perform that, and other, nifty tricks.

By Brian Kennemer | November 7, 2000, 12:00 AM PST

Project 2000 has a host of features that you can use to format your project plans a
their attributes. But one feature that is missing in Project 2000 is the ability to cond
format text in task lines. This powerful feature, which is included in Excel, assigns d
to the task line to provide visual clues that indicate the current status of each task.

Project 2000 users don't need to work without this feature, however. This article co
basics on how you can use Visual Basic to easily create a macro that will place con
formatting on your task list.

The task before the formatting macro

	ⓘ	Task Name	Cost	Start	Finish
1		Low Cost	$250.00	Mon 10/30/00 8:00 AM	Mon 10/30/00 5:00 PM
2		Higher Cost	$700.00	Mon 10/30/00 8:00 AM	Mon 10/30/00 5:00 PM
3		A Bit Higher	$2,500.00	Mon 10/30/00 8:00 AM	Mon 10/30/00 5:00 PM
4		High Cost	$6,000.00	Mon 10/30/00 8:00 AM	Mon 10/30/00 5:00 PM

The macro will convert the task text from black and white display (above) to color (below).

The same task after the macro

	ⓘ	Task Name	Cost	Start	Finish
1		Low Cost	$250.00	Mon 10/30/00 8:00 AM	Mon 10/30/00 5:00 PM
2		Higher Cost	$700.00	Mon 10/30/00 8:00 AM	Mon 10/30/00 5:00 PM
3		A Bit Higher	$2,500.00	Mon 10/30/00 8:00 AM	Mon 10/30/00 5:00 PM
4		High Cost	$6,000.00	Mon 10/30/00 8:00 AM	Mon 10/30/00 5:00 PM

```
Sub SelectTaskRows()
Dim tskT As Task

For Each tskT In ActiveProject.Tasks
    Select Case tskT.Cost
        Case 1 To 500
            SelectRow Row:=tskT.ID, RowRelative:=False
            Font Color:=pjGreen
        Case 501 To 2000
            SelectRow Row:=tskT.ID, RowRelative:=False
            Font Color:=pjBlue
        Case 2001 To 5000
            SelectRow Row:=tskT.ID, RowRelative:=False
            Font Color:=pjFuchsia
        Case Is > 5000
            SelectRow Row:=tskT.ID, RowRelative:=False
            Font Color:=pjRed
    End Select
Next tskT

End Sub
```

The Select...Case statement is perfect for this kind of macro because it allows the u
a field and then to specify different criteria. The result is that certain code will run d
upon which of the criteria the field meets.

The line that reads "Select Case tskT.Cost" is setting up which field the rest of the s

Kennemer's daily tipsheet.

This basic concept is very flexible. We could customize the macro to evaluate any f

format the text according to that field's values. We could change the first line of the

to evaluate Percent Complete rather than Cost. Then we would set up the other Ca

that and specify the formatting we wanted.

The Font method can communicate deadlines

The Font method used in the above macro takes several arguments that control th

properties of the specified text. While the Font method can accept several argumer

you to control many aspects of the font, the above macro uses only the color argur

also specify bold, italics, font name, and font size. These other arguments may be u

you design your own formatting macros. There are as many possibilities for what cr

for the formatting as there are project managers in the world.

For example, inserting this For...Next loop into the above code in place of the existi

format the task text based on the SV (Schedule Variance). This will provide a status

tell you how far behind or ahead a task is compared with its own baseline.

```
For Each tskT In ActiveProject.Tasks
    Select Case tskT.SV
        Case Is < 0
            SelectRow Row:=tskT.ID, RowRelative:=False
            Font Color:=pjRed, Bold:=True
        Case Is = 0
            SelectRow Row:=tskT.ID, RowRelative:=False
            Font Color:=pjBlue
        Case Is > 0
            SelectRow Row:=tskT.ID, RowRelative:=False
            Font Color:=pjGreen, Bold:=True
```

- Post your question to the TechRepublic Technical Q&A area (http://www.techrepublic.com/forumqa/main.jhtml).
- Connect your newsreader to news://msnews.microsoft.com/ (news://msnews.micros then search for the group called microsoft.public.project.vba.

Location by color

You may also format the tasks based on the contents of a text field. Perhaps you ha that lets you know the location assigned to a task. Is the task taking place in the Wa office or in New York? You will know the answer instantly by looking at the color rat checking the value of the text field.

The task formatted by the contents of the Text1 field of the macro

	🛈	Task Name	Text1	Start	Finish
1		Task One	New York	Mon 10/30/00 8:00 AM	Mon 10/30/00 5:00
2		Task Two	California	Mon 10/30/00 8:00 AM	Mon 10/30/00 5:00
3		Task Three	Florida	Mon 10/30/00 8:00 AM	Mon 10/30/00 5:00
4		Task Four	Washington	Mon 10/30/00 8:00 AM	Mon 10/30/00 5:00

The For...Next loop to create this would look like the following:

```
For Each tskT In ActiveProject.Tasks
    Select Case tskT.Text1
        Case "New York"
            SelectRow Row:=tskT.ID, RowRelative:=False
            Font Color:=pjTeal
        Case "California"
            SelectRow Row:=tskT.ID, RowRelative:=False
```

```
        Font Color:=pjRed
    End Select
Next tskT
```

Adapting these samples for your own uses is easy. On the line that reads "Select C

insert the field you want to test after the period where SV, Text1, and Cost are in the

samples. Then, you need to adjust the condition that appears just after each of the

statements that are below the Select...Case line. Lastly, you need to edit the Font li

formatting you want will be applied for each of the given cases.

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(mailto:ITManager@techrepublic.com?subject=Brian's%20questions). He can't answer every inq

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