



# WHAT IS A GANTT CHART?

## Your Guide to Visual Project Management

You'd never see a pirate without a treasure map or a builder without a blueprint, right? The same goes for project managers with Gantt charts. Now a common visual tool for anyone planning out their tasks and deadlines, we'll show you what Gantt charts are all about.

### WHERE IT STARTED

Henry Gantt was a consultant who needed a way to schedule and record work, so about 100 years ago, he invented **Gantt charts**.

Gantt set out to create something that would visually remind him of when project tasks need to happen, and how they fell within the big picture of the project at hand. Thus, the Gantt chart was born.



### WHO USES THEM

Gantt charts are built to be a strategic framework that is applicable to any project.

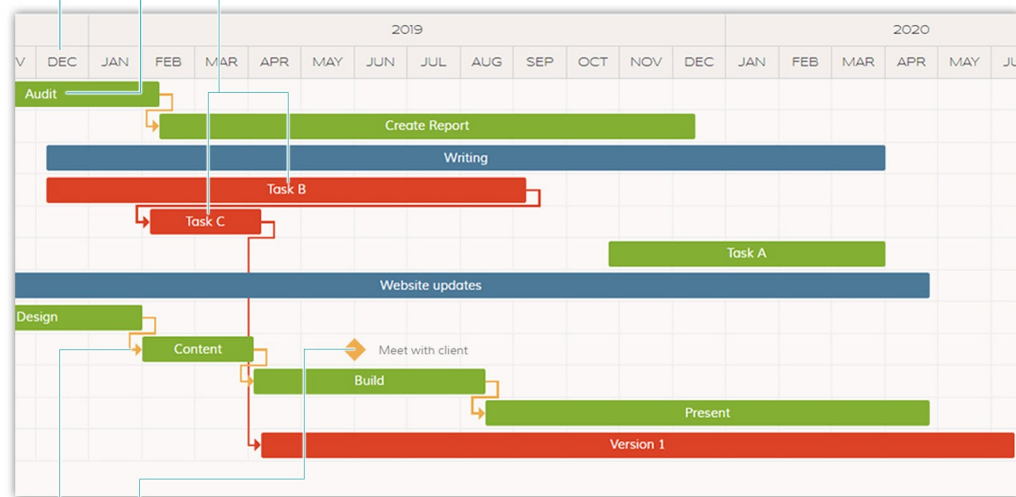
Consultants, engineers, architects, marketing teams, anyone who has a project can use the Gantt chart structure to help them succeed.

### HOW IT WORKS

**Timeline:** Horizontally broken up by month and year to show the length of tasks

**Tasks:** Bars map out where each task falls within the project timeline

**Critical Path:** Color-coding is used to group tasks within the project that are dependent of each other



**Milestones:** Key events or accomplishments set within the project to show progress

**Dependencies:** Arrows indicate when starting one task is dependent on the completion of another

Learn about the different types of dependencies and milestones that lead to effective project planning [here!](#)

## WHY PROJECT MANAGERS LOVE IT



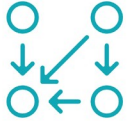
### Big-Picture Planning

See how each component of the project fits and works together to give the team a clear understanding of the work ahead.



### Transparent Communication

Team members benefit from seeing the project as a whole to boost accountability, improve teamwork and motivate progress.



### Visual Dependencies

Easily spot tasks that work in a chain reaction, are dependent on certain resources, or arrange in order of best practice.



### Resource Management

Increase project productivity by analyzing the gaps in the chart. Find out where staff, time and resources could be better spent.



Curious to see how Gantt charts work within project management software?

BigTime offers customized product tours to show you how Gantt charts would work specifically for your team.

[REQUEST DEMO](#)

## ABOUT BIGTIME

BigTime takes the guesswork out of utilization, capacity planning, and project profitability. Our award-winning PSA software provides project planning, budgeting, time and expense tracking, and invoicing, all backed by uber-cool reporting and analytics.

We help architects, engineers, IT-services firms, and scientific and management consultants budget, track and bill their most important asset: time.

