

Enhancements

Weilgut MindPlan 3.0

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Weilgut MindPlan 3.0

Version 3.0 of MindPlan contains a variety of new functions and extensions in comparison with the previous version:

- Convenient sidebar with numerous new components such as context related next steps, outline view, icon and map fragment library, node style storage, style templates...
- New export targets for convenient conference invitation via Lotus Notes.
- Organization chart display in the map editor
- Extended project management configuration, e.g. new node type work package
- Controlling: New analysis options for workload, deviation of actual / target duration and costs in percent; grouping of analysis tabs
- Scalable print on paper or to Adobe PDF

... and many more details

A. Sidebar

Valuable new functions have been combined in a new sidebar in Weilgut MindPlan. The convenient operation via the sidebar menus facilitates your daily work. You can open and close the sidebar flexibly or even move it to the left side if it makes operation easier for you. These are the menus in the sidebar:

Your next steps

This menu will in the future take you to the most frequently used MindPlan function depending on the context. First highlight one or several nodes and choose from the offered functions and data exports, e.g. the generation of a Lotus Notes invitation for an agenda.

Outline

With MindPlans containing a high number of nodes (MindMap branches) you get additional help from the outline view to always keep track of the content structure. It is shown in a tree view. With a double click on an entry you focus the node in the map or in the Gantt view.

Map fragments

Create your own library from parts of a MindPlan that you want to reuse. For instance, file your standard project procedure, i.e. a partial tree with the phase structure, attached files and documents as a map fragment. Insert the fragment into any MindPlan with a double click.

Bookmark

Create personal bookmarks for frequently used MindPlans or even for specific nodes. Manage the bookmarks comfortably in a tree that is categorised and sorted on subjects.

Search

The full text search previously available in a separate dialog window has also been integrated into the sidebar. This allows you to continue working with the application after a search process while maintaining continued access to the search results.

MindPlan training

Use the online help links and self-running demo videos to get quicker initial training in MindPlan. Please refer to www.MindPlan.com for further demos and product information.

Icon library

The selection of node icons has been considerably extended in MindPlan 3.0. About 2.000 icons from different categories and in five sizes enable an even more individual design of your maps. You can find the icon selection familiar from earlier product versions in "MindPlan selection".

Node style

With this menu you now design the look of a node via the sidebar as well. Initially design a style in a preview window and confirm it with a click on the accept button.

Style templates

Save time and effort and store your node styles as style templates that you wish to reuse – among others colour values, node icons or fonts. Apply a style template to highlighted nodes in any MindPlan with a double click on the style.

B. Printing

The print system has been completely reworked in MindPlan 3.0 to be furnished with extended functionality:

Print preview

The print preview is your central print control with which you adjust the print options in a printout preview.

Poster print

Map as well as Gantt views can be separated into any number of pages. You can assemble the individual printouts for a poster via cut edges and page number indicators in the twinkling of an eye.

PDF output

Alternative to the printout on paper you can save electronic file (Adobe PDF format), if you e.g. intend to send the current project planning to other users via e-mail. The same functional variety is available for PDF output as well as for the output to a printer.

C. Exporting

New export target "Lotus Notes conference invitation"

Create a conference invitation in your Lotus Notes calendar from a node.

New standard export "Invite to meetings with the agenda"

Invite others to a meeting via your Lotus Notes calendar and let MindPlan insert the agenda. This new standard export produces a tabular agenda from an agenda node and the underlying agenda items. Unlike the export of the previous version – "Send agenda via mail" – a standard conference invitation with the agenda information (reference, date, time, participants) will now be produced in your Lotus Notes calendar instead of an e-mail.

D. Map

The two essential enhancements, organization chart view and automatic text wrapping, open up new possibilities in the Map application:

Organisation chart view

Visualise your corporate or project structure as an organization chart with MindPlan. Activate the Map options for this and choose between horizontal or vertical orientation.

Level orientation of the nodes in the Map and organization chart display

With the level alignment function you can uniformly align alike levels in the MindMap or organization chart view. It serves primarily for a clear organization chart look and legibility of hierarchy levels. You can also use this step in a map if you e.g. want to highlight all the nodes on a specific level.

Configurable width of nodes and automatic text wrapping

Nodes created with MindPlan 3.0 will be generated with a pre-defined maximum width for the node title and the displays below of the node. This will automatically wrap the entered text in case this width is exceeded. The text wrapping simplifies the entry of long texts and is especially useful with data exports, for example the "Concept export to Word/OpenOffice". In earlier versions, the exported texts frequently contained too many manually inserted line breaks to effect a specific width for the nodes in the map display. With the text wrapping the texts are ideally exported. The standard width can be adjusted in the personal settings; the width of highlighted nodes is adjustable in the properties dialog under "Node visualisation/node size". To convert already existing MindPlan nodes to the new text wrapping, a tool for removing line breaks from node texts is available on the properties tab.

