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Deltek Cobra® 8.7

Essentials

December 8, 2025



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Start Your Adventure

Cobra allows you to set up your project plan (your budget), enter the time spent working on tasks (your actuals), calculate how much work you actually accomplished (your earned value), and update the remaining effort required to finish your tasks or project (your forecast).

The intent of this guide is to help you become familiar with Cobra's basic capabilities. We first show you how a typical project and its key elements are seen through the eyes of someone charged with planning and maintaining project information, and then we help you to explore the flexible configuration options as you walk through Cobra's basic functionality. Throughout the guide, there are links to the Cobra Help System where you can find additional information.


Note: If you have not yet set up your database platform, created a Cobra database, or installed Cobra, see [Appendix A: Before You Explore Cobra](#) for information and steps.

Launch Cobra

To launch Cobra, click **Start » Deltek Cobra 8.7 » Deltek Cobra 8.7**.

After starting Cobra, enter a user ID and password to [log in](#). The default user ID is **SYSADMIN** and the default password is **password**. For security reasons, you should [change this password](#) as soon as possible.


To change your password:

1. Click  » **Change Password** to display the [Change Password dialog box](#).
2. Enter your current password in the **Old Password** field.
3. Enter a new password in the **New Password** field.
4. Re-enter the new password in the **Re-enter New Password** field.
5. Click **OK** to save the new password.

Restore the Essential Cobra Sample Data

The Essential Cobra sample data includes a simple project and its data which you can use to become familiar with Cobra. It is used for all screenshots and examples in this guide. You can use the sample data as a starting point for your own project; adding additional data or modifying existing data and structures.

To [restore](#) the Essentials sample data:

1. Log into Cobra and click  » **Manage » Restore**.
2. Navigate to the Cobra folder.
For example, **C:\Program Files (x86)\Deltek\Cobra**.
3. In **Samples » Backups**, click the **DELTEKCOBRAESSENTIALSAMPLEDATA.BKCP** file.
4. In the [Select Files to Restore](#) dialog box, confirm that everything is selected.
5. Click **Restore**.

6. View the [log](#) or click **Close** after the restore is complete.

Explore Cobra

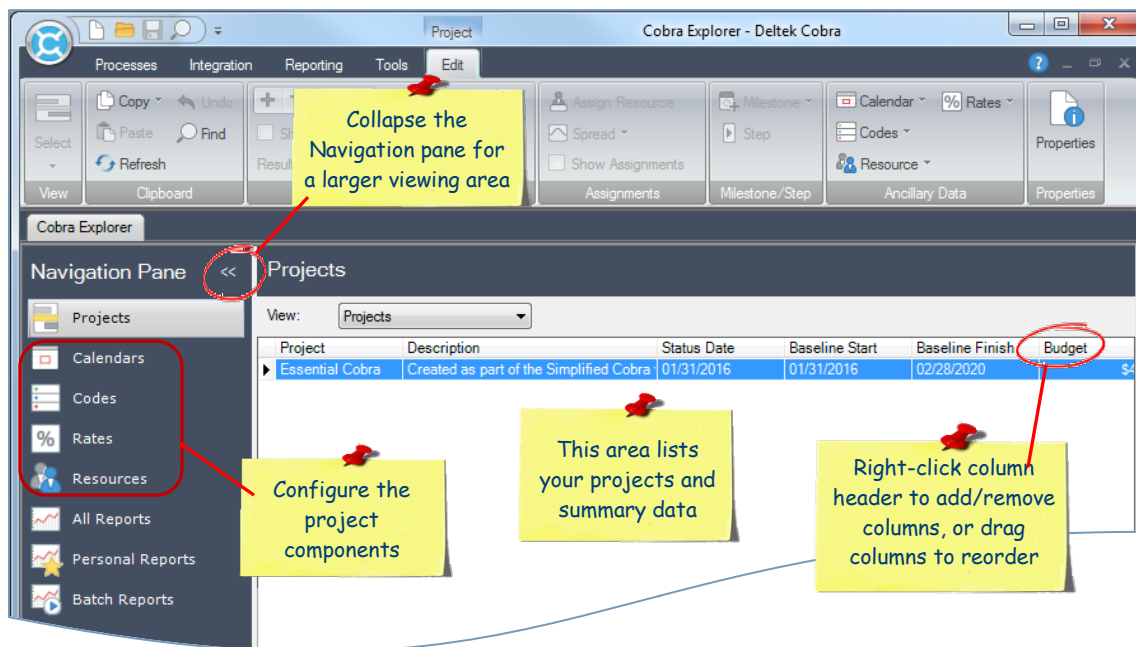
This chapter introduces the different areas of the Cobra Explorer, providing an overview of its key components and how they support project cost management tasks.

Cobra Explorer

The [Cobra Explorer](#) view, in conjunction with the left hand Navigation Pane, allows you to view and access all projects, related ancillary files (calendars, codes, rates, resources), and reports.

The view includes summary information for each project. You can right-click on a column heading to add or remove columns to view different data and drag and drop columns to reorder them.

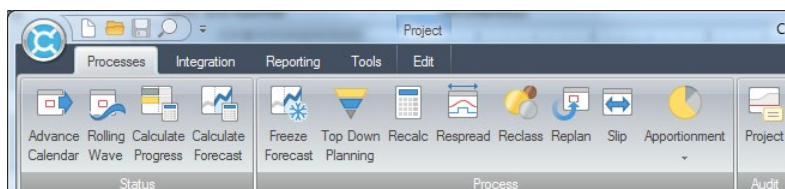
You can create and maintain the project components using the links in the Navigation pane and collapse the Navigation pane to increase your viewing area.



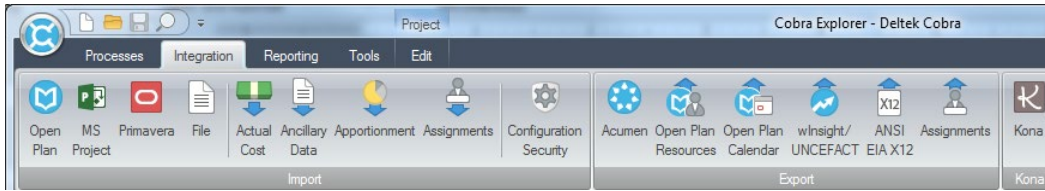
Tabs

This section introduces the main tabs in Cobra, each designed to support a specific set of project control tasks—from running processes and managing integrations to generating reports and editing project components.

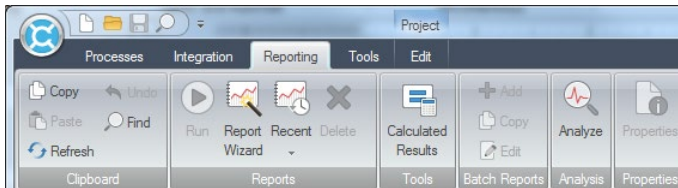
- Use the [Processes tab](#) to perform Cobra processes.



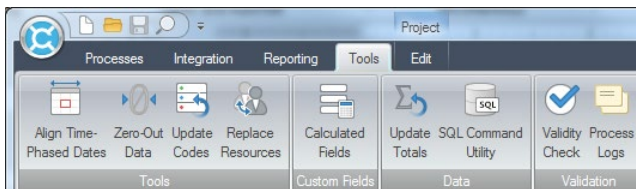
- Use the [Integration tab](#) to import and export to/from Cobra.



- Use the [Reporting tab](#) to create reports and analyze data.



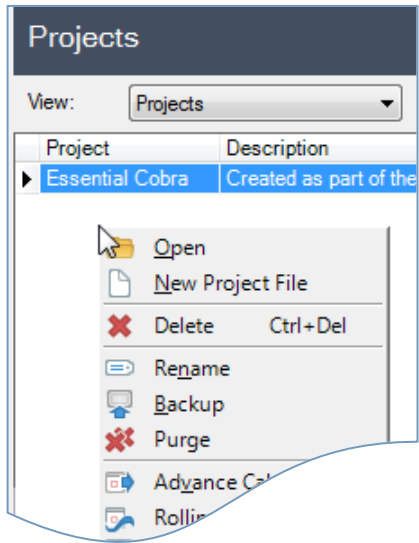
- Use the [Tools tab](#) to manage and validate data and create [calculated fields](#).




- The Edit tab options change, depending on the view that you are in:
- [Project Edit tab](#)
- [Calendar Edit tab](#)
- [Codes Edit tab](#)
- [Rates Edit tab](#)
- [Resources Edit tab](#)

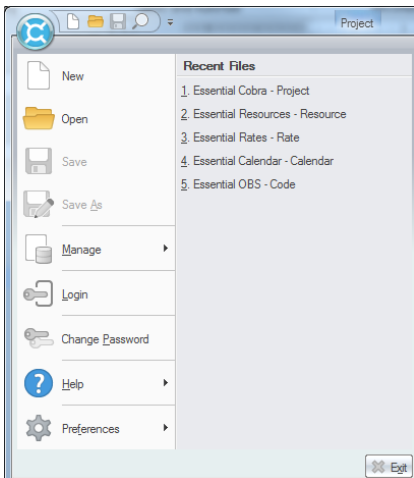
Shortcut Menus

Many of the panes and grids have shortcut menus. For example, right-clicking on the white space in the Projects view displays a list of shortcut options.



