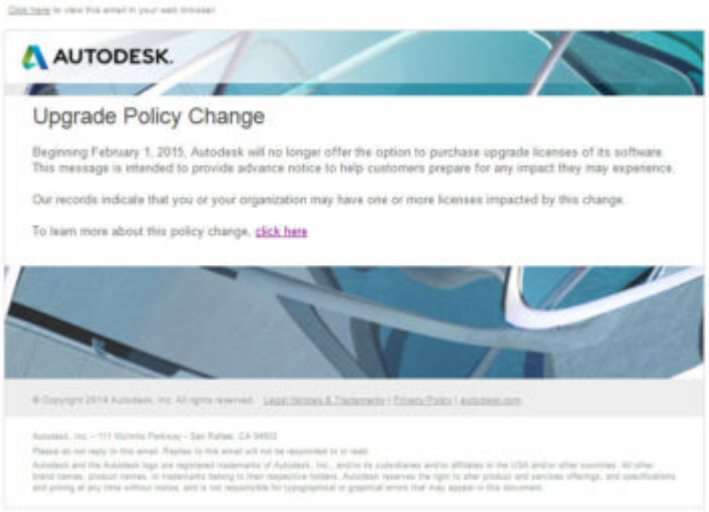
Autodesk Policy Change – No Upgrades After Feb 1, 2015

As a current Autodesk subscription customer, I received this message in my Inbox yesterday:


AUTODESK.

Upgrade Policy Change

Beginning February 1, 2015, Autodesk will no longer offer the option to purchase upgrade licenses of its software. This message is intended to provide advance notice to help customers prepare for any impact they may experience.

Our records indicate that you or your organization may have one or more licenses impacted by this change.

To learn more about this policy change, click here

The link to find out more takes you here: **Frequently Asked Questions about the Autodesk Upgrade Policy**

I think we all saw this coming but now that it's upon us, it's time to make sure our software licensing ducks are in a row.

Job Openings – Triangle Area

of NC

Here are a couple of job openings I've been asked to pass along in case anyone is looking…

A Raleigh NC-area firm is looking for a licensed surveyor or surveying cad-tech that has prior experience with construction stakeout. The ability to create 3d models for machine control is a plus but they are willing to teach this skill as long as you are willing to learn. If you are interested in this position, please **email a resume** and reference 0327_gd.

Looking for a full time Survey cadd technician for Wake county based survey firm.
Boundary surveys, as-builts, ALTA surveys, plot plans, etc… 1-2 years experience is preferred – Land Desktop and Carlson Software experience a plus. If you are interested in this position, please **email a resume** and reference 0327_ad.

Robert Green's "An Open Letter to CAD Software Companies" and a Response from IntelliCAD

If you're one of the many folks out there who don't believe that the developers of your CAD software are listening to you… you're not alone and you should take the time to read **Robert Green's** "**An Open Letter to CAD Software Companies**" in **Cadalyst**. And, as to the part about feeling like you're all alone, here is Robert's follow up describing the **overwhelming response to his**

open letter.

I receive email versions of **Robert's bi-weekly CAD Manager newsletters** but had fallen behind and didn't see the original post until yesterday. If I'd read it when it was first released, my response would have been, "Amen brother!".

Just yesterday morning I had a conversation with a colleague whose company does Landscape Architecture, Civil Design and Land Planning. They are fully invested in Civil 3d (including much blood, sweat and tears in addition to money, money, money) but they're as productive as any company I know of with the program. Their main complaint? They feel like Autodesk is pushing them toward Revit and they have no need for the software.

In my own experience, I see the push toward NavisWorks and 3ds Max. I had two seats of Civil 3d until I downgraded one of them to Map last year – only to be "rewarded" with an upgrade to Infrastructure Design Suite (and more money for Subscription) this year. This was supposedly something that owners of a Civil 3d and a Map license were able to opt-in to. I didn't opt-in. So, it took me several days to get them to un-opt-me-in and revert my licenses back to what I'd purchased. Is it any wonder I'm suspicious of any "bonuses" that come my way **because of this**?

