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Automated Cost Estimating Integrated Tools

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Tip of the Month – Which ACE function to use?

Sometimes it can be hard to figure out which ACE function to use. For example, say you want to model a cost that occurs every 5 years. Is there an ACE function that does this? In fact, there are two. This month's tip compares and contrasts the OpCycle function and the FYRepeat function. Both are used to repeat a value or stream of values some number of times. The following table describes each function.

OpCycle(Value, StartYear, CycleYears [, Multiplier, MaxCycles])
FYRepeat(@Schedule, NumTimes, RepeatSize [, FY])

Function	OpCycle	FYRepeat
Description	Calculates a schedule where a value is repeated every x years for a specified number of cycles	Repeats a schedule every x years a specified number of times
Parameters	Value – Single value or C-phased variable	@var – Row where time-phased schedule is input or calculated
	StartYear – First Year to repeat value	NumTimes – Number of times to repeat the schedule
	CycleYears – Number of years between value	RepeatSize – Number of years before beginning to repeat the schedule again
	Multiplier – (optional) – Increase the value by some percentage each cycle	FY – (optional) – Retrieves a specific year of the schedule
	MaxCycles – (optional) – Repeat the value a specific number of times	
Phasing	F method	F method

Example *- Inputs:*

OpCycle vs FY...g (BY2010$K)

	WBS/CES Description	Unique ID	Equation / Throughput	Phasing Method	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
1	*Estimate	*Estimate									
2	Cycle value, starting in 2012, every 2 yrs, incr by 10%		OpCycle(Val, 2012, 2, 1.10)	F							
3	Repeat sch, 2 times, every 5 yrs		FYRepeat(@Sch, 2, 4)	F							
4											
5	*INPUT VARIABLES	*IN_VAR									
6	Single Value	Val	5	C							
7	Value Stream	Sch	[Input Throughput]	IS	1	2	4				

Results:

OpCycle vs FYRe...ing (BY2010$K) | OpCycle vs FYR...int Estimate)

	Cost Element	Total	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
1	*Estimate								
2	Cycle value, starting in 2012, every 2 yrs, incr by 10%	16.55			5.00		5.50		6.05
3	Repeat sch, 2 times, every 5 yrs	14.00	1.00	2.00	4.00		1.00	2.00	4.00
4									
5	*INPUT VARIABLES								
6	Single Value	5.00							
7	Value Stream	7.00	1.00	2.00	4.00				

When using either of these functions, it's a good practice to enter an ending year in the Finish Date column to ensure that the cycle is not repeated past the end of the program.

So, what's the bottom line? If you want to repeat a single value, use OpCycle. If you want to repeat a stream of values, use FYRepeat.

2011 ACEIT User Workshop

The 2011 ACEIT User Workshop marks the workshop's 5th anniversary and the 25th Anniversary of ACEIT. We are very excited about the abstracts that were submitted in response to our 'Call for Papers'. The 2011 ACEIT User Workshop will have presenters from many different areas of the Cost Community, including a keynote address by Joe Dean, AFCAA Operating Location Chief, Hanscom AFB.

Here are this year's tracks and a sample presentation from each:

- **Specific ACEIT Capabilities** – "Implementing Non-OSD Inflation indices using ACE and the ACEIT Librarian"
- **Real-World Applications** – "Finding the Optimal Budget Profile given a Risk Adjusted Phased Estimate"
- **Uncertainty Analysis** – "Using ACEIT Technology to Conduct Schedule Risk Analysis"
- **Modeling Techniques** – "Strategies for Developing a Drill-Friendly Cost Model"

Save $100 off the registration fee. Don't miss the Early Bird Registration deadline 17 December 2010. **Register Today!**

View the 2011 ACEIT User Workshop Agenda
View a complete list of Abstracts for this year's Workshop
Download the 2011 ACEIT User Workshop Flyer

Course Highlights - New OnSite Course Offering

Cost Risk and Uncertainty Analysis Using Crystal Ball

For those who do not have access to ACEIT for uncertainty analysis, or must audit uncertainty analysis performed in Excel/Crystal Ball, we have developed a 3-day course to guide you on how to develop a risk-adjusted estimate as described in the AFCAA 2007 Cost Risk and Uncertainty Handbook and the 2009 U.S. GAO Cost Estimating and Assessment Guide using Crystal Ball. The course steps you through how to manually develop an uncertainty model (apply uncertainty, view results, account for inflation, apply correlation, risk allocation, create reports, etc.) and to build many of the core processes that are automated in ACE. Students build a "Crystal Ball Best Practices" list throughout the course to help avoid mistakes. For details and a modules listing, see the course descriptions on the ACEIT website or contact ACEIT Training for more information.

For ACEIT users, our 2-day Risk 102 class covers more ground in less time by taking advantage of ACEIT's automated approach to uncertainty analysis.

ACEIT Training Schedule

	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
ACEIT 101: Introduction to ACE, CO$TAT and POST	14-17 WDC	11-14 Burlington, MA 11-14 Nassua Bay, TX	15-18 WDC	
ACEIT 101a: Refresher - Reviewing and Updating ACE Models				10-11 WDC
ACEIT 201: Next Steps in ACE, CO$TAT, and POST				22-25 WDC
ACEIT User Workshop		31-2 Parker's Doubletree Resort		

On-Site and Mechanics Training are available, contact ACEIT Training for more information.

ACEIT Certification/Compliance Documentation

To view these documents, visit the Compliance Documentation page on aceit.com.