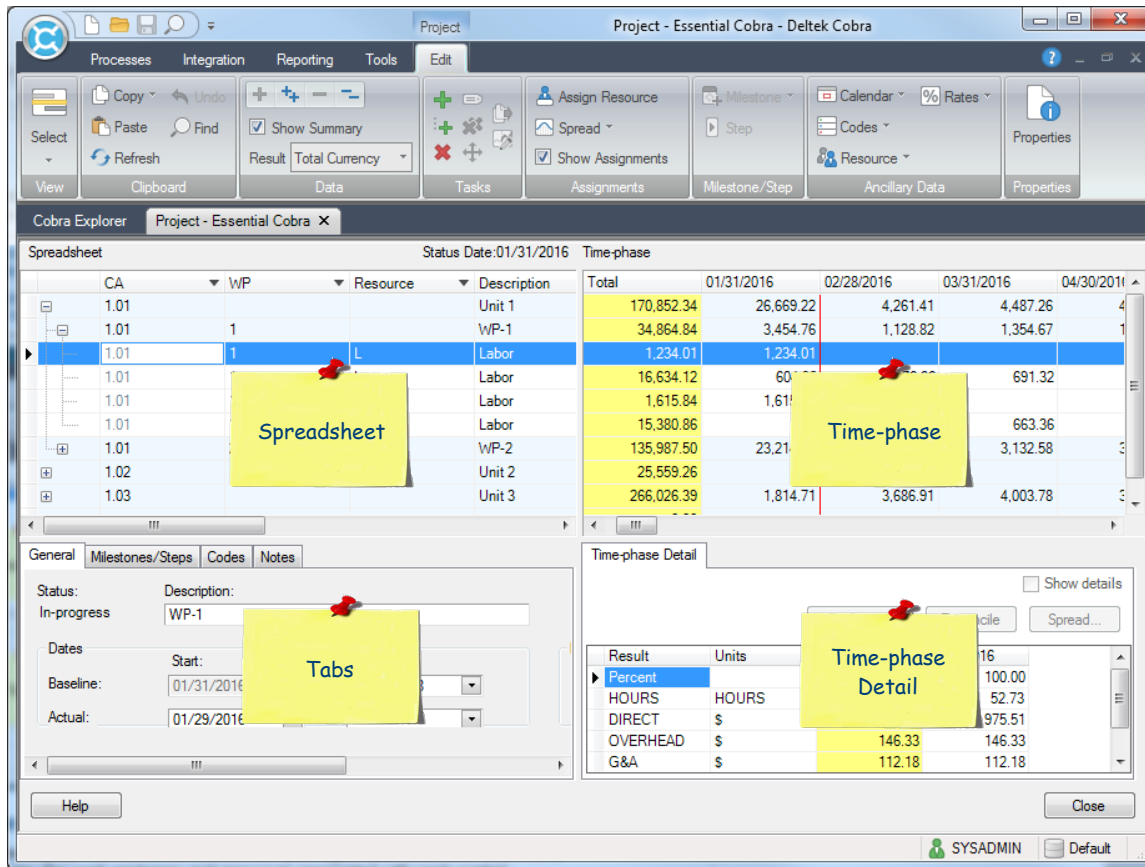
File Manager

Click the [Cobra button](#)  in the top left corner of the window to backup and restore files, change your password, and set preferences, among other things.



Project View

Double-click the [project](#) in the Cobra Explorer view to open it and view the [control account, work package](#), and resource information.



Spreadsheet Pane

The [Spreadsheet pane](#) displays control accounts, work packages, and resources. Click the plus sign **+** to display the work packages and resources associated with each control account. You can see separate lines for Budget, Actual, Earned, and Forecast. The **Status Date** in the top right corner displays the end of the current period.

When you select a control account or work package, the information in the Tabs and Time-phase panes changes to reflect the data for the selected control account or work package. The Time-phase Detail pane is blank until you select a resource in the Spreadsheet pane.

Right-click a column header to add or remove columns, depending on the data that you wish to view. In addition, you can drag and drop the columns to reorder them.

Spreadsheet Status Date: 01/31/2016

	CA	WP	Resource	Description
	1.01			
	1.01			
	1.01			Labor
	1.01			Labor
	1.01	1	L	Labor
	1.01			WP-2
	1.02			Unit 2
	1.03			Unit 3

Tabs Pane

The [Tabs pane](#) reflects the data for the control account or work package that you select in the Spreadsheet pane. Everything that you see on the General and Codes tabs can be added as a column to the Spreadsheet pane and you can edit the information in either location.

General | Milestones/Steps | Codes | Notes

Status: In-progress Description: WP-1

Dates

Baseline:	Start: 01/31/2016	Finish: 02/28/2018
Actual:	01/29/2016	
Forecast:	01/29/2016	02/28/2018
Early:	01/29/2016	02/28/2020
Late:	01/29/2016	02/28/2020
Pending:	01/31/2016	02/28/2020

Progress Technique

% Complete: [dropdown]

% Completed: 10.00 [spinners]

Time-phase Pane

The [Time-phase pane](#) displays the costs associated with the [resource assignments](#). The red line indicates the end of the current period. You specify the length of the periods when you create your calendars.

Time-phase

Total	01/31/2016	02/28/2016	03/31/2016	04/30/2016	05/31/2016
1,000.00	1,000.00				
16,634.12	604.90	576.06	691.32	604.90	633.65
1,615.84	1,615.84				
15,622.03		561.43	673.76	589.54	617.55

End of current period

Resource costs

Time-phase Detail Pane

When you select a resource in the Spreadsheet pane, the costs associated with that resource display in the [Time-phase Detail pane](#). These cost calculations are set up on the Resources [Calculation tab](#). You can click a cell and edit the information as needed.

Time-phase Detail

Show details

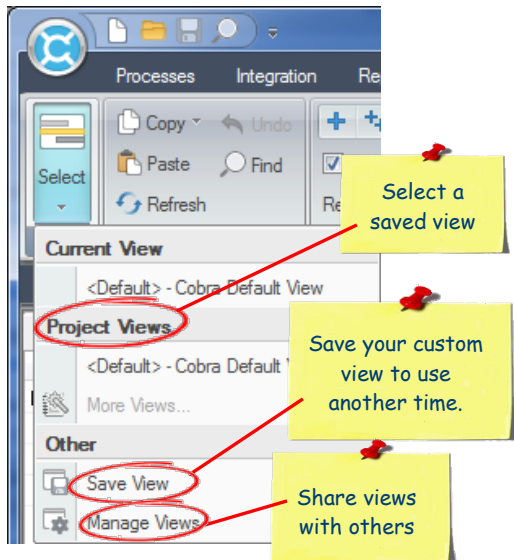
Fix Spread Reconcile Spread...

Result	Units	CUM. TO DATE 01/31/2016	
▶ Percent		100.00	100.00
HOURS	HOURS	52.73	52.73
DIRECT	\$	975.51	975.51
OVERHEAD	\$	146.33	146.33
G&A	\$	112.18	112.18
FTE	FTE	0.31	0.31
Total Currency		1,234.01	1,234.01

Save the View

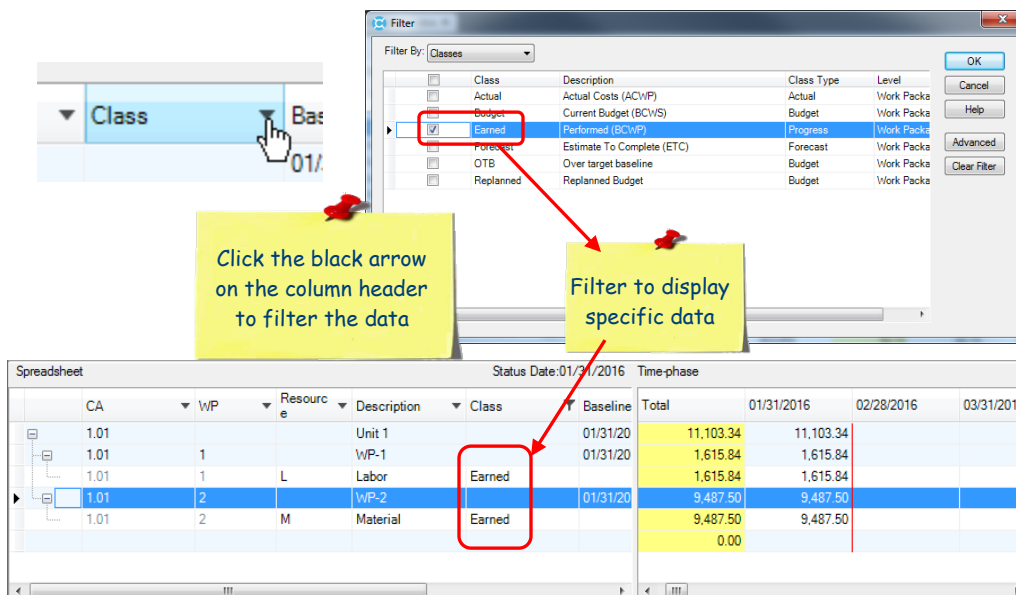
If you customize the view by, for example, adding or reordering columns, you can [save the custom view](#) so that the next time you access Cobra, you have everything set up the way you like it. You can have several different views saved. For example, you may want one that only displays the Forecast costs, and you may want another that displays Budget and Actuals.

Views are stored on your local drive. Use [Manage Views](#) to share views with others.



Filter the View

You can [filter](#) the view to only display certain types of information, for example, Earned Value. When you filter, only the control accounts/work packages that include that type of information display in the grid. To view all information again, use the filter to select all information types.



View Summary Data

The costs display at the resource level in the Time-phase pane. To see cost totals at the control account or work package level, click **Show Summary**. Click to collapse the view to see the cost totals roll up to the control account level. All of the data displayed is summarized. You can use filters to aggregate data in different ways.