I don't know how much Robert intended to point the finger at **Autodesk** in the original column but, with my experiences described above, the references to BIM (which **we've long argued** was a way for Autodesk to avoid talking about Esri and GIS) and Cloud and other buzzwords, that's certainly the connection I made in my mind.

Because the **Carlson Software** I sell now includes **IntelliCAD**, an alternative to AutoCAD, I passed links to the open letter and the responses to a few folks to get their reaction. Dave

Lorenzo, the Development Director for the **ITC (IntelliCAD Technology Consortium)** took the feedback to heart and, considering the interest in the future of IntelliCAD the past few years, I asked his permission to post his response. I very much appreciate his willingness to let me do so…

> *I agree that the features mentioned are focused on AutoCAD, but the article is not so much about features as it's really about the user's perception if someone is listening. While Autodesk is moving too fast providing features that users don't want or need, we are not moving fast enough to provide the basic productivity features users are requesting, so it appears we both are not listening to our users. That is the perception we need to fix too.*
>
> *Our next release has several user requested productivity features and I hope our users will see we are listening. Actually we have always been listening but our rewrite of IntelliCAD 7 took so many resources that there was little time for new features – that situation is finally changing. I believe that there are a lot of unhappy AutoCAD users who want IntelliCAD to be successful, we just need to listen and add those remaining productivity features that are keeping them from making the switch.*

Looking forward to NJ SurvCon 2014

Looking forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones at the **New Jersey SurvCon** this week. I'll be teaching Field to

Finish and Surface Modeling with **Carlson Survey** on Wednesday afternoon. Please stop by our booth to say ‘Hi’ and meet The Other CAD Girl.

New Monthly Webinars Announced!

I was able to nail down some dates and content for additional webinars here in early 2014.

I’m very excited to announce that **Donnie Stallings**, the original author of **SurvNet**, will be conducting a 2-part, 4-hour webinar for us on April 18th. From 10-12 Donnie will cover the basics of SurvNet and Least Squares analysis and then, from 1-3, he will go through project datasets **that I’m asking you to submit by email here**.

SurvNet can reduce multiple types of data (such as GPS, total station and level) at once, so please send us some good examples to use during the demonstration. I’m sure he won’t be able to use all the data we receive but he’ll go through a representative sample.

In addition, I’m happy to have **CAD Masters** doing a special presentation of their **CAD Standards Manager** product for us on March 26th. Based on questions I receive during my CAD Standards presentations at trade shows and training events, I believe you will really like what they have to show. Unlike the other webinars, this webinar is open to anyone who wants to attend – regardless of whether you have recently purchased software or

hardware.

Here’s the latest schedule – you can **Pre-Register for All Webinars Here:**

Tuesday February 11th 2014 at 12:00 pm ET – Overview of Surfaces in Carlson

Monday March 10th 2014 at 3:00 pm ET – Introduction to Carlson

Monday March 17th 2014 at 2:00 pm ET – Introduction to Carlson SurvCE & SurvPC (using SurvPC)
with **Jeremy Taylor PLS**

Monday March 26th 2014 at 12:00 pm ET – Introduction to **CAD Standards Manager** by **CAD Masters**
(this webinar is NOT limited to those who have previously purchased)

Monday April 14th 2014 at 3:00 pm ET – Annotation with CAD and Carlson

Friday April 18th 2014 from 10:00 – 12:00 ET – Overview of SurvNet Least Squares
with **Donnie Stallings PLS**

Friday April 18th 2014 from 1:00 – 3:00 ET – SurvNet Least Squares – Working with Project Datasets
with **Donnie Stallings PLS**

Additional classes covering Carlson Takeoff, Hydrology, Raw Data Editor, SurvCE Tips & Tricks and Point Clouds are scheduled and will be announced at a later date

Thank You!

As 2013 wraps up I'd like to offer a sincere 'Thank You' to all of my customers for your business. I've had a lot of repeats from previous years but I've also added more new customers in 2013 than I did in 2012 – that's one thing I look at to determine whether my year has been better than the one before.

