

# That CAD Girl – April Newsletter

Our April Newsletter can be downloaded [HERE](#)

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## Engineering, Construction, and BIM

There have been many articles, discussions, and presentations on Building Information Modeling in the recent months. If you haven't already heard the basics, this post covers it well. For surveyors, civil engineers, and construction firms, there are two things you should know about BIM and how it will impact your business.

First, BIM is very similar in its goals and processes to GIS. Basically, you are attaching data and other information to objects. This allows you to manage the facilities after they have been built and track their contents over time. This is very similar to how as-builts of infrastructure are managed and tracked through a GIS system. Water and storm sewer systems, telecomm transmission lines, and landscaping are types of things that are traditionally managed using GIS. The information age has dramatically opened up opportunities for professionals to gather, collate, and attach data to their surveys, designs, and as-builts.

Secondly, since buildings are not constructed in isolation, they

must tie into the site grading and infrastructure, further opportunities for designers and contractors have opened up. Complex site plans showing how the grading, structural design, and utilities will all connect are now possible, and represent a new deliverable for firms to offer their clients. Carlson Software offers many solutions for creating these models and because Carlson data migrates well between various CAD and GIS platforms, owners and developers of these projects can be assured that their designs will be ready for management once construction is complete.

Originally posted on **Carlson Connection** by Felicia Provencal

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# Carlson Software User Conference

The 2nd annual Carlson User Conference has wrapped up and was a success. And, even more fun, a lot of news was broken at the conference.

- **Dewberry** Case Study, “Choosing and Implementing Carlson Software”
  - **ESRI** Announces Partnership with Carlson & Software Grant for Carlson’s IntelliCAD Users
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# Carlson + ESRI = Wow!

So, how cool is this?

At the Carlson User Conference this week in Lexington, KY, Brent Jones of ESRI announced a new grant program in coordination with Carlson Software. The program will bring ESRI products to every IntelliCAD-based Carlson program.

Speaking with Brent on Tuesday, he said that a few of the details have yet to be worked out, but Carlson IntelliCAD users should be hearing details in about a month.

Originally posted on **Carlson Connection** by Jennifer Dibona

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## **Brent Jones of ESRI discusses 'Why GIS Needs Surveyors'**

Combining all the GIS and land development technologies that exist today is what Brent Jones suggested surveyors do in his keynote address to the attendees at the 2nd annual Carlson User Conference. Jones, PE, PLS, is the Survey, Cadastre, and Engineering Industry Manager for ESRI, which designs and develops the world's leading geographic information system (GIS) technology.

To help surveyors accomplish this, Jones announced an upcoming grant program to be offered by ESRI for every Carlson IntelliCAD user. "ESRI is very supportive of Carlson's development on

IntelliCAD and we want to support your users,” said Jones of this specialized grant program being developed exclusively for Carlson IntelliCAD users. “We want to help surveyors leverage their existing resources to help in the GIS market.” With this offer Carlson IntelliCAD users will be able to access GIS technology and jump-start a GIS practice. [Read More](#)

Originally posted on **Carlson Connection** by Karen Cummings

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## **Dewberry’s Dave Palumbo presents ‘Choosing and Implementing Carlson’**

Starting his presentation at the Carlson User Conference by saying “Carlson works for us,” Dave Palumbo, PE, Technology Manager for Infrastructure Services at Dewberry, noted that Dewberry, an ENR top 50 design firm was an early adopter of technology as a differentiator. The evaluation and implementation of three competing solutions took Dewberry more than two years. “Patience was of the essence,” Palumbo said.

[Read the entire post](#)

Originally posted on **Carlson Connection** by Karen Cummings

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# BIM vs. "CIM" – Is it a Noun or Verb?

