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Primavera Project Planner (P3)

■ Version 3.1

Consideration for Creating Codes as Activity Codes or Custom Data Items

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Always wonder whether you create the code as an Activity Code or Custom Data Item? Understanding the following differences of the features and limitations between them may help you to make your decision.

Feature/Limitation	Activity Code	Custom Data Item
Differences		
Organize/Summarize	Can be used as a data group in the Organize Dialog Window and can be used a group to summarize activities.	Can't be used as a data group to organize and summarize activities.
Pick list	Can prompt for pick list of the predefined values.	Can't prompt for pick list.
Visibility	Always shown at the bottom in the Activity Form.	Can only be activated by a separate window such as the Resource/Cost Detail Form.
Data Type	Always functioned as a data type of Character.	Can assign different data types such as C- Character S- Start Date F- Finish Date N- Numeric P- Precision. Note 1.
Creating Activity Bars	Since the Activity Codes can't be functioned as the data types of Date, they can't be used as endpoints to create activity bars.	The data type of Date assigned to the Custom Data Items can be used as endpoints to create activity bars.
Limitation	It is limited by the total	It's limited by the total number

Feature/Limitation	Activity Code	Custom Data Item
	<p>number of characters for all codes combined, which cannot exceed 64.</p> <p>The maximum length for each value is 10 characters.</p>	<p>of the items you can create. You can only assign up to eight (8) Custom Data Items.</p> <p>The length of the field depends on the type of data selected.</p> <p>C-Character 1-20 N-Numeric 1-10 P-Precision Numeric 4-11 (includes decimal point)</p>
Editable in the Activity Column area of a Layout	Activity codes can always be input or edited from the Activity Column area of a Layout. However, resources/costs related data have to be input or edited from the individual detail forms even though they can be shown as Activity Columns in a Layout.	The custom data item for activity can always be input or edited from the Activity Column area of a layout. However, the custom data items for resources/costs can't be input or edited directly from Activity Column of a Layout since they are functioned as the Activity Resources/Costs data, and have to input or edited from Custom Data Item detail form.
No Differences		
Import/Export	Can be import and Export.	No differences.
Data Dictionary can be transferred between projects	Data Dictionary can be transferred between projects.	No differences. Note 2.
Global Change	Can be used in the Global Change Dialog Window.	No differences.
Filter (or Selection Tab Window)	Can be used in the Filter Dialog Window.	No differences.
Display in Activity Column of a Layout	Can be shown as an Activity Column in a Layout.	No differences.
Activity Bar Label in a Layout	Can be shown as a label for an Activity Bar in a Layout.	No differences.
Assign different pattern/color to the activity bars	Can be used to assign pattern/color to the activity bars.	No differences.

Note:

1. If you change the data type of a Custom Data Item (such as from a number to a date), P3 will erase any values from that data item (after confirmation) and make these changes to the database.
2. When you transfer a Custom Data Items Dictionary from another project, P3 overwrites the current Dictionary and removes custom data item values already assigned to activities.