Another number that may be surprising is that almost 90% of my software sales so far in 2013 have been to companies who purchased only 1 or 2 seats of software through the year. As much as I love selling a bunch of seats to one customer, I know that larger organizations typically have a larger support system around them. I'm happy I can help out so many of the "little guys".

The economy has been tough on everyone the past several years but it's been particularly brutal to those in the land surveying, civil engineering and construction fields. For good or for bad, we've all had to figure out just how efficient we can be and how we can get as much work done by as few people as possible and for the least number of dollars.

I hope I've been able to help in some way by extending software discounts where possible and training your staff to help your company get the most out of your software investment.

I wish everyone a safe, happy and prosperous 2014!

Carlson Software Training – New and Improved in 2014

With the new year upon us I'm announcing some exciting new changes to my training policy and offerings…

First, the bad news: My hourly rates for custom online training will be going up on January 1. If you've already scheduled training at the old rate, this doesn't apply to you. **Email me to request new rates**.

Second, the good news: Anyone who purchases software from me will receive discounted training rates. Like I said, **email me to request the new rates**.

Third, the great news: Starting January 15th I will be conducting a series of monthly webinars that you'll be eligible to attend if you purchased software from me in the preceding 12 months. These 1-2 hour sessions are something new I'm trying for 2014 as a way to provide my customers between 18 and 24 hours of training over 12 months.

In January, March and other odd-numbered months, we will spend approximately 2-hours introducing you to Carlson Software. These will be repeat sessions meant to accommodate new users coming on through the year. These sessions will cover settings & setup (using the IntelliCAD/for AutoCAD version), importing points, overview of Field to Finish, surface creation, deed entry and annotation, centerline definition and stationing and creating profiles. There will be time for questions at the end.

In February, April and other even-numbered months, we will hold 1-2 hour training sessions on other, specific features in Carlson Software. Some topics we have planned are for survey traverse adjustment, surface modeling and drafting of pipes and structures in hydrology. These sessions will also be interactive and you'll have an opportunity to ask questions.

The fine print: There will be a limited number of "seats" available for the sessions (limits of the technology). If we start bumping up against the limit of attendees, only one person per company will be able to attend each session. If we have plenty of seats available, that won't be an issue.

You can pre-register for the January, February and March 2014 events here

The topics, date and time for future sessions will be posted later. After pre-registering, we will confirm your recent purchase and, if you are eligible to attend, I will send you the meeting login information.

Job Opening in Charlotte NC area

Charlotte area firm seeks survey technician with AutoCAD and survey-specific software experience. Knowledge of Carlson Survey and SurvCE a plus. Preferred candidates will have experience in both field and office and across many survey disciplines.

Pre-employment drug testing and background check required, salary dependent on experience.

