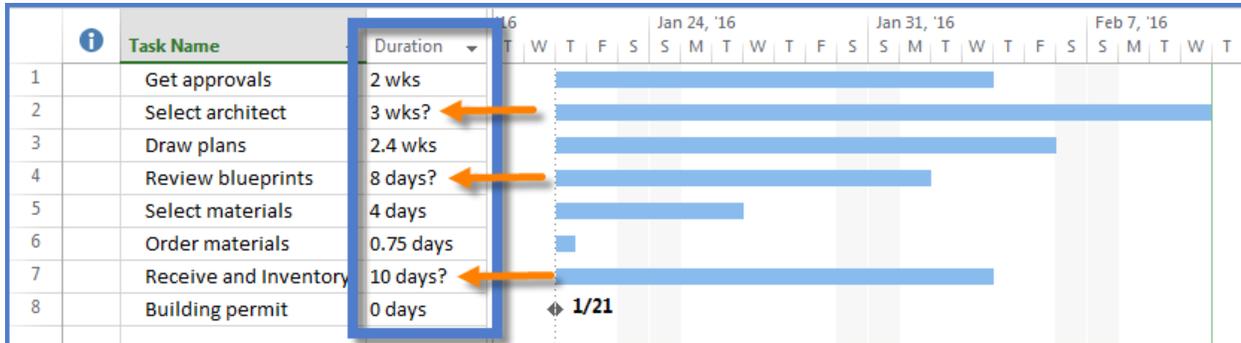


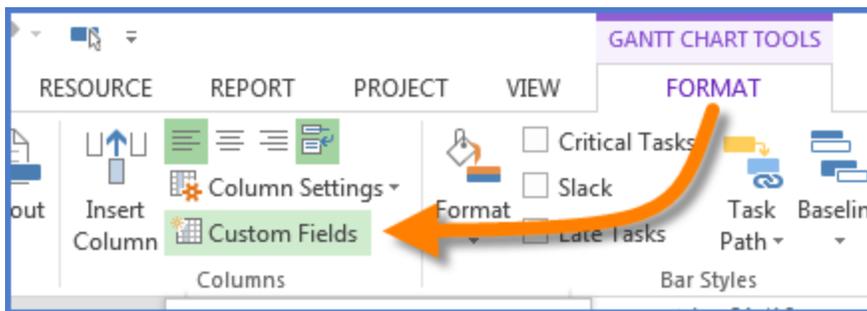
Display Estimated Durations with a Different Color in a Project Gantt Chart

When working with tasks in a project, it is common practice to display a duration as an estimate. Displaying an estimated duration prepares the viewer for possible changes in scheduling. An estimated duration takes the form of a question mark placed after the declared duration.



The issue is that some project viewer fail to notice the question mark; then when durations are updated, project viewers wonder why things have changed. One way to ensure that people’s attention is drawn to the estimated durations is to change the color of the Gantt bars to reflect an estimated status. There is no built-in state for displaying estimated durations in a separate color, but with a few short clicks this behavior can be achieved.

