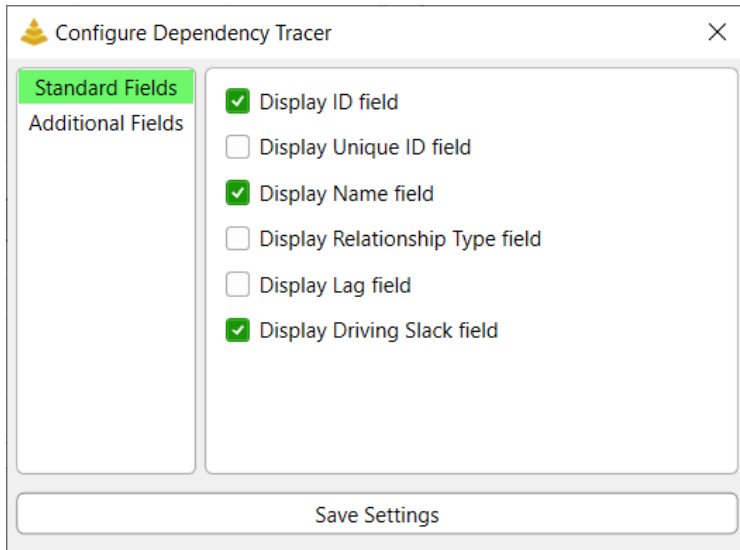
3. Select any cells on row 50 **Finalize Presentation Materials for SDR**.

Task Name	
48	Develop Disaster Recovery Plan
49	▲ Conduct System Definition Review (SDR)
50	Finalize Presentation Materials for SDR
51	Ensure SDR Exit Criteria Has Been Met

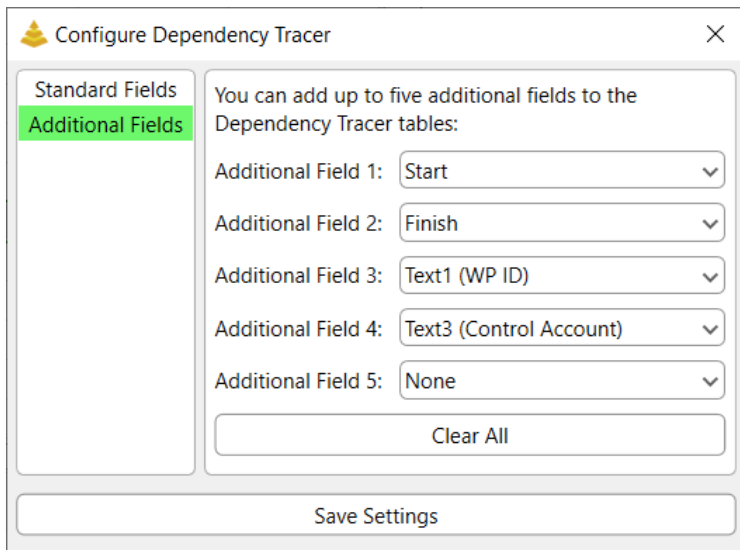
4. Click the Settings button in the upper-right corner of the Dependency Tracer:



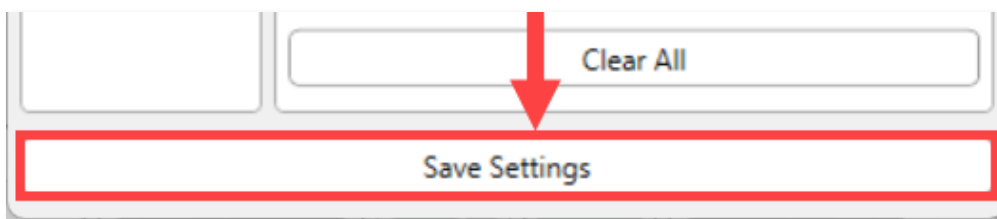
5. In the Dependency Tracer Configuration dialog, set the **Standard Fields** to match the image below:



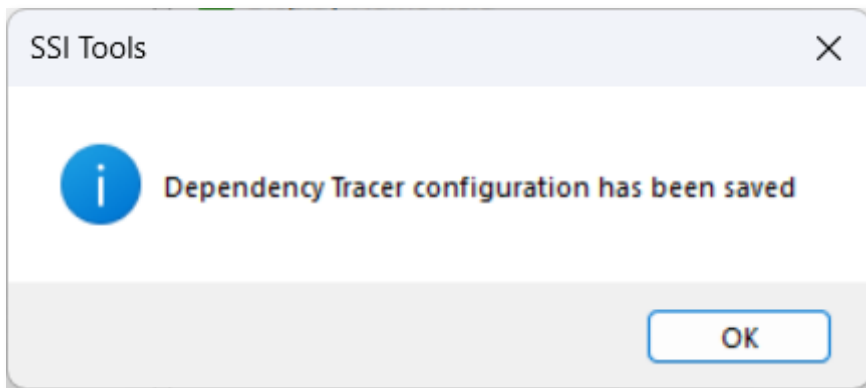
6. Set the **Additional Fields** to match the image below:



7. Click the **Save Settings** button at the bottom of the dialog:



8. Click OK on the message box that opens stating the configuration was saved:



9. Observe the columns in the Dependency Tracer tables:

SSI Dependency Tracer

Currently selected task

ID	Name	Start	Finish	WP ID	Control Account
50	Finalize Presentation Materials for SDR	4/3/25	4/16/25	WP2.19	CA2

Predecessors

ID*	Name	Drv Slack	Start	Finish	WP ID	Control Account
40	Generate Developmental Test Plan (DTP)	0d	3/27/25	4/2/25	WP2.11	CA2
46	Develop Security Test & Evaluation (ST&E) Plan	5d	3/20/25	3/26/25	WP2.16	CA2
47	Develop Service Level Agreements (SLA)	10d	2/27/25	3/19/25	WP2.17	CA2
48	Develop Disaster Recovery Plan	10d	2/27/25	3/19/25	WP2.18	CA2

