That CAD Girl Newsletter | June 2012

Our June newsletter has been posted… Read it here: June 2012 Newsletter

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Carlson 2013 Has Been Released

Carlson released the 2013 version of their desktop products today. This includes: Civil Suite, Civil, Survey, Hydrology, GIS, Takeoff, Construction, Point Cloud, Geology, Surface/Underground Mining and Natural Regrade.

The 2013 embedded-AutoCAD versions of Takeoff and Survey have not yet been released.

Unlike previous versions of Carlson that support running on top of IntelliCAD or AutoCAD products 2000-2012, **Carlson 2013 can only be run on IntelliCAD or AutoCAD products 2004-2013**. This includes AutoCAD, Map, Land Desktop and Civil 3d. Also, anyone using the FREE IntelliCAD that comes with Carlson is eligible for a FREE GIS Starter Kit from Esri which includes ArcMap.

You can download Carlson 2013 here.

If you are using 2012 and are current on your annual maintenance contract, you can click here to look up your new 2013 serial number online. You will need to enter your contact information and your 2012 serial number in order to generate the 2013 serial number. You can find your serial number by opening Carlson

Software and going to Help > About Carlson Software > Change Registration.

If you have trouble finding your serial number or would like to know the cost to upgrade to 2013, please email me with your request.

Click here for the full list of improvements to Carlson 2013

Click here for improvements to the General commands in 2013

Click here for the additional data file & conversion support in Carlson 2013

Click here for improvements to Survey commands in 2013

Click here for improvements to Civil commands in 2013

Click here for improvements to Hydrology commands in 2013

Click here for improvements to GIS commands in 2013

Click here for improvements to Takeoff commands in 2013

Click here for improvements to Point Cloud commands in 2013

Click here for improvements to Geology commands in 2013

Click here for improvements to Surface/Underground Mining commands in 2013

Click here for improvements to Natural Regrade commands in 2013

Did you know… that you can print your CTB files?

Several years ago when I started my business, my first contract was as an outside CAD manager for a civil & land planning firm. In trying to document their pen weights, screening, etc. I found a utility available on Autodesk's website that allowed me to export all the values in a CTB file to a .csv file that could be opened (and printed) with Excel.

Here is the old Autodesk Knowledge Base article — it still works for anyone using AutoCAD-based programs version 2007-2008.

Unfortunately, I haven't been able to find a more current version of this utility until recently. Govert's Tools has a program called PlotStyleViewer. You can download it here.

In his words,

> *This inspired me to create a CTB/STB view/print application that works completely **independent of AutoCAD and Autodesk tools**! The program consists of just one executable file, there are no other exe's or dll's needed. It should work with CTB's/STB's from AutoCAD 2000 upto the latest version. The purpose of this tool is that you can **view** CTB's, **print** them and **save as** text file that you can open in Excel etc.*

It's a handy little utility and doesn't seem to be limited to a particular version. Hope you get as much use out of it as I do.

New Carlson Build with IntelliCAD 7.x Updates

On May 24, 2012 Carlson posted a new build on their downloads page. This brings the Carlson Civil Suite products, (Survey, Civil, Hydrology, GIS), Takeoff, Construction, Point Clouds and Mining, etc. up to build 120524 and IntelliCAD 7.x up to 7.1.1644.53233.P. There are a lot of big updates to stability and productivity in this release.

And, just as a reminder to anyone wanting access to more regular updates to IntelliCAD 7.x, send me an email and I'll help you get access to a separate, private blog being maintained for users interested in trying out test versions of the software before they're provided to the general public.

Esri GIS Starter Kit for Carlson's IntelliCAD Users – Repost

[This offer ended on 12/31/2013]

Since there's a renewed interest in IntelliCAD with the improvements to 7.0, I'll re-post this…

Those currently using Carlson with IntelliCAD are eligible for a FREE "GIS Starter Kit" from ESRI. The Kit includes:

- ArcGIS ArcView desktop software

- A copy of the book *A to Z GIS: An Illustrated Dictionary of Geographic Information Systems*
- A copy of *GIS Tutorial: Workbook for ArcView 9*, Third Edition
- A 10% discount for the ESRI Survey & Engineering GIS Summit ($325 – standard registration price)

To take advantage of the offer, call 1-800-GIS-XPRT (1-800-447-9778) and request the **Carlson-IntelliCAD GIS Starter Kit** and **please have your Carlson Serial Number available.**

You can read more about ESRI's commitment to survey and engineering services by visiting http://www.ESRI.com/engineering.

Did you know… About DWG Convert & True View?

As most everyone knows, every 3 years Autodesk ruins a perfectly good DWG format by introducing a new one…

With the 2013 version of the Autodesk products now released, anyone using a version of AutoCAD older than 2013 can expect to start receiving 2013 .dwg files that they can't access because its an incompatible version. This is where the DWG Convert function inside of DWG TrueView can be a lifesaver.