Collapse the view

View cost totals at control account / work package level

Spreadsheet						Time-phase			
CA	W/P	Resourc	Description	Class	Total	01/31/2016	02/28/2016	03/31/2016	
1.01			Unit 1		170,852.34	26,669.22	4,261.41	4,487.26	
1.02			Unit 2		25,559.26				
1.03			Unit 3		266,026.39	1,814.71	3,686.91	4,003.71	
					0.00				

Resource costs rolled up to the control account level

View Direct and Indirect Resource Costs

Direct (hours, direct dollars) and indirect (burdens) costs are calculated against the resource. You can choose to view and edit different cost units (Results), for example, **Total Currency**, **Hours**, or **FTE** (Full Time Equivalent), in the Time-phase pane. These are based on calculations that you define on the Resources [Calculations tab](#).

View different cost units

Assign Resources

You can [assign](#) any of the existing [resources](#) to a control account or work package. Click **Resources** on the Cobra Explorer Navigation menu to manage resources.

Assign Resource

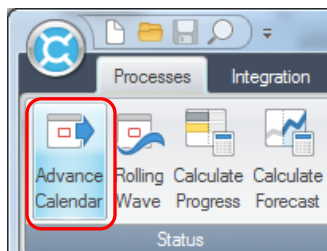
Update Your Project

When you start your project, you enter your initial budget and forecast. At the end of each reporting period there are [several steps](#) that you perform in Cobra:

1. **Step 1:** Start a New Reporting Period
2. **Step 2:** Enter a Start Date
3. **Step 3:** Enter Actuals
4. **Step 4:** Enter Progress
5. **Step 5:** Calculate Forecast

Step 1: Start a New Reporting Period

Click [Advance Calendar](#) on the Processes tab to close out the current period and move the status date (period end date) to the end of the next period. The status date changes to the last day of the next period and the red line in the Time-phase pane moves to the last day of the next period.



The example below shows the sample data before you advance the calendar. After you advance the calendar, the Status Date will change to 02/28/2016 and the red line will move to the end of February.

Cobra Explorer | Project - Essential Cobra

Spreadsheet | Status Date: 01/31/2016 | Time-phase

CA	WP	Resourc	Description	Class	Total	01/31/2016	02/28/2016	03/31/2016	0
1.01			Unit 1		170,852.34	26,669.22	4,261.41	4,487.26	
1.01	1		WP-1		34,864.84	3,454.76	1,128.82	1,354.67	
1.01	2		WP-2		135,987.50	23,214.46	3,132.58	3,132.58	
1.02			Unit 2		25,559.26				
1.03			Unit 3		266,026.39	1,814.71	3,686.91	4,003.78	
					0.00				

End of the current period

Step 2: Enter a Start Date

After the work starts, and before you enter actuals or calculate progress, you must set the status of the work package to in-progress by entering an actual start date that represents when the work began. You do this on the work package [General tab](#) or in the Spreadsheet pane.

The screenshot shows the 'General' tab of a software interface. The 'Status' is 'In-progress' and the 'Description' is 'WP-1'. A yellow sticky note with a red pushpin is placed over the 'Actual start date' field, which contains '01/29/2016' and is circled in red. Other date fields include Baseline (01/31/2016), Forecast (01/29/2016), Early (01/29/2016), Late (01/29/2016), and Pending (01/31/2016). The 'Progress Technique' is set to '% Complete' and the '% Completed' value is 10.00.

Step 3: Enter Actuals

Enter actual costs in the Time-phase pane.

The screenshot shows the 'Cobra Explorer' spreadsheet for 'Project - Essential Cobra'. The status date is 01/31/2016. The spreadsheet has columns for 'Total', '01/31/2016', '02/28/2016', and '03/31/2016'. A yellow sticky note labeled 'Actuals' points to the '02/28/2016' column. The data is as follows:

CA	WP	Resourc	Description	Class	Total	01/31/2016	02/28/2016	03/31/2016
1.01			Unit 1		13,251.51	13,251.51		
1.01	1		WP-1		1,234.01	1,234.01		
1.01	1	L	Labor	Actual	1,234.01	1,234.01		
1.01	2		WP-2		12,017.50	12,017.50		
					0.00			

Step 4: Enter Progress

Update progress for the current period that ends on the status date. For some [progress techniques](#) such as Level of Effort (LOE), you don't need to enter anything since Cobra calculates the progress when you run the [Calculate Progress](#) process. For progress techniques such as **% Complete**, you must enter progress for each work package. You can enter progress on the General tab.

Note: Earned Value is calculated based on the progress technique and value.

General | Milestones/Steps | Codes | Notes

Status: In-progress Description: WP-1

Dates

Baseline:	Start: 01/31/2016	Finish: 02/28/2018
Actual:	Start: 01/29/2016	Finish:
Forecast:	Start: 01/29/2016	Finish: 02/28/2018
Early:	Start: 01/29/2016	Finish: 02/28/2020
Late:	Start: 01/29/2016	Finish: 02/28/2020
Pending:	Start: 01/31/2016	Finish: 02/28/2020

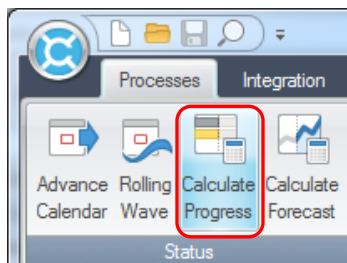
Progress Technique

% Complete

% Completed: 10.00

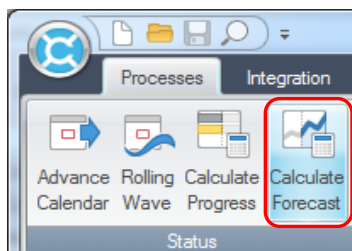
Enter or update the value to reflect progress

After entering progress for all work packages that have progress, run the Calculate Progress process. Cobra calculates and updates all [earned value](#) in the project.



Step 5: Calculate Forecast

When you run the [Calculate Forecast](#) process, Cobra projects the total cost in future periods and spreads that amount across the remaining periods based on the [selected forecast method](#). After you run the calculation, you can manually modify any forecast amounts in the grid as needed.



Example

This example uses the forecast method of retaining the existing estimate at complete.

There are a total of 690.46 hours with 42.73 in actuals and 647.73 in forecast.

Spreadsheet						Status Date:01/31/2016 Time-phase			
CA	WP	Resourc	Description	Class	Total	01/31/2016	02/28/2016	03/31/2016	
1.01			Unit 1		690.46	42.73	23.99	28.73	
1.01	1		WP-1		690.46	42.73	23.99	28.73	
1.01	1	L	Labor	Actual	42.73	42.73			
1.01	1	L	Labor	Forecast	647.73		23.99	28.73	
1.01	2		WP-2		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
1.02			Unit 2		515.99				
1.03			Unit 3		5,242.28		83.70	82.41	

Total hours (actual and forecast)

The actual hours are increased to 52.73 and the Calculate Forecast process is run. Cobra calculates total hours less actuals and respreads the amount across the remaining periods. The total hours remain the same but actuals hours have increased and forecast hours have decreased.

Spreadsheet						Status Date:01/31/2016 Time-phase			
CA	WP	Resourc	Description	Class	Total	01/31/2016	02/28/2016	03/31/2016	
1.01			Unit 1		690.46	52.73	23.62	28.31	
1.01	1		WP-1		690.46	52.73	23.62	28.31	
1.01	1	L	Labor	Actual	52.73	52.73			
1.01	1	L	Labor	Forecast	637.73		23.62	28.31	
1.01	2		WP-2		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
1.02			Unit 2		515.99				
1.03			Unit 3		5,242.28		83.70	82.41	

Actuals increases and forecast decreases

Total hours less actuals spread over remaining periods

After calculating forecasts, you now have all of the data you need in order to determine if you are completing work as planned, staying within budget, and projecting to complete on time.

You can run various reports to analyze data and variances, and to report to internal and external stakeholders.

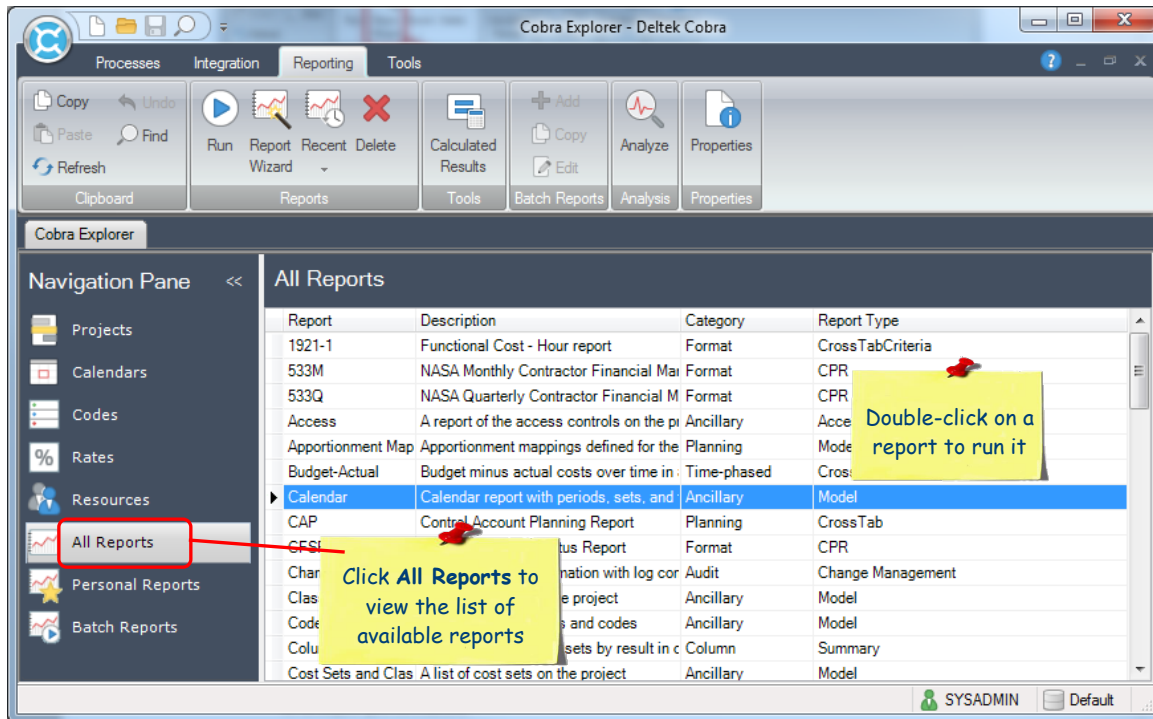
Reports

Cobra features a complete set of standard cost and schedule [reports](#). You can view reports by clicking **All Reports** in the Navigation pane.