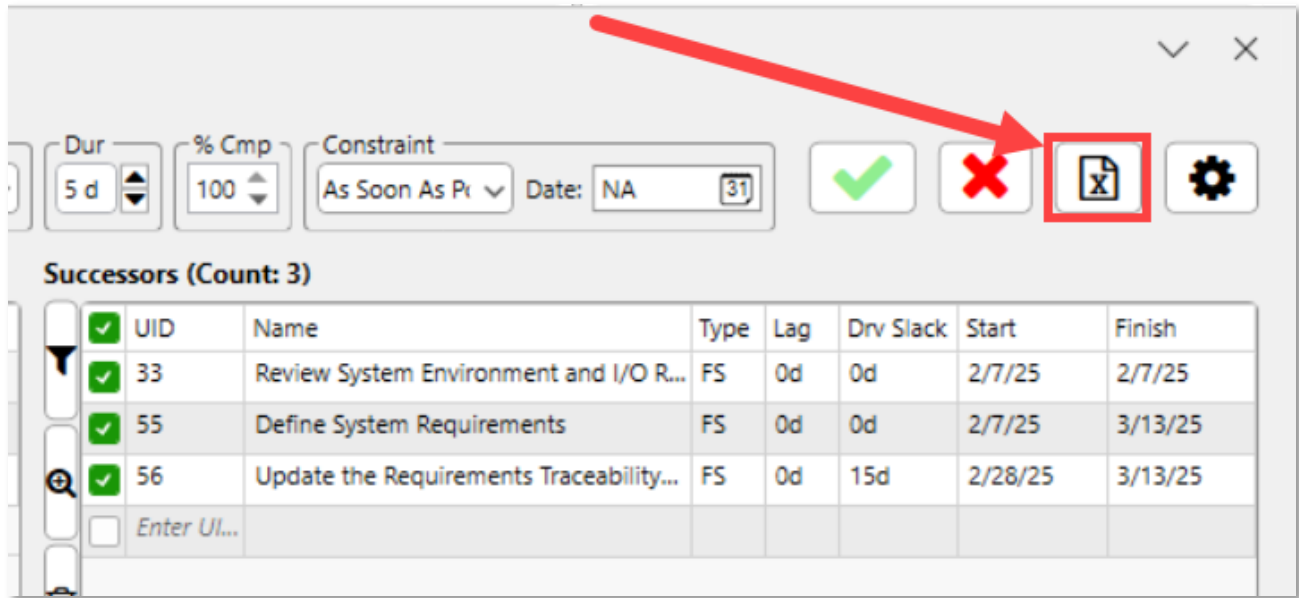
Successors

ID*	Name	Drv Slack	Start	Finish	WP ID	Control Account
51	Ensure SDR Exit Criteria Has Been Met	0d	4/17/25	4/17/25	WP2.20	CA2
☐ Enter ID...						

End of Practice Exercise

Exporting Data in the Dependency Tracer To Excel

All data in the Dependency Tracer tables can be exported to an Excel Spreadsheet by clicking the **Export to Excel** button on the upper right side of the Dependency Tracer:



Excel exports generated by the Dependency Tracer contain two worksheets: a **Simple View** and a **Raw Data** view

The Simple View Sheet

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Parent Task Information:						
2	Unique ID	Name	Start	Finish	Type	Duration	% Comple
3	30	Develop System Hardware Requirements	1/31/25	2/6/25	Fixed Work	5 d	100%
4							
5	Predecessor Information:						
6	Unique ID	Name	Relationship Type	Lag	Driving Slack	Start	Finish
7	29	Conduct Site Surveys	FF	0d	0d	1/31/25	2/6/25
8	28	Review CONOPS & Requirements Documents	FS	0d	0d	1/30/25	1/30/25
9							
10	Successor Information:						
11	Unique ID	Name	Relationship Type	Lag	Driving Slack	Start	Finish
12	33	Review System Environment and I/O Requirements	FS	0d	0d	2/7/25	2/7/25
13	55	Define System Requirements	FS	0d	0d	2/7/25	3/13/25
14	56	Update the Requirements Traceability Matrix	FS	0d	15d	2/28/25	3/13/25

The Simple View presents data from the Dependency Tracer in a clean, easy-to-read format. Its layout mirrors the Vertical arrangement of the Dependency Tracer, with the Currently Selected Task at the top, Predecessors in the middle, and Successors at the bottom. This view is ideal for quick, at-a-glance analysis and for copying and pasting information into other applications, such as Outlook messages.

The Raw Data View

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
	Parent ID	Parent UID	Parent Name	Dependency Direction	Dependency ID	Dependency UID	Dependency Name	Dependency Link Type	Dependency Lag	Dependency Driving Slack	Dependency Start	Dependency Finish
1												
2	30	30	Develop Sy	Predecessor	29	29	Conduct Site S	FF	0d	0d	1/31/25	2/6/25
3	30	30	Develop Sy	Predecessor	28	28	Review CONO	FS	0d	0d	1/30/25	1/30/25
4	30	30	Develop Sy	Successor	33	33	Review System	FS	0d	0d	2/7/25	2/7/25
5	30	30	Develop Sy	Successor	55	55	Define System	FS	0d	0d	2/7/25	3/13/25
6	30	30	Develop Sy	Successor	56	56	Update the Re	FS	0d	15d	2/28/25	3/13/25

The **Raw Data** sheet presents the Dependency Tracer's data in a structured, analysis-friendly format designed specifically for data processing and reporting. Unlike the Simple View, which emphasizes readability, the Raw Data sheet organizes information in a flattened, tabular layout that makes it easier to sort, filter, and summarize. This format is ideal for building pivot tables, generating charts, or performing custom data analysis in Excel.

All Dependency Tracer Excel exports include the data visible from the current [Dependency Tracer Configuration](#) and are saved in [SSi Tools Installation Location]\Exports\Dependency Tracer. Each export is timestamped with the date and time it was created.