Read a .xer before you send it

Your Primavera P6 file is plain text. Here is what travels with it, and how to stop it.

Before you email a programme to anyone, know what you are actually sending. A .xer carries far more than dates and logic, and most of it you never meant to share.

1. What a .xer actually carries

A Primavera P6 .xer is a plain-text export. Open it in a text editor and it is all readable: your resource and cost rates, notebook notes and assumptions, activity and resource codes, user IDs, every calendar, and the full logic network. Hiding a column in P6 does not remove it from the file. The data is still in there, in clear text, for anyone who opens it.

2. Why that should stop you

Email a raw .xer to a client, a rival's planning team, or across the table in a dispute, and you have handed over your commercial rates, the internal reasoning in your notes, your people's names and logins, and your entire cost model. An offhand note written to yourself can read as an admission months later. Once the file has left your machine, none of it can be recalled.

Strip it before it leaves the building

- **Decide what must travel.** Dates and logic, usually yes. Rates, costs and internal notes, usually no.
- **Pseudonymise, do not just hide.** Replace names and IDs with codes in the file itself, not by turning columns off.
- **Remove or zero the resource costs** when the other side has no need of your rates.
- **Clear notebook topics** that carry assumptions, opinions or internal reasoning.
- **Keep a sealed original** and a record of exactly what you removed, so you can prove the clean copy is a faithful, reduced version.

When you want it done cleanly, every time

XER Holdpoint reads your file read-only and builds a clean copy you can send, showing exactly what it removed.

It gives a Passed / Review / Blocked verdict, holds the download until you have read the output, and issues a release certificate with a SHA-256 fingerprint of the file in and the file out.

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