To run a report, do one of the following:

- Double-click a report in the All Reports grid.
- Click the [Report Wizard](#) menu option.
- Select a report in the All Reports grid and click the **Run** option.

After the report displays, you can save it as an Excel file.



- [Ancillary reports](#) display information about the [ancillary data](#) (calendar, code, rate, and resource) connected to the project and the related access control.
- [Audit reports](#) display project account information and audit transactions.
- [Graphic reports](#) display project information in a graphical format.
- [Column reports](#) display cost sets and results information in columns.
- [Export reports](#) are unformatted reports that contain the contents of the selected ancillary file. The data is displayed in a flat Excel file that can be manipulated and re-imported if desired through the [Integration Wizard](#).
- Cobra provides a [format reporting](#) utility that retrieves data from Cobra and formats data related to government standard reports.
- [Planning reports](#) display control account and work package information that you can use to analyze performance.
- Reports are categorized as [time-phased](#) when the data is organized by periods from the selected calendar set (such as monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual). The criteria/cost set is displayed by row and the calendar periods by column. Data is plotted at the intersection of both.

Continue Your Adventure

You have had a chance to explore Cobra and set up some basic information; however, that just scratches the surface of what this product can do. Cobra has so much more to offer.

<p>Estimates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Back-in your hours using top-down planning to meet a total monetary amount ▪ Move projects easily along a timeline when priorities change or projects slip ▪ Reprice values quickly using new rates or rate escalation ▪ Define your own calculations to model your company's buildup burden ▪ Define rules using apportionment and add new resources based on need <p>Budgets and Forecasts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organize data using control accounts and work packages ▪ Improve your compliance with the EIA standard for EVMS with flexible formatting of the project hierarchy ▪ Summarize data for reporting purposes ▪ Use time-phased budgets and rate escalation to estimate future cost increases ▪ Use multiple foreign currencies ▪ Load your budget and forecast quickly from integrated products ▪ Maintain unlimited, time-phased forecasts ▪ Use forecasts to run "what-if" rate and resource scenarios <p>Actual Costs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Automatically load actual cost data from accounting systems ▪ Integrate charge numbers from your accounting system for cost variance analysis ▪ Track approved actuals and accruals 	<p>Integration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Integrate directly with Deltek PM Compass, Open Plan, wInsight Analytics, Acumen, Microsoft Project, Microsoft Project Server, Microsoft Excel, and Primavera ▪ Integrate with Deltek Costpoint and other accounting systems ▪ View Cobra data from within the Deltek Open Plan scheduling tool ▪ Import resource, rate, code, and calendar data from Excel or CSV files <p>Change Control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Freeze and retain historical data to see what has changed over time ▪ Simplify change request approvals with reports that show proposed and approved changes ▪ Use a different set of rates for each change in scope ▪ Track changes automatically with an integrated audit function that creates an audit trail <p>Multi-projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with a master project and any number of subprojects as though they were a single entity <p>Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create and edit reports using Cobra's Report Wizard with output directly into Microsoft Excel ▪ Create detailed time-phased reports or high-level multi-project reports ▪ Submit standard monthly reports in different formats and customize reports
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Status/Earned Value	Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Document explanation of variances, impacts, and corrective actions▪ Update status automatically from a schedule▪ Use earned value techniques for accurate earned value calculations▪ Set thresholds to monitor work that is not progressing as planned	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Automate your month-end process▪ Track other types of data such as funding and obligations

See What People Are Saying About Cobra

"...a simple yet robust tool for tracking project financial performance."

"...one of the top options for an earned value cost engine."

[The New Look and Feel of Deltek Cobra 8.0](#)

"...it just keeps on getting better as Deltek have been listening to their customers and creating some other really great enhancements."

"This is an exciting upgrade and has delivered on the promises made..."

"...a really nice piece of work by Deltek has been delivered here and we anticipate the user base will be delighted..."

[What's New in Deltek Cobra 8.1](#)

Cobra Components


When you first set up Cobra, you need to configure the system to reflect some of your basic business related standards such as your calendar, resources, rates, reporting and so on. After they are set up, you can associate these components with each new project you create.

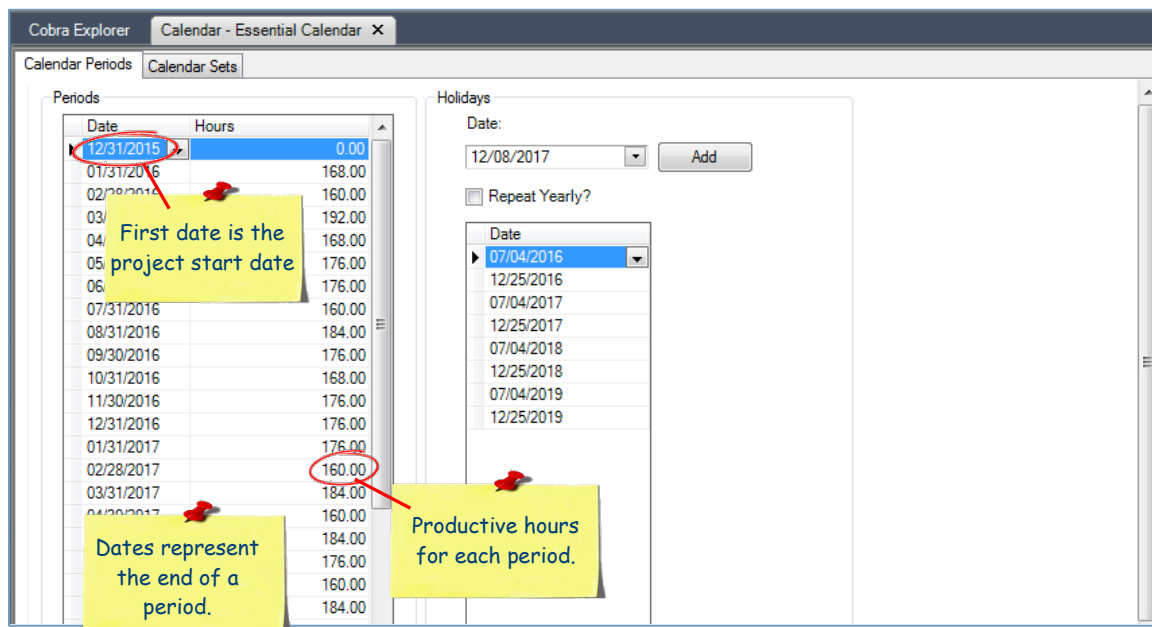
In this section we describe these components in more detail so you can get a sense of how flexible they are and how they affect your project. If you really want to understand the components in detail, access the links that are included in the various component topics.

Calendar

The first step is to create the primary [calendar](#) with calendar periods. The date and time spans determine how budget is spread across reporting periods, how costs are summarized, and how the information is displayed in reports.

The calendar periods can be different lengths as long as they span the entire duration of the project. When you add information to a project, it is stored in the calendar period buckets defined by the calendar. It is best practice to extend your calendar beyond the expected finish date, to account for potential slippage.

You can create a new calendar by clicking  » **New** and selecting **Calendar**. Use the Calendar Edit tab options to generate calendar periods, calculate hours, and edit the calendar properties, among other things.



The next step is to create subsets of the primary calendar, called [calendar sets](#). You use calendar sets to view project information in different ways, such as monthly, quarterly, and yearly.

When you create a calendar set, you indicate the cut-off date(s) that you want Cobra to use for combining and rolling up the information. Cobra calls this date selection a “flag.” The dates that you flag determine how the information is consolidated and viewed on a report.

You can use Fixed flags to define fixed periods or floating flags which move with the calendar as it is advanced to allow rolling windows of time such as “the next 12 months.”

When you run a report, only the flagged dates and their rolled up data display on the report.

Example Showing How Calendar Sets Impact Reporting

In this example, **00 All Calendar Periods** includes a date for the last day of every month and every date has been flagged. **02 Quarterly Calendar** includes the same dates; however, only the last day of every quarter has been flagged.

