

Process Model, ProcessModel, 32 W. Center St. Suite 209, PO Box M, Provo, UT 84603, 1999, Standard Edition: \$1,695 (single user); Professional Edition: \$2,395 (single user).

The simulation software has been around for a long time. However, to apply it to simulate a real world process requires dexterity of the users both in programming and statistics. The process model as the process simulation software provides an easy and useful tool for the general users to analyze the existing process and experimenting on the effects of possible process changes without getting into the nitty gritty of tying all together with the computing and statistical programming.

Actually, this software will force the users to reexamine a process more closely and to recast the process in the form of a flow chart before any beneficial information can be obtained. The key to successfully applying this software is the modeler has the intimate knowledge of the process to be modeled, and understand how to transfer this knowledge into a flow chart. For this, ProcessModel provides a very excellent flowcharting tool; "Micrografx". Micrografx is also amazingly user friendly.

The advantage of simulation is obvious. Planners, decision makers without committing too much of resources and to be able to play out the effects of "what if" games. This "what if" game is playing out through different sets of parameter setting and process flow routing. For this, it can become tedious if the modeler have no good idea of where is the optimum region for the parameter set. ProcessModel under review is the standard edition 3.01 which does not provide with the optimization capability which the professional version comes with.

The case study provided in the book is for the tutorial purpose, for a more detailed real world example the users have to go to their web site <http://www.processmodel.com>. For the manufacturing folks, this modeling tool can be also used for the production planning purpose to determine what is the optimal buffer size for a pull system. For the quality professional, it can be used as a process improvement tool. For those with some simulation background this software need very short learning time. However, for those without simulation experience I will suggest to have some basic knowledge of simulation first before this tool can be used effectively.

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