



Advanced
Decision
Support
Software
& Services

EC Resource Aligner™

Expert Choice, the leading decision support software and services company, introduces EC Resource Aligner. EC Resource Aligner revolutionizes how organizations manage their resources by providing them with the capability to manage their people and projects like a financial portfolio.

What does this mean? Strategically, it means dramatically increasing return on investment and improving competitiveness. Tactically, it means

selecting the optimal project mix to maximize the collective benefit, while balancing other factors such as risk, budget or staffing constraints and political considerations.

Most organizations do not have sufficient resources to meet all of their obligations and selecting which projects to fund isn't as simple as ranking projects and funding them "top-down" until resources are depleted. Organizations need to balance the benefits that projects provide with their respective constraints and they need to do it in a meaningful way. They need ALIGNMENT.

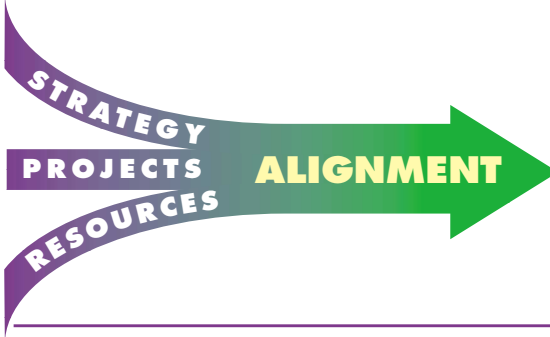
By combining the EC Resource Aligner with its 2000 2nd Edition for Groups product, EC gives organizations the power to prioritize and optimize their project portfolios in an easy, accurate and defensible way. Through a dynamic link between the two products users can instantly and seamlessly incorporate the project benefit scores that they derived using EC's Group product into the Resource Aligner's optimization engine. The following screen captures show some of the key functionality in the Resource Aligner.

Value

- Better, Faster, more Justifiable Decisions
- Organizational and Strategic Alignment
- Structured Decision-Making Approach
- Improved Bottom Line

Applications

- Resource Allocation
- IT Portfolio Management
- Performance Measurement
- Vendor Selection
- Strategic Planning
- Project/Risk Management
- HR Management



Budget Constraint
Budget Level: 80000
Funded Cost: 41,190

Actual Funded Amount
Funded projects based on constraints (indicated by yellow shading)

Custom Constraints - Types and numbers of staff required to complete project
Software Engineer, Hardware Engineer, Test Engineer

Benefit scores derived in EC's Group product

AID	Alternative	Funded	Benefit	Costs	Partial	Must	Must Not	Software Engineer	Hardware Engineer	Test Engineer
A1	Thin Client Transformation Project	YES	674	18,900				2.0	2.0	2.0
A1	Plumtree Corporate Portal Enterprise Solution	YES	527	1,298				5.0	2.0	3.0
A7	Internet Lock Down Security and Legal Enforcement	NO	407	3,000				2.0	5.0	2.0
A8	PeopleSoft Financials System Upgrade	NO	245	4,500				5.0	1.0	2.0
A2	EMC SAN/NAS/SRDF Package	NO	268	5,900				2.0	4.0	2.0
A3	IP Telephony Deployments	NO	244	3,499				1.0	3.0	3.0
A4	Enterprise Sales Force Pocket PC Deployment	YES	234	1,000				2.0	3.0	1.0
A9	Terra Database Consolidation and Migration	NO	167	12,200				2.0	5.0	5.0
A5	AS-400 Replacements	YES	140	20,000				0.0	3.0	2.0
A3	WiFi Global Ultra Secure Wireless Solution	NO	109	2,100				1.0	2.0	1.0

Increasing Budgets shows your optimal project portfolios for various budget increments.

Alternatives/Budget	18,200	21,352	24,504	27,656	30,808
Benefit %	16.3%	43.5%	57.3%	66.2%	71.0%
Cost	18,200	20,498	23,498	26,999	

Why spend \$16M more (or 22% of your budget) when you are only receiving 6% more benefit?

With \$3M (or 4%) more budget, we can generate 17% more benefit. Give us the funds!

The EC Resource Aligner product replaces our first generation Resource Allocation Module and includes the following features:

Feature	Description	Benefit
Advanced Optimization Engine	The advanced optimization engine selects the optimal combination of alternatives that maximizes the attainment of objectives while not exceeding specified budgetary and other constraints.	Enables you to optimally align your resources in seconds, given complex constraints, for millions of potential combinations. EC's powerful optimization is accurate and fast, decreasing optimization time from potentially hours to seconds.
Custom Constraints	Allows you to add constraints (other than costs) to your model. Such constraints include types and number of staff required to complete a project.	Provides ultimate flexibility and control to optimize based on any type of constraint that's unique to your organization.
Risk	Enables you to easily factor risk into your optimization by discounting a project's benefit by its probability of success.	Arrive at a better balanced portfolio of projects by including real life factors into your consideration set.
Dependencies	Provides a simple way to account for the dependencies that exist between projects. These dependencies include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Depends On: project A isn't funded unless project B is funded ■ Mutually Dependant: both project A and B must be funded or neither is funded ■ Mutually Exclusive: funding project A precludes funding project B 	Better manage the complexity that is inherent in selecting the optimal set of projects by handling project relationships in a simple way.
Musts and Must Not Fund	Force fund or un fund a project with the click of button.	Accommodates political considerations that are a part of all organizational decision making. More importantly, helps you understand and quantify the trade-off when making political trade-offs.
Groups	Associate multiple projects together in a group and elect to fund projects within a group based on the following: The number of projects selected from the group has to be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Less than or equal to one ■ Equal to one ■ At least one 	Improves control and enables for example you to allow a division to nominate multiple projects for funding, but select one of the projects for inclusion in the final portfolio.
Partial Funding	Select projects that are eligible for partial funding (project can still deliver benefit even if it doesn't receive full funding) and the Resource Aligner will select the optimal project to receive the residual resources.	Maximize your benefit by allocating ALL available resources.
Funding Pools	Enables you to optimize project funding across multiple funding or resource pools. Set a funding limit for each pool and the Resource Aligner will optimally pull funds from across the funding pools for each project.	Effectively optimize across multiple funding sources ("colors of money"). For example, there might be a corporate budget, technology budget and marketing budget from which projects can be funded. Pull the optimal amount or resources from each pool while maximizing benefit while keeping within set constraints.
Increasing Budgets	Provides an efficient frontier curve and optimal project portfolios for various budget levels.	Quickly identify optimal funding levels and rationalize budget increases or decreases based on meaningful and defensible data.
Relevant Constraints	Shows which constraint is "binding" or relevant.	Saves time and increases control by showing you the critical path to your decisions.
Flexible Report Generator	Enables multiple, printable outputs to reflect your optimization model.	Provides you with the tools you need to make your case and to share your results with your teams.

System Requirements:

- 32 MB RAM, 40 MB HD, Pentium 100 Mhz (minimum) ■ 64 MB RAM, 60 MB HD, PIII 600 Mhz (recommended)
- Windows 95/98/Me/2000, Windows NT 4.0 and Windows XP
- EC Resource Aligner is available as an add-on to the EC 2000 2nd Edition for Groups product.