Cobra Explorer Calendar - Essential Calendar X

Calendar Periods Calendar Sets

Select Calendar Set Calendar Set: 00 Show only flagged dates

Set	Description	Date	Hours	00 Label	00 Flag
00	All Calendar Periods	12/31/2015	0.00	12/31/2015	\$
01	Rolling 12 Month Window	01/31/2016	168.00	01/31/2016	\$
02	Quarterly Calendar	02/28/2016	160.00	02/28/2016	\$
07	Manually Select Reporting Periods When You Ru	03/31/2016	192.00	03/31/2016	\$
18	CUM Through Prior Period, Current Period & At C	04/30/2016	168.00	04/30/2016	\$
19	Required for IPMR Format 3	05/31/2016	176.00	05/31/2016	\$
		06/30/2016	176.00	06/30/2016	\$
		07/31/2016	160.00	07/31/2016	\$
		08/31/2016	184.00	08/31/2016	\$
		09/30/2016	176.00	09/30/2016	\$
		10/31/2016	168.00	10/31/2016	\$
		11/30/2016	176.00	11/30/2016	\$
		12/31/2016	176.00	12/31/2016	\$
		01/31/2017	176.00	01/31/2017	\$
		02/28/2017	160.00	02/28/2017	\$
		03/31/2017	184.00	03/31/2017	\$
		04/30/2017	160.00	04/30/2017	\$
		05/31/2017	184.00	05/31/2017	\$
		06/30/2017	176.00	06/30/2017	\$

All dates flagged

00 All Calendar Periods

Cobra Explorer Calendar - Essential Calendar X

Calendar Periods Calendar Sets

Select Calendar Set Calendar Set: 02 Show only flagged dates

Set	Description	Date	Hours	02 Label	02 Flag
00	All Calendar Periods	12/31/2015	0.00	Start of Project	\$
01	Rolling 12 Month Window	01/31/2016	168.00		
02	Quarterly Calendar	02/28/2016	160.00		
07	Manually Select Reporting Periods When You Ru	03/31/2016	192.00	Q1 2016	\$
18	CUM Through Prior Period, Current Period & At C	04/30/2016	168.00		
19	Required for IPMR Format 3	05/31/2016	176.00		
		06/30/2016	176.00	Q2 2016	\$
		07/31/2016	160.00		
		08/31/2016	184.00		
		09/30/2016	176.00	Q3 2016	\$
		10/31/2016	168.00		
		11/30/2016	176.00		
		12/31/2016	176.00	Q4 2016	\$
		01/31/2017	176.00		
		02/28/2017	160.00		
		03/31/2017	184.00	Q1 2017	\$
		04/30/2017	160.00		

Last day of every quarter flagged

02 Quarterly Calendar

When you run a report using **00 All Calendar Periods**, the report displays by months with costs for every month. When you run a report using **02 Quarterly Calendar**, the report displays by quarters with consolidated costs.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Control Account	Work Package		12/31/2015	01/31/2016	02/28/2016	03/31/2016	04/30/2016
2	1.01 Unit 1							
3			Scheduled	0.00	2,314.36	2,285.52	2,400.78	2,314.36
4			Actuals	0.00	13,251.51	0.00	0.00	0.00
5			Performed	0.00	11,103.34	0.00	0.00	0.00
6			Estimate at c	0.00	13,251.51	1,975.89	2,086.48	2,003.56
17	1.02 Unit 2							
18			Scheduled	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19			Estimate at c	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23	1.03 Unit 3							
24			Scheduled	0.00	1,814.71	1,728.18	2,073.95	1,814.71
25			Estimate at c	0.00	0.00	1,958.73	1,929.83	2,181.97
35	Grand Total							
36			Scheduled	0.00	4,129.07	4,013.71	4,474.73	4,129.07
37			Actuals	0.00	13,251.51	0.00	0.00	0.00
38			Performed	0.00	11,103.34	0.00	0.00	0.00
39			Estimate at c	0.00	13,251.51	3,934.61	4,016.31	4,185.53
40								
41	Currency reported in: Doll							
42								
43	Report Options							
44	Criteria: Control Account, Work Package							
45	Cost Sets: Scheduled, Actuals, Performed, Estimate at complete							
46	Calendar: 00 All Calendar Periods							
47	Filter:							

This report includes all reporting periods

Quarterly report consolidates data for each quarter

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Control Account	Work Package		Start of Project	Q1 2016	Q2 2016
2	1.01 Unit 1					
3			Scheduled	0.00	7,000.66	7,000.58
4			Actuals	0.00	13,251.51	0.00
5			Performed	0.00	11,103.34	0.00
6			Estimate at c	0.00	17,313.88	6,065.85
17	1.02 Unit 2					
18			Scheduled	0.00	0.00	0.00
19			Estimate at c	0.00	0.00	0.00
23	1.03 Unit 3					
24			Scheduled	0.00	5,616.85	5,616.59
25			Estimate at c	0.00	3,888.55	6,236.01
35	Grand Total					
36			Scheduled	0.00	12,617.51	12,617.17
37			Actuals	0.00	13,251.51	0.00
38			Performed	0.00	11,103.34	0.00
39			Estimate at c	0.00	21,202.43	12,301.85
40						
41	Currency reported in: D					
42						
43	Report Options					
44	Criteria: Control Account, Work Package					
45	Cost Sets: Scheduled, Actuals, Performed, Estimate at complete					
46	Calendar: 02 Quarterly Calendar					
47	Filter:					

This report includes quarterly reporting periods

Additional Topics and Procedures

These topics and procedures in the Cobra Help System provide additional information and steps.

Related Topics

- [Calendar Edit tab](#)
- [Calendar File Properties Dialog Box](#)




Related Procedures

- [Create a New Calendar](#)
- [Add Holidays to a Calendar](#)
- [Add Calendar Sets](#)




Codes

[Codes](#) are used to view information in different ways. You can use them to filter, group, and aggregate data for reporting purposes. For example, you might want to know how many contractors you have working in New York, or you might want to see the structural design costs in the Design department.




In the example below, there are three contractors and the company has offices in two locations. You create a **Contractor** code file and a **Location** code file and assign codes as follows:

						
Code File	Contractor	Location	Contractor	Location	Contractor	Location
Assigned Codes	Engineer Full-time Remote	Houston	Engineer Off-site Remote	Los Angeles	Designer Part-time	Los Angeles

You want to know how many contractor **Engineers** you have working for you. The system looks at the codes and reports that there are currently two contractor Engineers.

						
Code File	Contractor	Location	Contractor	Location	Contractor	Location
Assigned Codes	Engineer Full-time Remote	Houston	Engineer Off-site Remote	Los Angeles	Designer Part-time	Los Angeles

You now want to know how many contractor **Engineers** you have working in **Houston**. The system looks at the codes and reports that there is one contractor Engineer working in Houston.

						
Code File	Contractor	Location	Contractor	Location	Contractor	Location
Assigned Codes	Engineer Full-time	Houston	Engineer Off-site	Los Angeles	Designer Part-time	Los Angeles

	Remote		Remote			
--	--------	--	--------	--	--	--

By setting up a coding system and assigning codes to your project, you can display, filter and report project data at a summary level, a detailed level, or any level within the project.

Some additional examples of code files might include a list of managers, a list of charge numbers, or a hierarchical structure such as a work breakdown structure (WBS).

The screenshot shows a window titled 'Cobra Explorer' with a sub-window 'Codes - Essential WBS'. It displays a tree view of codes and their descriptions:

Code	Description
1	Total Scope (Top Level)
1.01	Unit 1
1.01.01	Deliverable11
1.01.02	Deliverable12
1.02	Unit 2
1.02.01	Deliverable 21
1.02.02	Deliverable 22
1.02.03	Facilities.

A yellow callout box with a red pushpin icon contains the text: 'WBS is an example of a hierarchical code structure'.

You can use codes for projects, control accounts, work packages, resource assignments, and ancillary data. After creating a [code file](#) and assigning it, the codes are included in pick lists and accessed during data entry.

When you use the Report Wizard to run a report, you can select the codes that you want the system to use. The report groups and sub-totals the information in the order in which you list the codes.

The screenshot shows the 'Report Wizard' window, specifically the 'Sub-Totals' section. It prompts the user to 'Please select the sub-totals to show on the report.' The interface is divided into two main areas:

- Available Sub-Totals:** A tree view on the left showing various criteria categories:
 - Project Structure
 - Control Account
 - Work Package
 - Resource Assignment
 - Results
 - Key Fields
 - CA
 - WP
 - Resource
 - Codes
 - Resource Element of Cost (highlighted)
 - Control Account.OBS
 - CAM
 - Work Package Manager
- Selected Sub-Totals (Maximum of 4):** A table on the right showing the selected criteria:

Criteria	Level	Show Total	New Page
Control Account	0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Resource Assig	0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Resource Elemé	0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Navigation buttons include '>', '<', '<<', 'Up', and 'Down'. A yellow callout box with a red pushpin icon is placed over the 'Selected Sub-Totals' table, containing the text: 'The report groups' information in the order listed here'.

In the example below, the report lists the information by control account and then by resource assignment:

		B	C	D	Current Period	
Control Account Resource Assignment		Budget	Progress	Actuals	SV	CV
1.01	Unit 1	2,314	11,103	13,252	8,789	-2,148
1	L Labor	605	1,616	1,234	1,011	382
2	M Material	1,709	9,488	12,018	7,778	-2,530
1.02	Unit 2	0	0	0	0	0
1.03	Unit 3	1,815	0	0	-1,815	0
PMB		4,129	11,103	13,252	6,974	-2,148
Management Reserve						
TAB						
Currency reported in: Dollars						
Report Options						
Criteria: Control Account, Resource Assignment						
Calendar: 18 CUM Through Prior Period, Current Period & At Complete						
Cost Sets: Scheduled, Performed, Actuals, Estimate at complete, ,						
Filter:						

When you run a report using a hierarchical code such as the WBS, you can report at multiple levels.