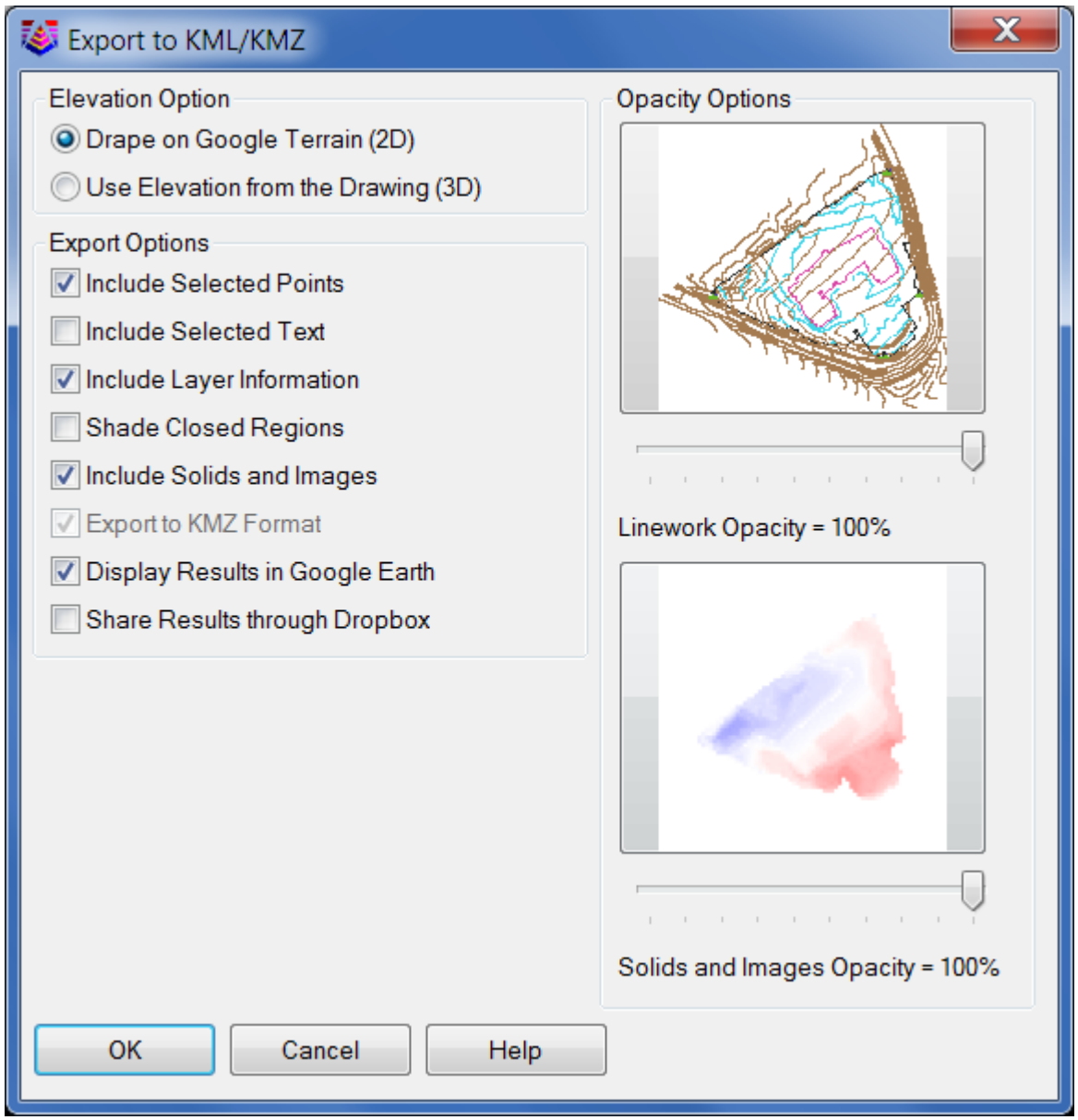
If you are interested in this position, please email your resume to **contactus@thatcadgirl.com** and I will forward it on to this employer.

Did You Know… About Carlson's Export to KMZ (Google Earth) Command?

Carlson Software gives you the ability to export drawing entities directly to the Google Earth application or, alternatively, to a .kml or .kmz file that can be opened in Google Earth. At this time Carlson supports the export of points, polylines, text, solids, images, lines and arcs to Google Earth or .kml/.kmz files.

In Carlson 2014 they have also included the option of sending the Google Earth file directly to a Dropbox account for sharing with clients or other project team members.

The Export to Google Earth command is found in the File menu in all Carlson desktop programs.



Year End Specials for Carlson Software

Updated 11/4/2013: I've just added several more end of year specials for **Survey with IntelliCAD**, **Takeoff Suite**, **Construction**, **Trench**, **GeoTech**, **Survey with IntelliCAD and**

manuals and more… Remember to Add Coupon for best pricing!

Carlson jumped the gun a bit and announced their year-end specials today… Special pricing will end at noon on 12/31/2013. In addition, all software purchases through 12/31 include 2 hours of online training.

Check out my **online store** and make sure to pick the item's "Add Coupon" button for best pricing:

Carlson Civil Suite including one year of upgrades/maintenance

Carlson Survey 2014 with embedded AutoCAD

Carlson CADNet 2014 including one year of upgrades/maintenance

CADNet is a new module for 2014 – broken out of Takeoff. CADNet has tools for digitizing, importing raster and vector data from images and PDFs, merging two image files, BIM data and more. **Check out this recent webinar** introducing Carlson CADNet to see how powerful it is.