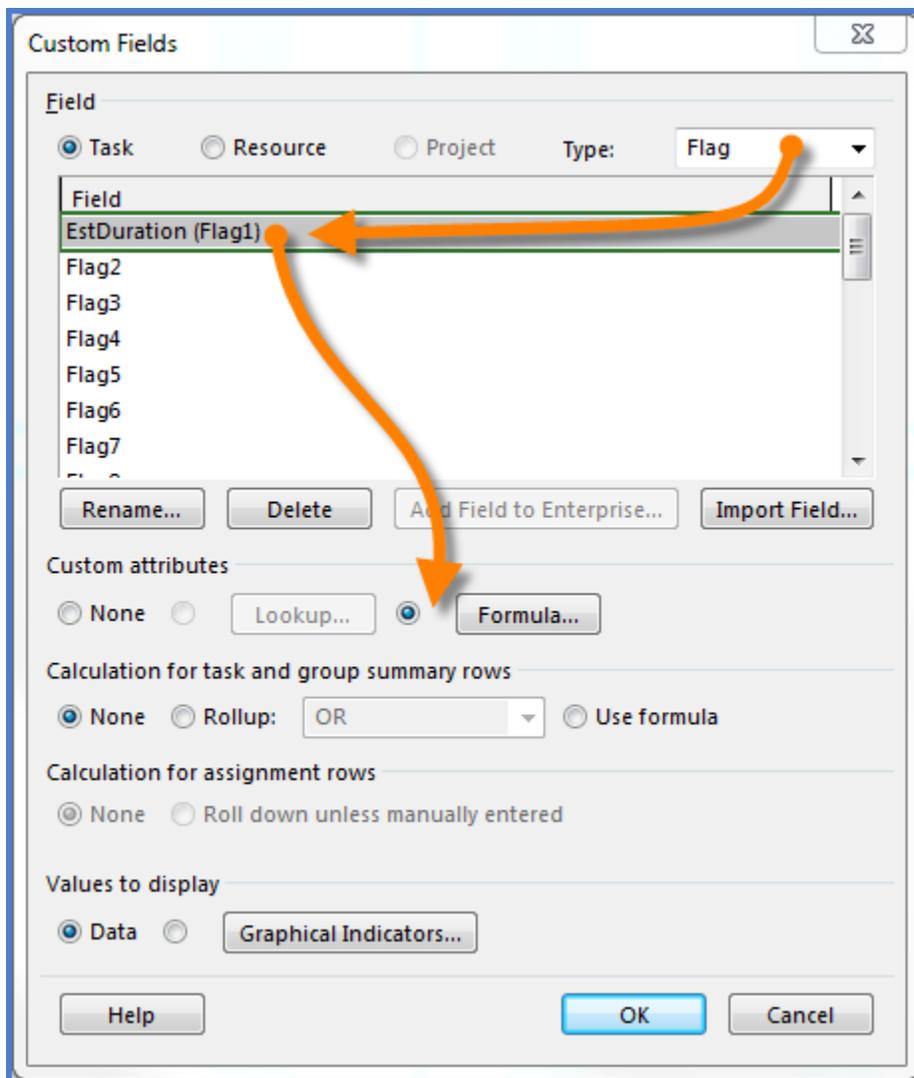
Select the **Gantt Chart Tools – Format** tab, then in the **Columns** group click **Custom Fields**



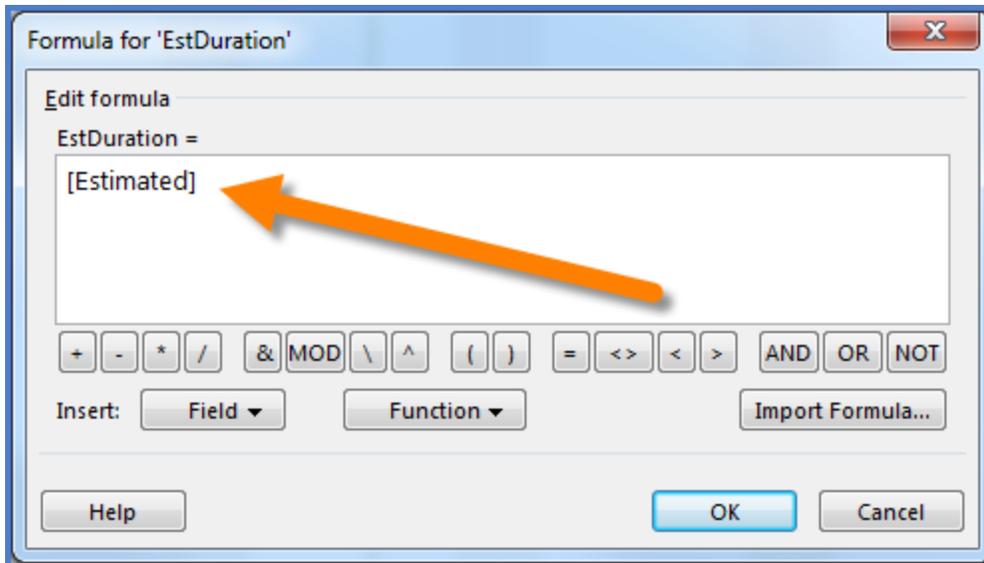
Change the **Type** category (upper right) to **Flag**.