Code	Description
1	Total Scope (Top Level)
1.01	Unit 1
1.01.01	Deliverable11
1.01.02	Deliverable12
1.02	Unit 2
1.02.01	Deliverable 21
1.02.02	Deliverable 22
1.02.03	Facilities.
1.03	Peculiar support equipment.
1.03.01	Organizational/intermediate.
1.03.02	Depot.

Report at multiple levels. For example, first at the unit level and then the deliverable level

Example of a Report with Multiple Levels

CA (1)	CA (2)	HOURS Scheduled
1 Total Scope (Top Level)		6,449
	1.01 Unit 1	690
	1.02 Unit 2	516
	1.03 Peculiar support equipment.	5,242
Grand Total		6,449
Currency reported in: Dollars		

Additional Topics and Procedures

These topics and procedures in the Cobra Help System provide additional information and steps.

Related Topics

- [Code File Property Dialog Box](#)
- [Code Assignments Tab of the Project Properties Dialog Box](#)
- [Variance Thresholds](#)
- [Report Wizard](#)

Related Procedures

- [Create a New Code File](#)
- [Assign Codes to a Project](#)
- [Enable a User to Access a Code File](#)

Rates

[Rates](#) are used in resource calculations to define how costs are calculated. Since rates may change over time, you create a [rate set](#) which is a list of rates and the date each one goes into effect. The rates defined in a rate set can represent direct unburdened hourly rates, overhead rates, currency exchange rates, or any other type of multiplier whose value can be predicted over time.

Note: Rates are always defined before resources because you need to select a rate when you create the resource.

Rate Set	Description	Date	Value
FTE	Full time equivalent	01/01/2016	0.005952
GANDA	General & Admin	02/01/2016	0.006250
LABOR	Hourly rate for labor	02/29/2016	0.005208
OVERHEAD	Overhead	04/01/2016	0.005952
		05/01/2016	0.005682
		06/01/2016	0.005682
		07/01/2016	0.006250
		08/01/2016	0.005435
		09/01/2016	0.005682
		10/01/2016	0.005952
		11/01/2016	0.005682
		12/01/2016	0.005682
		01/01/2017	0.005682
		02/01/2017	0.006250
		03/01/2017	0.005435

Rate Set: FTE
Description: Full time equivalent

Rates Example

Assume that you want to define two types of rates for a project: hourly direct or unburdened rates, and overhead rates. Assuming that the project starts sometime after January 1, 2016, the following rate sets might apply:

Rate File			
Rate Set: TECH		Rate Set: OVERHEAD	
Date	Rate	Date	Rate
01/01/2016	15.00	01/01/2016	0.1500
04/01/2016	15.25		
07/01/2016	15.50		
10/01/2016	15.75		
01/01/2017	16.00		
04/01/2017	16.25		
07/01/2017	16.50		
10/01/2017	16.75		
01/01/2018	17.00		

Notice that the OVERHEAD rate set consists of a single rate that does not change the life of the project. The TECH labor rate, however, changes on a quarterly basis, with the records in the rate set indicating each date a new rate becomes effective.

Rate File

A collection of rate sets is called a [rate file](#). Different rate files typically include the same rate sets but with different rates. You can use multiple rate files in a project.

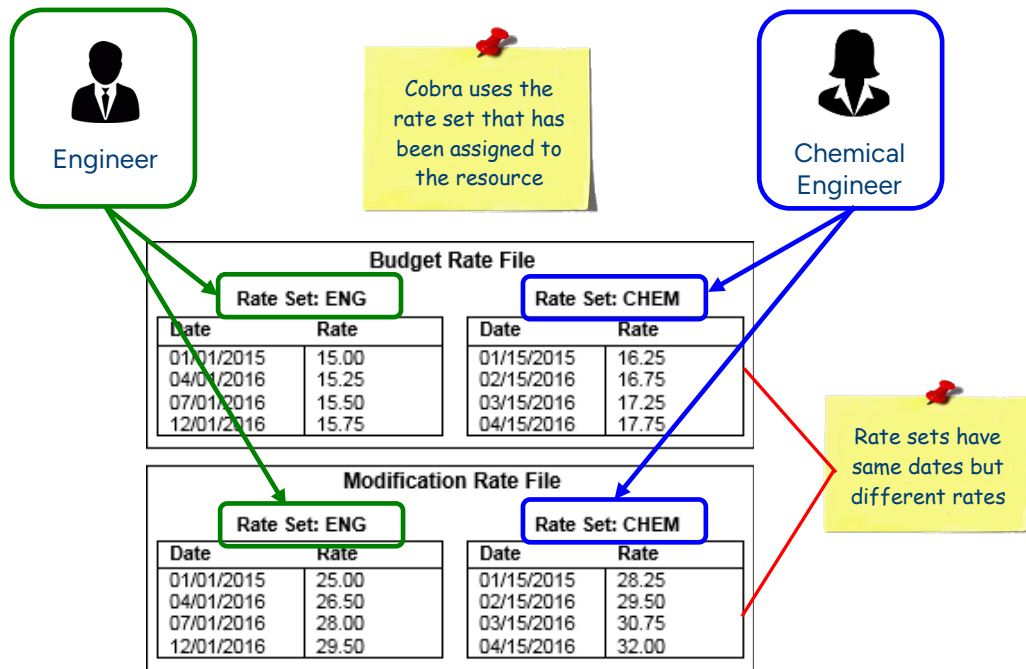
Rate File Example

You create two rate files for your project: a Budget rate file and a Modification rate file. The Modification rates are used to calculate costs for new scope.

Both rate files contain two rate sets: **ENG** and **CHEM**. While the **ENG** rate sets in both files share the same dates, their rates differ, as do the corresponding **CHEM** rate sets.

When you create the resources, you specify that the Engineering resource should use the **ENG** rate set and the Chemical Engineer should use the **CHEM** rate set.

When Cobra needs to perform budget calculations for the Engineer, the system looks for the **ENG** rate set in the Budget Rate File. When Cobra needs to perform calculations for new scope, the system looks for the **ENG** rate set in the Modification Rate File. The same applies for the Chemical Engineer.



Additional Topics and Procedures

These topics and procedures in the Cobra Help System provide additional information and steps.

Related Topics


- [Rate Sets](#)
- [Rate File Properties dialog box](#)

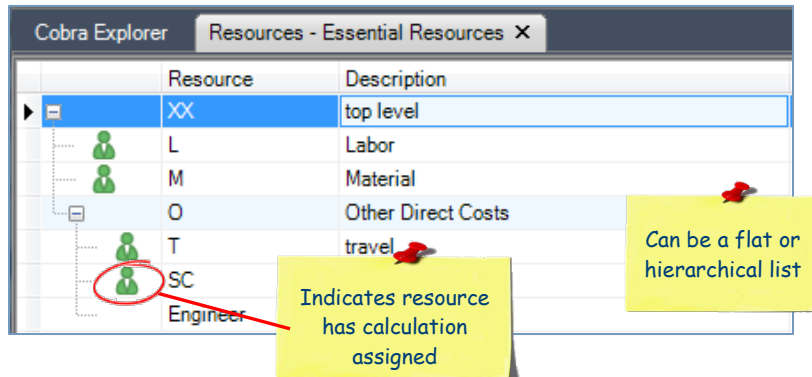
Related Procedures

- [Add a Rate to an Existing Rate Set](#)

Resources

[Resources](#) are the people (labor), material, and other related costs such as travel, subcontractors, and so on, that are assigned to work and in turn produce the costs associated with the project scope.

The list of resources can be a flat list or it can be hierarchical to roll up for reporting purposes. The green person icon  next to each resource indicates where resource calculations occur.

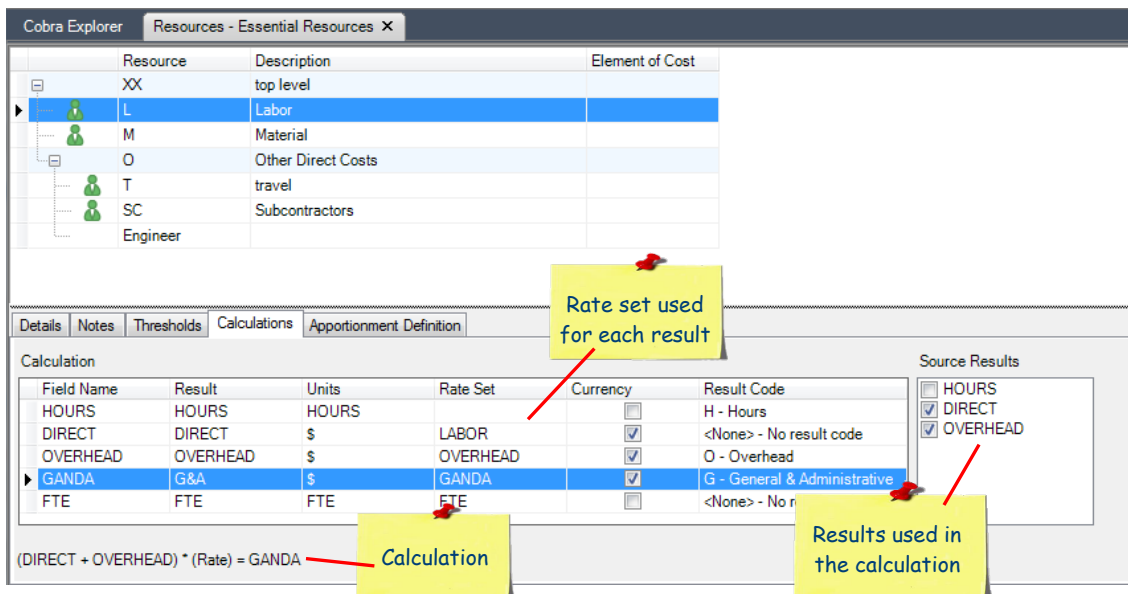


Most often, the list of resources does not include names. For example, it is more typical to create a resource titled **Engineer** than a resource titled **John** (who is an Engineer). This makes it easier to maintain the project without having to keep up with personnel changes.

