That CAD Girl

Carlson 2010 Sneak Peek

June 18, 2009
The highly anticipated Carlson 2010 release offers clients hundreds of new or improved features from that found in Carlson 2009 and continues Carlson Software's track-record of delivering responsive solutions to client-requested technology needs.

Ribbon vs. Menu… Your preference is??

June 18, 2009
I was reading a recent AP article that was similar to the article entitled Meet Microsoft's antidote to Vista and saw the following:

> *You probably don't know her name, but if you're using*

> *Office 2007, the sleeper hit of the Vista era, you're already familiar with Larson-Green's work.*
>
> *She was the one who banished the familiar system of menus on Word, Excel and other programs in favour of a new "ribbon" that shows different options at different times, depending on what a user is working on.*

Hmmm… I'm wondering if she'd be willing to re-think that decision?

I'm not sure what it is about the ribbon interface but I cannot seem to get used to it. I've tried… I mean *I've really tried* to be productive with the Office 2007 ribbon but continually find myself wasting lots of time searching for a particular command whose location I could find instantly in the traditional pull-down menu system used in Windows and Office applications for the past +15 years. The article also said:

> *"We want to reduce the amount of thinking about the software that they have to do, so that they can concentrate all their thinking on the task they're trying to get done,"*

> *Larson-Green said in an interview.*

The task I'm trying to get done?? I'm trying to figure out where all my favorite old commands went for getting my work done. I'm finding that I'm spending **more** time thinking and searching for commands and having less time for the task(s) I'm trying to get done. Don't even get me started on the new default file formats for Office files (*.docx, *.xlsx, *.accdb, *etc*) and having to Save As for those who haven't adopted Office 2007 and later.

Side note observation… I wonder how soon it will be until Autodesk decides to release a **.dwgx* file format? Perhaps the Open Design Alliance should beat them to the punch.

According to the frequently changing Wikipedia write-up on ribbons:

> *Microsoft has started the process of acquiring a patent on the ribbon user interface concept[2] and licenses the ribbon design to third-party developers royalty-free, as long as the user interface conforms to the Microsoft's design guidelines and they can get an approval from Microsoft. The*

> *ribbon design guidelines are confidential and an evaluation copy is only available when a non-disclosure agreement has been signed.*
>
> *The Ribbon has been licensed by Autodesk for AutoCAD 2009…*

My fear is that when I eventually have to migrate out of AutoCAD 2008 (I'm running the ribbon-less AutoCAD 2008 and IntelliCAD and haven't even looked at AutoCAD 2009/2010), I'll be too far behind the 8-ball. Maybe I'm too grounded and comfortable with pull-down menus. I still prefer Windows XP over Vista and suspect I'd prefer pull-down menus in my CAD product like many of comments left at AutoCAD 2009 – How do you use the Ribbon? blog. Perhaps it is time to accept the fact that ribbons are likely here to stay. However, if my CAD productivity takes a hit due to the migration to ribbons like my Office productivity took a hit, I suspect I'm "going to have some 'splainin' to do." Personally, I'd love to have a one-to-one chat with Julie Larson-Green (*a.k.a. "Microsoft's antidote to Vista*") to learn why throwing away +15 years of interface familiarity is/was a good idea.

What do you think?

[polldaddy poll=1552888]

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

Brent Jones of ESRI discusses ‘Why GIS Needs Surveyors’

June 18, 2009

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’

June 18, 2009

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 essense,“ 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?

June 18, 2009
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 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=6033685

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]
   – "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

Dewberry Case Study, ‘Choosing and Implementing Carlson,’ at the Carlson ‘Break New Ground’ Users Conference, April 5-7

June 18, 2009
MAYSVILLE, Ky., U.S.A. (March 24, 2009) – At the Carlson “Break New Ground” User Conference in Lexington, Ky., April 5 through 7, David Palumbo of Dewberry will be presenting a case study on how the 2000-person professional services firm with more than 40 locations in 18 states recently chose the Carlson Civil Suite for its site-civil engineering needs.

“In April 2007, Dewberry’s site-civil market segment group embarked on a strategic initiative to unify and modernize site-civil work flow across two dozen offices that service

this segment," said Palumbo, PE, Technology Manager for Infrastructure Services at Dewberry. "Carlson Civil Suite was selected over two competing solutions as best aligning with Dewberry's desired work flow and site-civil technical specifications."

The Carlson Civil Suite includes Carlson Civil, Carlson Survey, Carlson Hydrology, and Carlson GIS. Together, these four products are a comprehensive set of design/drafting tools that automate all facets of the civil engineering project.

Palumbo, whose duties include facilitating technology solution acquisition and implementation for all of Dewberry's infrastructure services, including site-civil, transportation, and telecommunications, will explain the intensive process Dewberry performed to choose Carlson. Then he will show how Dewberry, an Engineering News-Record "Top 50" design firm, set about to most effectively implement Carlson throughout their extensive company.

"We will have approximately 250 to 300 users of the product when we're done," he said, noting that the project started by first defining a comprehensive work flow and site-civil task

specification independent of software and automation tools. It was these specifications that became the basis of evaluating vendor solutions.

Palumbo will be joining Robert H. (Rob) Campbell, president and CEO of Juniper Systems, Inc., and Brent Jones, PE, PLS, of ESRI, as a speaker at Carlson's 2nd annual conference designed specifically for surveyors, civil engineers, mining engineers, construction engineers, partner manufacturers, and dealers. Palumbo will be speaking during the Monday evening banquet.

"Working with Dewberry has been a rewarding experience," said Bruce Carlson, president and founder of Carlson Software. "With so many offices, Dewberry had special demands for data sharing and project tracking and also wide-ranging needs for data interoperability across platforms such as AutoCAD, Microstation and ESRI, including compatibility with field data collection and instrumentation," he added. "Our product offerings are focusing on these capabilities. We enjoyed being a part of their competitive product review – that's our preferred business environment!"

The goal of Carlson's user conference is to help users "break

new ground” and learn how to optimize the power of Carlson’s versatile software. Learning tracks at this two-and-a-half-day event will cover the same land development aspects as Carlson Software products: data collection, land surveying, civil engineering, mining and construction and machine control.

Carlson is keeping the cost of the two-day event at $695 right up to registration to help more people harness the power of Carlson Software and get project ready. Sign up now at www.carlsonsw.com/conference. Group discounts are available.

About Carlson Software. Carlson Software, an independent company founded in 1983, develops software solutions to bring the land development professional from concept to completion. The 25-year-old company is well known for its comprehensive civil, surveying, machine control and positioning, plus mining software solutions. Its free technical support and dedication to customer service is unique in the industry. Carlson Software is headquartered in Maysville, Ky., with branch offices in Boston, Atlanta, and Queensland, Australia.

About Dewberry

Dewberry is a 2,000-person professional services firm,

specializing in engineering and architectural design; program management; planning; GIS; surveying; and environmental services. Established in 1956, the firm has more than 40 locations nationwide, with headquarters in Fairfax, Virginia, near Washington, DC. For more information, visit www.dewberry.com.

Originally posted on **Carlson Connection** by Jim Reinbold

Welcome from Carlson Software

June 18, 2009
Carlson Software would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the Carlson Connection forum. Thanks to the invaluable input made by Jennifer and Felicia, they are able to offer an all-access pass to the world of Carlson Software users.

Here you will find Carlson users, consultants and Carlson

team members available to answer your questions and help you find solutions to your software needs.

Please visit the site often and let us know what you'd like to hear from us.

Scott Griffin

National Sales Director

904-292-1607 Office

Originally posted on **Carlson Connection** by Scott Griffin