DWG TrueView is FREE utility available from Autodesk. They release a new version of this program every year, just like their other products.

With the True Convert utility you can convert any newer version DWG or DXF to any earlier version. I'd recommend you enable the option that creates a .bak file with the original just in case you need it later.

Inside the True Convert utility you can also enable several other options that will run routines such as Audit, Purge, XREF Binding, etc. during the convert process.
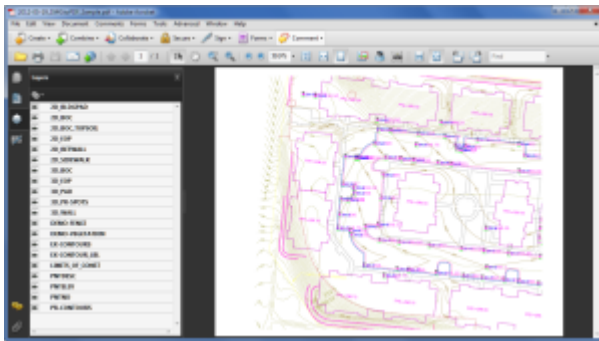
You can download DWG True View 2013 here.
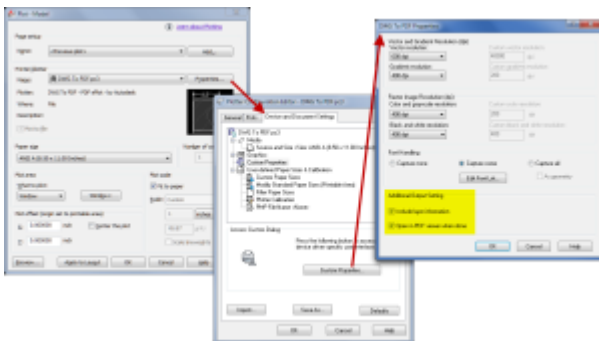

Did you know… about DWG to PDF?

Since I have to send so many files to different people in PDF format, I purchased Adobe Acrobat several years ago. Once installed, "Adobe PDF" shows up in my list of available printers just like my HP or Brother printers do. There are also several other programs available online that allow you to create a PDF printer. Although I've never used them, I've heard good things about CutePDF and Sourceforge PDF Creator and I've used Win2PDF in the past. Each of these have a free version but you may end up getting a watermark or footer or 2nd page that states you're using a Free copy.

Any of these can be installed and will be shown as an available printer in the Plot dialog box of AutoCAD or IntelliCAD. Several years ago AutoCAD started including a DWG to PDF.pc3 file allowing AutoCAD users to use that tool rather than having to

purchase a separate application to create PDFs. One advantage of using the DWG to PDF is that there is an option to save all the layers used in the DWG with the PDF file. With this setting enabled, anyone viewing the PDF through a PDF viewer has the ability to make one or more layers invisible. See the image below for an example:

While this is a neat feature, you might not always want your list of layers to transmit with your PDF. If not, it's easy enough to change the option. In the **Plot** dialog, set the current plotter to DWG to PDF.pc3 and then pick the **Properties** button to the right. Under the **Device and Document Settings** tab, you can change several options such as available paper sizes. You can also select the "Custom Properties" item in the tree for special options that are unique to the "printer". You can see in the image below that this is where you can find the option for whether or not to "Include layer information".

National CAD Standard: Common Language for CAD Users

This is a great article by Greg Jordan who is currently serving his second term as secretary of the NCS Steering Committee and also serves on the Civil Task Team with me.

NCS: Common Language for CAD Users

Did you know… About the CHSPACE command?

The CHSPACE (Change Space) command is simply a lifesaver for anyone using paper space to put together your project drawings.

In AutoCAD, CHSPACE can be typed in at the command line or found in the Modify menu or ribbon panel. In Carlson with IntelliCAD, CHSPACE can be typed in or easily accessed from the right-click context menu after the items have been selected.

This command will move entities from model space to paper space or vice versa. You must be working in model space <u>through</u> paper space in order to move entities from model to paper — it will not work directly from model space. The nice thing about the command is that it will scale the entities (to account for the differences in scale between model and paper space) so you don't have to. The AutoCAD version of this command actually performs a

MOVE command on the entity whereas the IntelliCAD version gives you the option of moving the original or making a copy to the other space. If you're using AutoCAD, make a copy of the entity before performing the CHSPACE command.

I find this command most handy when I have a linear project such as a water line or force main extension project with many sheets of plan and profile that change direction. In model space, I make multiple copies of the North arrow and place them along the meandering alignment. Then, from paper space, I make each viewport active and use CHSPACE to move one of the copies to the paper space sheet.

Software Review: AutoCAD and IntelliCAD

The May 2012 issue of Professional Surveyor magazine has been published. This month they are featuring a software review I submitted: AutoCAD and IntelliCAD.

You can order your FREE subscription to the print version of Professional Surveyor here.

You can click here to learn more about Carlson Software's offerings that include IntelliCAD.