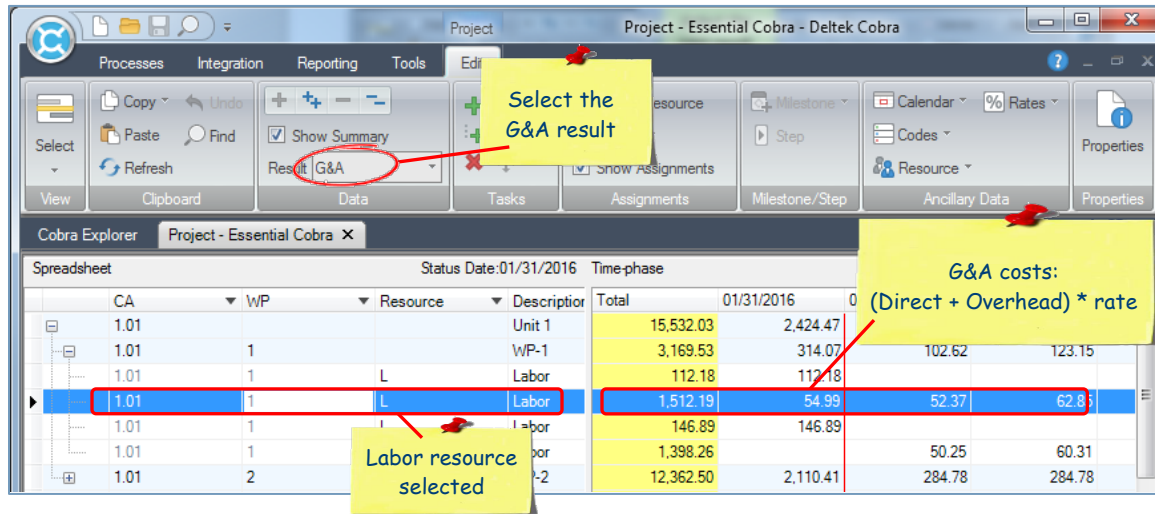
Defining Costs for Resources

For each resource that you want to assign to your project, you define how the costs are calculated for that resource, the rate set that should be used, and the way you want the costs to be displayed. Cobra calls the different types of calculations “results” because the data that you see in the Time-phase panes is the result of a calculation.

For example, in the screenshot below, the G&A (General & Admin) cost for the selected Labor resource is calculated by summing DIRECT + OVERHEAD and multiplying the result by the rate in the GANDA (General and Admin) rate set for that resource.



In the Project view, when you select to view the G&A result on the Edit tab Data menu, the costs that you see in the Time-phase grid are the result of the calculation that you see defined on the Resource [Calculation tab](#).



Additional Topics and Procedures

These topics and procedures in the Cobra Help System provide additional information and steps.

Related Topics

- [Resource Components](#)

Related Procedures

- [Create a New Resource File](#)
- [Add a Resource to a Resource File](#)
- [Add Calculations to a Resource](#)
- [Copy Calculations from Another Resource](#)

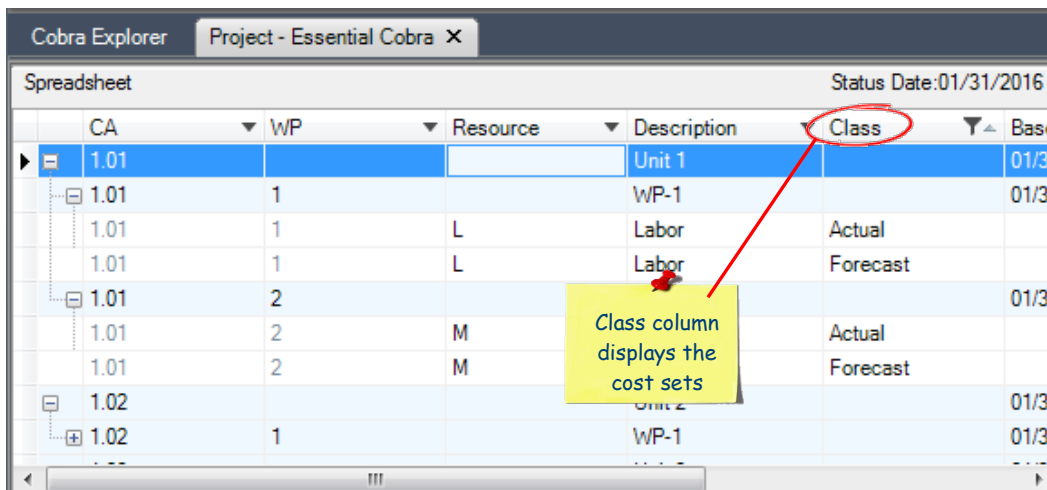
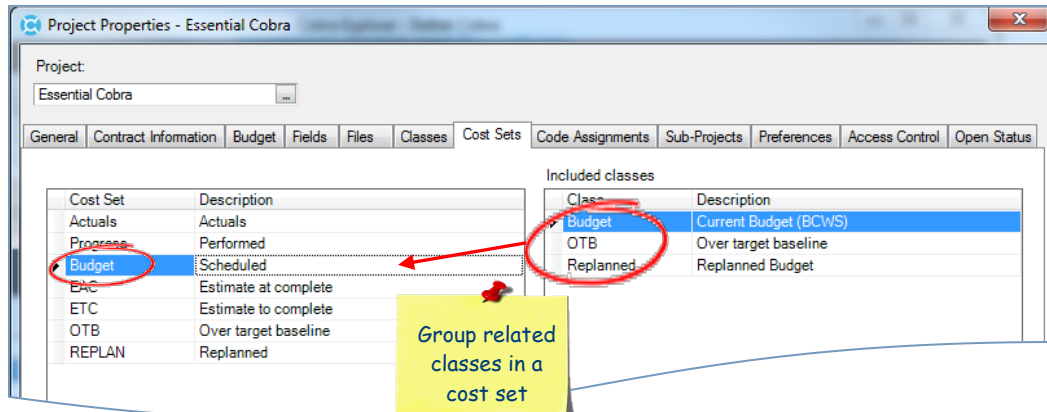
Classes and Cost Sets

There are four types of [cost sets](#) in Cobra that you use to define different types of costs:

- Budgets
- Earned value
- Actuals
- Forecasts

For budgets, actuals, and forecasts, you can define different cost [classes](#) to group related costs together for reporting. For example, you can distinguish between different funding sources when budgeting, or distinguish between accounting, invoiced, or incurred actual costs.

Cobra also allows you to create [custom](#) budget, forecast, and actual cost classes for special-purpose cost tracking. Some examples might include items such as funding profiles, alternative forecasts, and budgets.



Additional Topics and Procedures

These topics and procedures in the Cobra Help System provide additional information and steps.

Related Topics

- [Classes and Cost Sets](#)
- [Class Overview](#)
- [Custom Cost Classes](#)

Related Procedures

- [Create a New Class](#)
- [Create a New Cost Set](#)

Appendix A: Before You Explore Cobra

Before you start exploring Cobra, you need to install a database platform, create a Cobra database, and install Cobra.

Attention: To see the complete installation steps, refer to the *Deltek Cobra Installation Guide*.

Step 1: Install a Database Platform

Install Microsoft SQL Server or Oracle on your machine. You may have to ask your IT department to perform the installation.

Attention: For version and other related information, see “System Requirements” in the *Deltek Cobra Installation Guide*.

Step 2: Create a Cobra Database

On your SQL Server / Oracle platform, create a Cobra database called **DeltekCobra** to store the Cobra data. Keep the following information available because you will be asked for it during the Cobra installation:

- The name of the database server.
- A user ID and password (with rights to create tables) for the database.
- The database name: DeltekCobra.

Step 3: Install .NET Framework

Install .NET Framework on your machine. You may have to ask your IT department to perform the installation.

Attention: For version and other related information, see “System Requirements” in the *Deltek Cobra Installation Guide*.

Step 4: Install Cobra

Before you begin your Cobra installation, confirm that you have the following.

- Admin rights on your machine so that you can install Cobra. If you do not have these, you may need to ask your IT department to install Cobra for you.
- Deltek support center username and password for downloading the Cobra installation file.
- Cobra serial number and license number.
- SQL Server users:
 - The name of the SQL Server is hosting the **DeltekCobra** database. If SQL Server / Express was installed as an instance, you will need both the server name and the instance name.

- SQL Server authentication login details to connect to the server. You do not need these if you use Windows NT authentication.
- Oracle users:
- Oracle Service Name/SID.
- Oracle username and password to access the **DeltekCobra** database.

Download the Cobra Installer File

Download the **DeltekCobra86.exe** installation file from the Deltek Support site. Double-click the file to launch the Cobra Installation Wizard.

To access DSM from within the Deltek Support Center:

1. In your Web browser, go to <https://deltek.custhelp.com>.
2. Enter your Deltek Support Center **Username** and **Password**, and click **Login**.
3. When the Deltek Support Center page displays, click **Product Downloads**.
4. On the Deltek Software Manager screen, click **Launch Deltek Software Manager**.
5. Click **Settings** at the top right of the dialog box to use the Settings dialog box to specify the folder where you want to download Deltek products, and click **OK**.

