

Work Breakdown Structures

What are they and why do I care?

Simply put, Work Breakdown Structures (WBS) are a declaration of all deliverables, usually diagrammatically and in a tree hierarchy format. There now; you now know exactly what a WBS is, right!

The “blocks” in a WBS itemize the bits and pieces, sometimes to extreme details, that make up the “whole” end product, regardless of constitution. If the project is an all hardware project, then it will breakout the modules and their pieces, often by functional categories. If the project is a training program for a Sales Department, then the WBS will list and explore the various topics and modules of the course, to as much detail as possible without actually performing details design of any kind. If the project is typical, it will have a major branch each for hardware, software, power, interfacing, enclosure, testing, documentation, and many other main areas to consider for a typical system design.

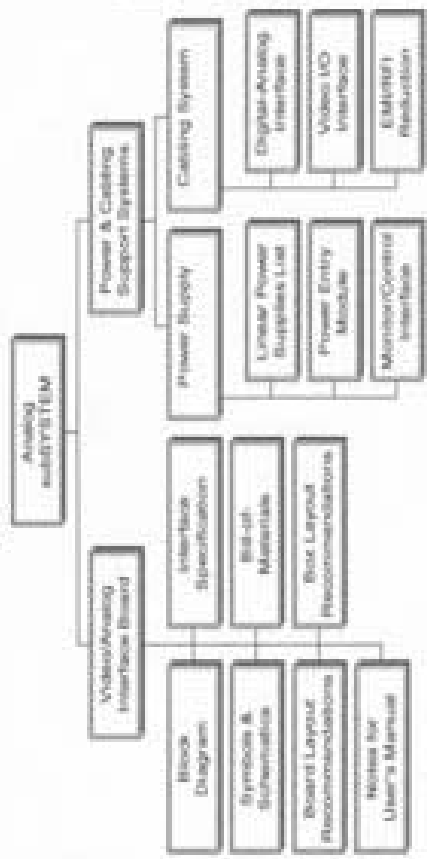
We attempt to identify as much detail as possible in a WBS because each one of these elements then become a design goal needing development resources within the GANTT chart’s tasks structure (the next phase of any project planning process).

The WBS presented in the “design examples” portion of this web site is repeated on the next page. Its caption is repeated here:

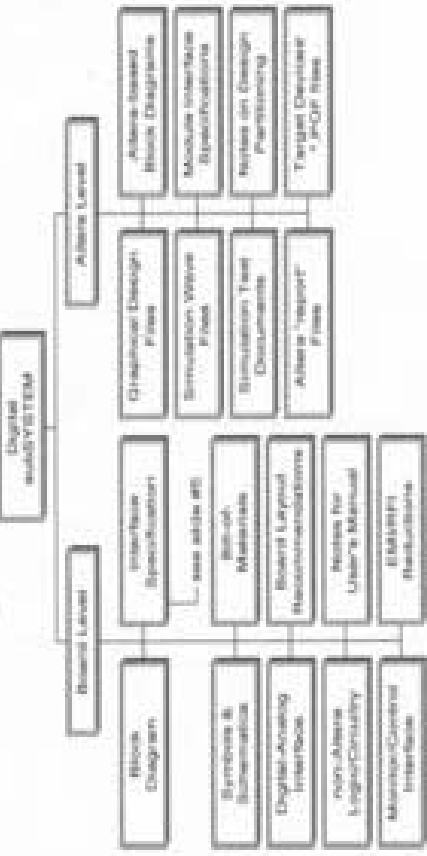
This image, depicts a typical Work Breakdown Structure (deliverables). These are usually built, multi-tiered, using PowerPoint, incorporating the images into proposals, plans, etc.

Examples of four, second-tier, Work Breakdown Structures (deliverables)

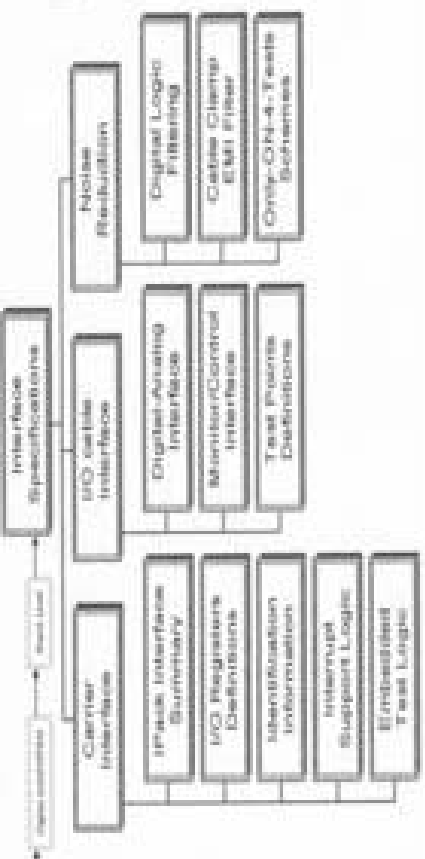
Analog subSYSTEM



Digital subSYSTEM



Digital Board's Interface Specifications



Documentation Sets

