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

May 30, 2017

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

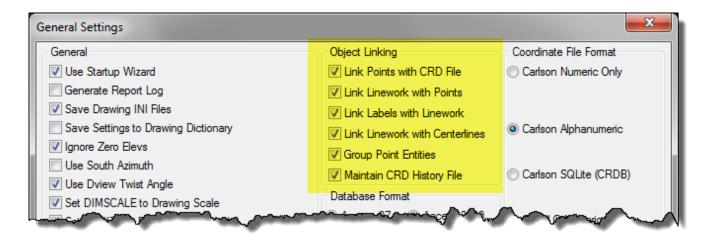
The question was:

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		<b>—</b> X—		
🔽 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/Pipe Profile Labels		
🔲 Draw Break Point Sta	Setup	Pipe Crossing Labels		
Draw Break Point Elev	Setup	Lateral Connection Labels		
Draw Break Point Desc	Setup	Utility Profile Labels		
Draw Break Point Elev Diff	Setup	Break Point Leader/Symbol Setup		
Draw Line/Point Crossings	Setup			
Draw Road Intersections	Setup	Road Network: None		
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 Setting	js	
Process Options Output	Options Report Opt	tions Display Options Defaults
	20170117_eg_bycon NONE	tours
Rock Surface Station Interval	Main 50.00	Intersection 10.00
Special Stations		
Existing Section Max Offs	et	100.00
Process On Updated De	sign Files	Prompt -
Slope Perpendicular To:		Off Prompt
🔽 Tie To Existing		Auto
Process Intersections		
Connect Roads		
OK Cancel	Help Save	Load

Link to Road Network Files

😻 Sewer Network Setting:	s X
General Design Drainage	e Pipe Lateral Error Check Display
Network Type	
Storm Sewer	Sanitary Sewer
Active Files Network File:	
Network The.	Select
Surface File:	Surface By Rim Elevations
	Select
Link Sewer Network To Re Elevation Update Method: Inlet Library Sewer Structure Library Pipe Size Library	ference Surface and Centerlines: Off Update Depth, Hold Inverts Off Prompt Auto
Pipe Manning's n Library	Current -
Plan View Label Settings	Current  Set
OK Cancel	Load SaveAs Help

Link Sewer Network Files