Note: When you log on for the first time, DSM asks you to select a default folder where Deltek products are to be downloaded.

You can change this folder anytime in the Settings dialog box.

6. In the left pane, expand the Deltek product that you want to download, if it is not already expanded.
7. Select the **Complete** product type.
8. In the table, select the checkbox next to **Deltek Cobra 8.7**.

The right pane displays a message stating that Cobra has been added to the download queue.

Note: To view the items in the download queue, click View Download Queue at the bottom of the left pane.

9. Click **Download** at the bottom of the left pane to download the product to the folder that you selected.

Install Cobra

Double-click the **DeltekCobra87.exe** file that you downloaded from DSM to start the Installation Wizard and follow the steps below.

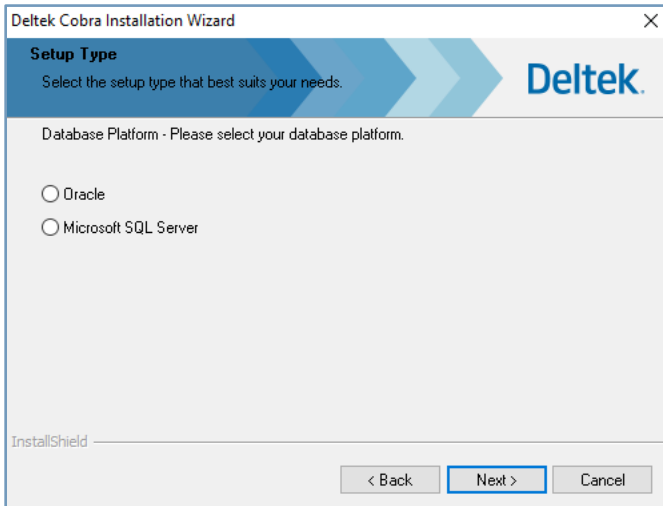
1. On the Welcome screen, click **Next**.
2. Enter your user name, your company name, and the serial number that came with the software and click **Next**.

The screenshot shows the 'Customer Information' step of the Deltek Cobra Installation Wizard. The window title is 'Deltek Cobra Installation Wizard'. The header includes the Deltek logo and the text 'Please enter your information.' Below this, there is a prompt: 'Please enter your name, the name of the company for which you work and the product serial number.' There are three text input fields: 'User Name' (containing 'Your User Name'), 'Company Name' (containing 'Your Company Name'), and 'Serial Number' (containing 'Your Serial Number'). At the bottom, there is an 'InstallShield' logo and three buttons: '< Back', 'Next >', and 'Cancel'.

3. Enter the license number and click **Next**.
4. Select **Stand-Alone**. If needed, click **Browse** to specify a directory where the Cobra files will be installed. Click **Next**.

The screenshot shows the 'Setup Type' step of the Deltek Cobra Installation Wizard. The window title is 'Deltek Cobra Installation Wizard'. The header includes the Deltek logo and the text 'Select the setup type that best suits your needs.' Below this, there is a prompt: 'Click the type of setup you prefer.' There are three radio button options: 'Server - Deployment' (with description: 'This is the deployment server for client/server deployments.'), 'Server - n-Tier' (with description: 'This is the server installation for an n-tier deployment. The workstation installation will be in the Workstation subdirectory and should be run from the UNC path on each workstation.'), and 'Stand-Alone' (with description: 'This is a stand-alone installation.' and selected with a radio button). Below the options is a 'Destination Folder' field containing 'C:\Program Files (x86)\Deltek\Cobra' and a 'Browse...' button. At the bottom, there is an 'InstallShield' logo and three buttons: '< Back', 'Next >', and 'Cancel'.

5. Select **Oracle** or **SQL Server** depending on the software that you are using.



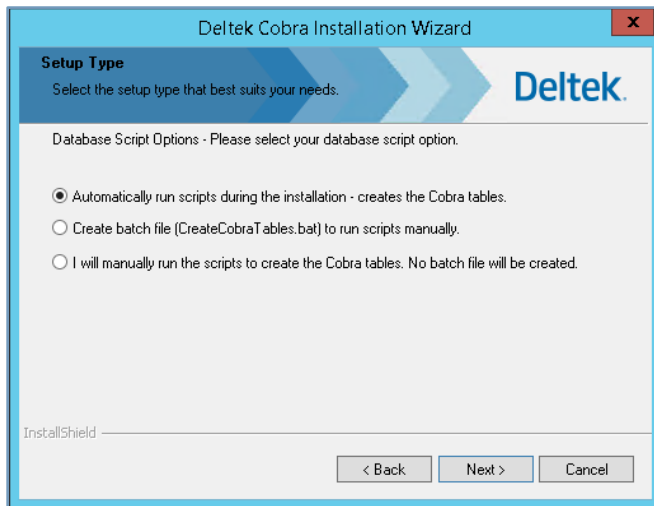
- **For SQL Server Users:** Select the connection type (Windows authentication or SQL Server authentication) that you want to use to connect to the database and enter the relevant information.

In the **Name of database catalog** field, enter the name of the database that you created, for example, DeltekCobra.

Attention: For more information, see [Step 2: Create a Cobra Database](#).

Click **Next**.

- **For Oracle Users:** Enter the Service name/SID, Username, and Password and click Next.
If the installer is unable to locate the server, request confirmation from the database administrator that a connection has been configured in Oracle Network Manager.
If you see an error about an invalid username or password, ask the person who set up the database to confirm the information.
6. Select **Automatically run scripts during the installation – creates the Cobra tables** to automatically create the Cobra database tables during the installation process.



When your scripts are current, this screen does not display. Instead, a message is displayed indicating that your scripts are up to date.

A message is displayed indicating you can add more data sources later using Data Tool and Cobra Database Upgrade Wizard in **Start » All Programs » Deltek Cobra 8.7 » Administration**.

7. Click **Next** to begin the installation. A progress bar displays while Cobra is being installed.
8. Click **Finish** to close the installation wizard.

Glossary

This table defines commonly used terms in Cobra to help users understand key concepts and navigate the application more effectively.

Term	Definition
Actuals	The total direct and indirect cost for the work performed for a given period. You can also refer to Actuals as Actual Cost of Work Performed, or ACWP.
Baseline Dates	The start and finish for the baseline or budget.
Budget	The total cumulative to date budget for the project.
Burden	General, unavoidable overhead costs that cannot be assigned to direct project tasks. For example, employee benefits, facility costs.
Calendar Set	Calendar sets are subsets of a primary calendar. You can use them to view project information in different ways, such as monthly, quarterly, and yearly.
Class (Cost Class)	Classes are a way to segregate types of costs.
Code File	A folder that contains codes.
Codes	Codes are used to filter, group, and aggregate data for reporting purposes.
Control Account	A summary task that is made up of many work packages.
Cost Set	A cost set is a group of classes that you use for reporting.
EAC	Estimate at completion is a forecast of the projects final cost.
EOC	Use Elements of Costs to classify costs for reporting purposes.
ETC (Estimate to Complete)	Estimate to Complete. This is the best estimate that you have of the costs that will be incurred in completing the project.
Earned Value	The sum of the budgets for completed work packages and completed portions of open work packages, plus the applicable portion of the budgets for level of effort and apportioned effort.
Flag	When you create a calendar set, you indicate the cut-off date(s) that you want Cobra to use for combining and rolling up the information. Cobra calls this date selection a "flag."

Term	Definition
Forecast	Estimate at Completion. Actual direct costs, plus indirect costs allocable to the contract, plus the estimate of cost (direct and indirect) for authorized work remaining.
GANDA	GANDA or G&A are General and Administrative expenses. These are costs incurred for the administration of the company.
LOE (Level of Effort)	Level of Effort generally refers to work, such as administrative labor, not easily associated with specific cost objectives.
Rate Set	A list of dates and rates that specifies the applicable rate on any given date.
Status Date	The last day of the current period.
Work Package	A group of related cost tasks.

Appendix A: If You Need Assistance

If you need assistance installing, implementing, or using Cobra, Deltek makes a wealth of information and expertise readily available to you.

Customer Services

Deltek has always maintained close relationships with client firms, helping with their problems, listening to their needs, and getting to know their individual business environments. A full range of customer services has grown out of this close contact, including the following:

- Extensive self-support options through the Deltek Support Center
- Phone and email support from Deltek Support Services analysts
- Technical services
- Consulting services
- Custom programming
- Classroom, on-site, and Web-based training

Attention: Find out more about these and other services from the Deltek Support Center.

Deltek Support Center

The Deltek Support Center is a support Web site for Deltek customers who purchase an Ongoing Support Plan (OSP).

The following are some of the many options that the Deltek Support Center provides:

- Search for product documentation, such as release notes, install guides, technical information, online help topics, and white papers
- Ask questions, exchange ideas, and share knowledge with other Deltek customers through the Deltek Support Center Community
- Access Cloud-specific documents and forums
- Download the latest versions of your Deltek products
- Search Deltek's knowledge base
- Submit a support case and check on its progress
- Transfer requested files to a Deltek Support Services analyst
- Subscribe to Deltek communications about your products and services
- Receive alerts of new Deltek releases and hot fixes
- Initiate a Chat to submit a question to a Deltek Support Services analyst online

Attention: For more information regarding Deltek Support Center, refer to the online help available from the Web site.

Access Deltek Support Center

To access the Deltek Support Center:

1. Go to <https://deltek.custhelp.com>.
2. Enter your Deltek Support Center **Username** and **Password**.
3. Click **Login**.

Note: If you forget your username or password, you can click the **Need Help?** button on the login screen for help.