I wanted to share my opinion related to the BIM this, BIM that... What is BIM? article to essentially equate (or draw parallels between):

| "Acronym" | "Location" | "Data"      | "Mechanism" | "Discipline"  |
|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| BIM       | Building   | Information | Modeling    | Architectural |
| GIS       | Geographic | Information | System      | Civil         |

If one turns the acronyms around,

- **BIM** is another way of saying Owners/Architects who utilize Model Information for Buildings, and,
- **GIS** is another way of saying Officials/Civil Engineers who use a System of Information for Geographical projects/studies.

If the message(s) from the Autodesk marketing department

*<http://usa.autodesk.com/company/building-information-modeling>*  
*and*

*<http://www.cenews.com/article.asp?id=3137>*

is/are to be believed, Autodesk is expecting the market to swallow the hype that the Civil 3D (C3D) product can function within the confines of a building or as a BIM solution.

I don't buy this (and in my opinion, neither should the public). By the looks of the responses to a discussion on the C3D newsgroup this past September, 2008:

*<http://discussion.autodesk.com/forums/message.jspa?messageID=6>*

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it looks as if C3D users aren't necessarily swallowing the attempted message either. As the thread eloquently points out, it largely depends if you take the context of "building" to be a noun or a verb:

1. **Noun** <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/building>  
– "1 a usually roofed and walled structure built for permanent use (as for a dwelling)"
2. **Verb** [http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/build\[1\]](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/build[1])  
– "1 to form by ordering and uniting materials by gradual means into a composite whole"

**Side note observation...** Since GIS is/has been a well established market for other products on the market and is also one that Autodesk does not control, could it be that Autodesk is trying to capitalize on the relative newness of BIM by generalizing the Noun form of BIM into that of a Verb so they can use it to further confuse the market?

Whatever the context, I also feel C3D falls short for BIM in one key aspect; all of the C3D seems to get locked up into the ARX/proxy objects within a given drawing. To my knowledge, C3D doesn't allow the "Information" aspect of the design to be externalized outside of the drawing. As Civil Engineers and Land Planners look down the road for the next 10 or 15 years (or more), I tend to question how they'll be able to manage/maintain/extract the data locked away in C3D drawings that are being produced today. As I heard one DOT employee say, their projects typically span years in the design/life cycle. If I were in their shoes, I wouldn't be looking forward to having to carry around all the LDT/C3D object enablers that will likely come out with each annual release of each C3D product for the

next decade or two.

My ¢2.

Ladd Nelson  
Sales Director – Midwest Region  
Carlson Software

Originally posted on **Carlson Connection** by Ladd Nelson

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## **Carlson Software Expands Carlson College™**

Carlson Software recently expanded their expert level training program, Carlson College™, and started the Carlson College Training Program. This new program will allow individuals and companies to get training direct from Carlson Software or through the members of the Carlson College Training Program. New members of the Training Program include Harken-Reidar Inc. of Front Royal, Va.; Carlson Desktop Solutions (CDS), based in Austin, Texas; That CAD Girl, located near Raleigh, N.C.; and, for C&G products only, Larry Phipps of the Land Surveyor's Workshop in Jefferson, N.C. Membership in the Carlson College Training Program is available to any person or organization that makes a commitment to providing quality training on Carlson Software products.

For more information on the Carlson College Training Program or training, please contact Carlson Software at 800-989-5028, email [training@carlsonsw.com](mailto:training@carlsonsw.com) or visit [www.carlsonsw.com/training](http://www.carlsonsw.com/training). Members of the Carlson College Training Program are independent entities from Carlson Software.

Read the entire Press release here.

Originally posted on **Carlson Connection** by Karen Cummings

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## **Carlson Software Expands Carlson College**

That CAD Girl named as certified trainer for the expanded  
**Carlson College**

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## **Carlson Connection Launches**

Carlson Connection launched on April 1st and is the new online community for anyone using or evaluating Carlson Software. This uniquely collaborative community brings together users, consultants and resellers along with many Carlson staff including sales, technical support and programming.

Check out [www.carlsonconnection.com](http://www.carlsonconnection.com) for the latest news, updates and discussion.