Select a flag field (such as **Flag1**) and rename the field (ex: “**EstDuration**”)

In the **Custom Attributes** section, select the **Formula** radio button and click the **Formula** button

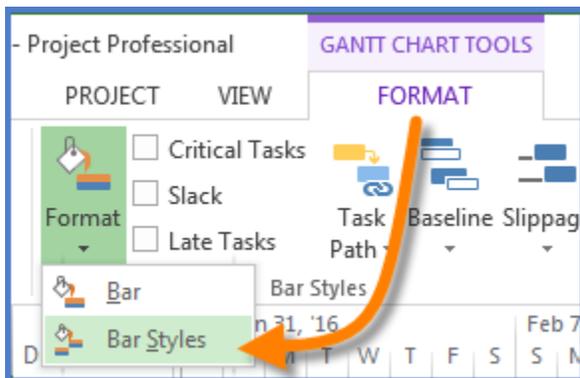


In the formula construction field, type **[Estimated]**. This field is located in the **Insert – Field – Flag** category



Now that you have set up the underlying logic of detecting the estimated duration, you can now use it as a display trigger for bars in the Gantt Chart.

On the **Gantt Chart Tools – Format** tab, in the **Bar Styles** group, click **Format – Bar Styles**



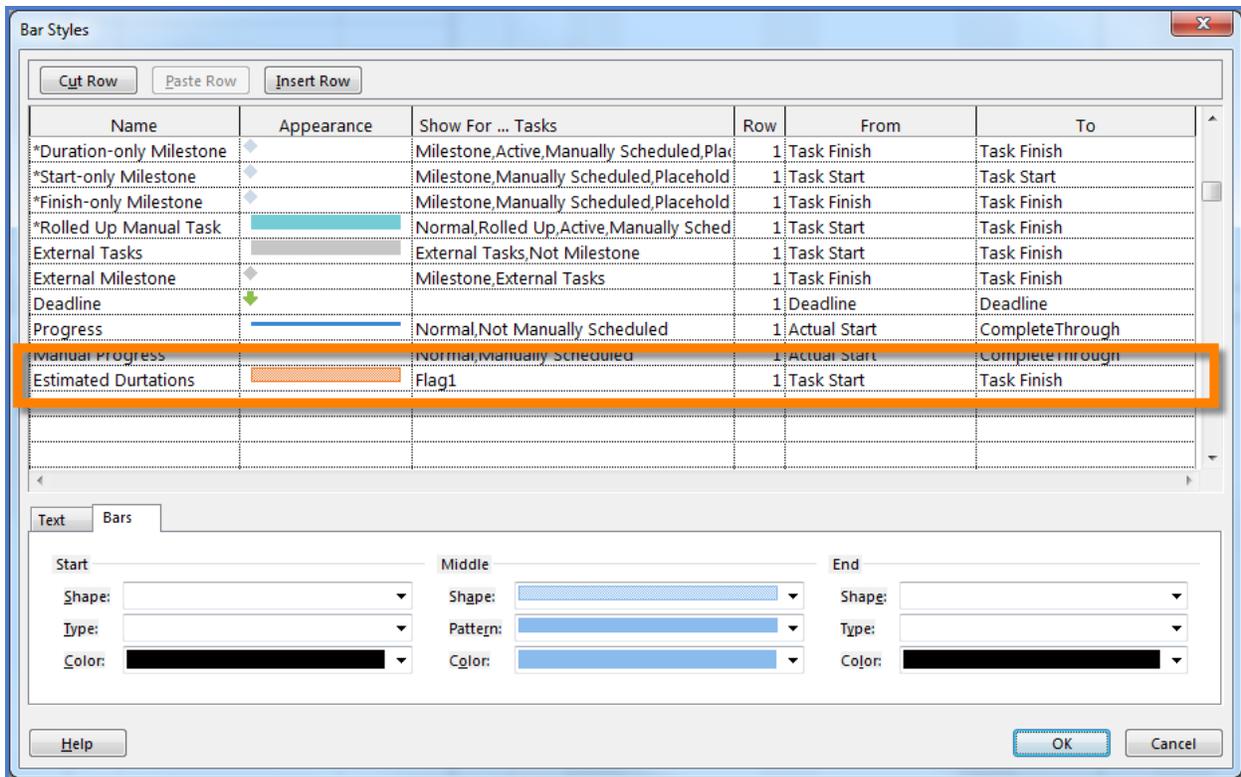
Scroll to the bottom of the list and pick the first available slot.

In the **Name** column, provide a name of your choosing (ex: “**Estimated Durations**”)

In the **Appearance** column, select a color and line style of your choosing. These controls are located at the bottom of the dialog box.

In the **Show For ... Tasks**, select the Flag1 field from the provided list.

Leave all other column settings at their defaults.



Now back in the glory of custom colored estimates.

