## How to Control Object- and File-Linking in Carlson Software

I just received an email with a common Carlson Software support question and figured it's high-time to write a post about it!

The question was:

Do you know if there is a way to annotate a bearing/distance on a line so that the call will update if I move the line?

The answer is: Yes, I do and Yes there is!

While a lot of people want the control object and file linking in Carlson Software to be an automatic feature, Carlson Software gives you the option of having entities in a DWG file associated and "linked" with external data files. The specific scenario mentioned above, annotation of lines, is managed with the Object Linking settings under Settings > Carlson Configure > General Settings. The option he needed to turn On was "Link Labels with Linework".



Similarly, when we're working on larger design projects such as a road design that has associated data files such as centerlines, profiles, surfaces and pipe networks, we need to have control over which, if any, part(s) of the design automatically update when one part of the design changes.

For instance, if the proposed profile of a new road changes, do we want the proposed surface to automatically update? Or update only when we manually force the design changes through the rest of the project? Or do we want to be reminded and prompted that there are dependencies "downstream" in the design that are being affected by the change? Likewise, do we want rim elevations of manholes to automatically update if a centerline or surface changes?

At every stage of design, file linking in Carlson Software gives users a setting to "Link" or associate to files that can be set to "Off" (requires the user to click "Process"), "Prompt" (displays a warning box prompting the user to apply or ignore changes) or "Auto" (automatically processes updates).

Some examples are shown below:

😻 Draw Profile		×		
V Draw Grid	Setup	Link To Files Prompt -		
Draw Sheet	Setup	Match Line Elev Off Prompt		
Draw Horiz Axis Elev	Setup	Elevation Range Auto		
Draw Horiz Label Box	Setup	Output to Separate Drawing		
Hatch Cut/Fill	Setup	Road Profile Labels		
Draw Slope Labels	Setup	Sewer/Pine Profile Labels		
🔲 Draw Break Point Sta	Setup	Pine Crossing Labels		
🔲 Draw Break Point Elev	Setup	Lateral Connection Labels		
🔲 Draw Break Point Desc	Setup			
🔲 Draw Break Point Elev Diff	Setup	Break Point Leader/Symbol Setup		
Draw Line/Point Crossings	Setup			
Draw Road Intersections	Setup Road Network: None Set			
Profile Scale				
Horizontal Scale 30		Vertical Scale 3		
Layers Colors Text/Symbol Linetypes Back				
OK Cancel Load Settings Save Settings Help				

Link to Profile Files

😻 Road Network Settings 📃 💌				
Process Options Output Options Report Options Display Options Defaults				
Existing Surface 20170117_eg_bycontours				
Rock Surface NONE				
Station Interval Main 50.00 Intersection 10.00				
Special Stations				
Existing Section Max Offset 100.00				
Process On Updated Design Files Prompt				
Slope Perpendicular To: Off				
Tie To Existing				
✓ Process Intersections				
Connect Roads				
OK Cancel Help Save Load				

Link to Road Network Files

😻 Sewer Network Settings 📃 🗾			
General Design Drainage	Pipe Lateral Error Check	Display	
Network Type			
Storm Sewer	Sanitary Sewer		
Active Files			
Network File:			
Conforma Eller	C. fee D. Die Fleuritere	Select	
Surface File:	Surface By Rim Elevations	Select	
		Select	
Link Sewer Network To Ref	erence Surface and Centerlines:	Off 👻	
Elevation Update Method:	Update Depth, Hold Inve	rts Prompt	
Inlet Library	Current 🔻	Auto	
Sewer Structure Library	Current 🔻	1	
Pipe Size Library	Current 💌	SE	
Pipe Manning's n Library	Current 🔻	Set	
Plan View Label Settings	Current -	Set	
OK Cancel	Load SaveAs H	Help	

Link Sewer Network Files