Editing the node styles with the preview in the "Properties" dialog

The look of highlighted nodes (e.g. colour values, node icons and Font/font) can be adjusted in the corresponding tabs of the properties dialog. A preview illustrates the pending style change.

E. Project and Resource Planning

MindPlan 3.0 contains essential extensions that facilitate the project management for daily control tasks. This includes the analysis of the workload situation which brings about considerable advantages in the planning and control of resources. Together with extended analysis functions, you will get an ideal overview of the resource planning, costs and time deviations.

New node types "Work package" and "Deliverable"

The node type "Work package" designates a branch in which you group activities. In project management the entirety of several activities that have to be completed to receive a checkable results is called a work package. Now determine one person responsible for each work package. Group work packages with the node type "Deliverable" that should be used for all levels above the work package. You thus ensure consistent cumulated calculation of all recorded actual and target values up to the central node.

New Gantt table columns

The following two table columns, which can be shown or hidden, provide you with better control of project costs and expenditures.

Actual / target duration difference

The table column calculates the differences between the actual and target duration of activities and cumulates these differences in deliverable and work package nodes. In combination with the analysis category "Deviation actual / target duration in percentage" the table column serves for the calculation of how much the planned duration has been exceeded in absolute figures.

Actual / target costs difference

Analog the table column "Actual / target duration difference" the actual / target costs are settled and cumulated here. The table column serves for the calculation of how much the planned costs have been exceeded in absolute figures.

Workload display/Capacities

The new analysis tab "capacity" shows the workload level of the project resources. The workload of a resource is calculated from the timeframe of activities and the planned duration. With a timeframe from Monday to Friday and a planning duration of one day, the workload is e.g. 20% (1 day / 5 days). The workloads of several activities add up and are illustrated in the resources lines of the Gantts with coloured bars: green = workload uncritical, yellow = increased workload of the resource, red = the workload exceeds 100%. This workload display has been implemented as a special display option of the Gantt charts in the "Analyses". This allows you to use this look for your own analyses as well and to e.g. also calculate the resources workload project spanning.

New analysis categories

The following two new analysis categories filter the activities generated in MindPlan according to their deviation from the planning.

Actual / target duration deviation percentage

With this analysis you initially structure the activities according to positive duration deviation (i.e. actual duration larger than target duration), negative duration deviation, and equal duration, and categorize according to percental duration deviation in 10 percent steps (e.g. "20-30%"). You thus get a quick overview of the planning deviations. In combination with the resources or MindPlan structure category, you determine the responsible person and the deliverable or work package in which the planning has been exceeded.

Actual / target costs deviation percentage

Analog the analysis category "Actual / target duration deviation percentage" this category serves for the analysis of which activities have exceeded or fallen short of the planned costs to what degree.

New analysis filters

In addition to the planning deviations you now also have:

Actual / target duration deviation percentage

The analysis filter reduces the quantity of analyzed activities and shows only the planning deviations of the activity duration from a specific percental value onward.

Actual / target costs deviation percentage

The analysis filter shows only the planning deviations of the activity costs from a specific percental value onward.

Grouping of analysis tabs

For clear structuring of analysis tabs in the tab bar, a tab can be assigned to a group and thus structured according to subject.

Configurable scaling and positioning of the Gantt diagram

Adjust the Gantt with the new settings tab for Gantt scaling and positioning for e.g. the current week or the earliest activity in the analysis and switch between daily, monthly, or yearly view.

F. Basic Settings

MindPlan 3.0 offers new options:

Deactivatable tooltip display in map and Gantt

Text displays when moving the mouse over a node (so-called tooltips) can be deactivated in File/Settings in map view, Gantt table and Gantt diagram. The displays contain extended information on nodes, but may be disruptive during the work with and presentation of MindPlans.

Recycle bin with deletion time and user name/recovery of nodes

The recycle bin dialog shows only the time of the deletion process and the name of the deleting user. You can thus quickly identify connected nodes for a recovery.

Deactivatable hardware acceleration

To increase the compatibility of MindPlan with certain hardware configurations, the hardware acceleration used during surface display can be deactivated. This acceleration option can be configured in the MindPlan setup application. A deactivation of the hardware accelerations e.g. eliminates the display errors in the Windows virtualization Parallels in the Mac OS X operating system.

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