That CAD Girl

December Workshops 2009

August 12, 2009
Our Carlson workshops the past couple of years have drawn great crowds, but we're changing it up a bit for 2009.

Join us on December 8th in Raleigh or December 9th in Statesville for joint presentations on Carlson Software, ESRI and IntelliCAD.

The cost is only $99 and lunch is included. NC licensed land surveyors and engineers will receive 7.5 hours of PDH credit.

Our special guests this year will be:

- Bruce Carlson, founder & President, and Scott Griffin, National Civil Sales Director, of Carlson Software
- Donny Sosa, Surveying Industry Specialist, of ESRI
- Felicia Provencal of ProCADD Hawaii and Carlson Connection

Join us for a variety of sessions and topics including:

- BIM, GIS and Carlson Software in the land surveying,

civil engineering & construction arenas
- Making money with GIS using Carlson Software, ESRI and IntelliCAD
- What's new with Carlson 2010
- Surface Modeling with Carlson Software

Register Online for the Dec 8, 2009 Raleigh event here.

You can download the Raleigh NC announcement here.

Register Online for the Dec 9, 2009 Statesville event here.

You can download the Statesville NC announcement here.

Register by PHONE by calling us at 919.417.8351.

Register by MAIL by downloading and completing this form and mailing a check for $99 to PO Box 294, Clayton, NC 27528. Registrations by MAIL must be received 5 days in advance of the event.

Register by FAX by downloading and completing this form, faxing it to 919.573.0351 and mailing a check for $99 to PO Box 294, Clayton, NC 27528. Registrations by FAX must be received 5 days in advance of the event.

Our postcard advertising the event can be downloaded HERE.

BIM for Civil… Not

August 12, 2009
Several months have passed since I made my original post BIM This, BIM That… What is BIM?. In that time, I have asked a lot more questions, read a lot more on the internet and had a lot of discussions with Ladd and Felicia and also read the post by one of our commenters. I think I've developed a more concrete idea about BIM and how it applies, or doesn't, to the civil/survey world and where the various software packages stand in regard to their "BIM-ability".

Now, after all this additional information has percolated in my brain, I'm drawing two main conclusions:

1. It's a fact that the term BIM as it's always been used applies to actual **BUILDINGS** – the noun form of the word. But, more specifically, it starts with construction

drawings/design data but then incorporates the as-built data and, over time, continues to grow and collect data through the entire lifespan of the building.

Nothing in all this discussion of “BIM for Civil” gets beyond construction drawings and design data of a civil project. Autodesk is trying to stretch the definition of BIM to cover Civil 3D even though they never move beyond the design process with it either.

Remember, we do not talk about “BM” or Building Modeling. And, we don’t work with “GS” or Geographic Systems. The “I” is THE critical factor. And the “I”, or Information, piece of BIM is so valuable because it chronicles and helps manage the building through its lifespan.

To be able to legitimately call what we’re doing with our Civil programs “BIM”, we would need to have a mechanism to attach some sort of database or information to the objects in our drawings.

I know, I know… that’s why Civil 3D is so great – you can attach data to the objects. But, remember, we’re talking about attaching ***AS-BUILT*** data to these objects. Even though

we could attach data using Carlson GIS or AutoCAD Map or ESRI, it's simply not part of our current project scope to go back into our construction drawings and update them with as-built data so that:

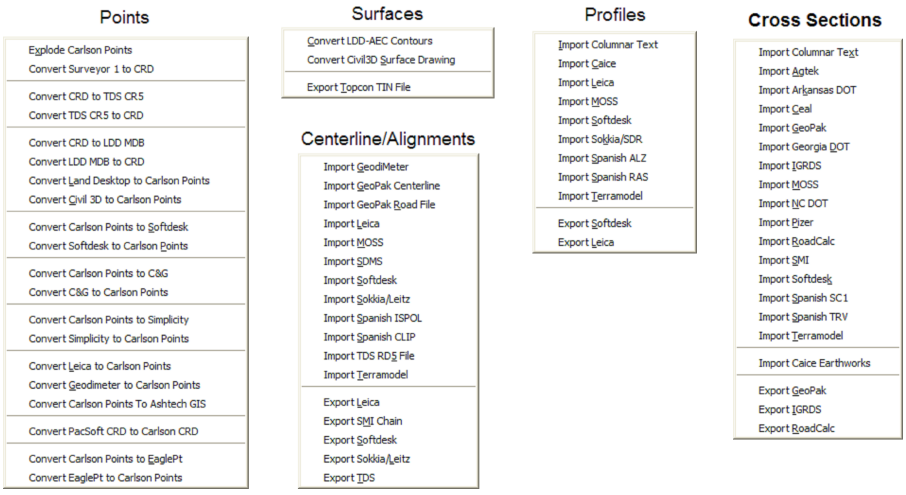
- maintenance schedules are attached to roadway template surfaces based on asphalt type,
- model numbers are associated to pump stations or
- inspection reports and flow rates are attached to fire hydrant blocks.

My conclusion here is that neither of these products – Carlson nor Civil 3D – meet the true definition of a BIM for civil. Until we start addressing the Information piece for the lifetime of a project, starting with the as-built data, using the term BIM is wrong.

In my opinion, if anyone has the lead on this in the civil arena, it's ESRI.

2. Just because we don't yet attach as-built data to our objects doesn't mean that the data we do attach to our objects isn't valuable. But, leading to my 2nd conclusion, why is it valuable? It's only valuable if it can be shared.

And this is where I believe Carlson has the undisputed edge. The image below shows the number of formats and other programs that Carlson is able to import data from and export data to.



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

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Carlson Webinars – BIM, GIS and CAD Standards

August 12, 2009
Carlson Software recently asked Felicia and me to present webinars on topics we have particular interest in or specialize in.

Felicia's webinar on BIM, GIS and Carlson Software can be viewed here: BIM, GIS and Carlson Software Webinar

My webinar on CAD Standards can be viewed here: CAD Standards for Carlson Software with AutoCAD or IntelliCAD

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

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BIM, GIS and Carlson

Software Webinar

August 12, 2009
Felicia Provencal's webinar for Carlson Software on the topic, "BIM, GIS and Carlson Software" can be viewed or downloaded here.

Dewberry Implements Carlson Civil Suite in 40 Offices Nationwide

August 12, 2009
There has been a lot of interest and discussion about Dewberry's decision to use Carlson's Civil Suite as their civil/survey/hydrology design package. Dave Palumbo, PE, Technology Manager for Infrastructure Services, has written an article for CE News discussing the 18-month process his

team went through to come to their decision.

The article in CE News can be downloaded HERE.

That CAD Girl Presenting at the NCSS Institute, Nov ’09

August 12, 2009
That CAD Girl will be presenting at the NCSS Institute in November 11-13, 2009

You’ll have to wait a few months to see the full lineup, but I can confirm that I will be presenting a 3-day class at the Training Institute sponsored by the NC Society of Surveyors.

- Day One – AutoCAD/IntelliCAD basics with a focus on CAD Standards management
- Day Two – Carlson Software Features
- Day Three – Surface Modeling with Carlson Software

Online Training – Friend or Foe?

August 12, 2009

With the economy what it is and everyone trying to get as much bang for their buck as possible, I'm finding that online training for your CAD software programs is an increasingly popular and cost effective option.

Although this post describes my personal approach and may be different considering your trainer, hopefully it will answer some of your questions about online training and will encourage you to give it a try.

How does it work?

There are several online services that trainers may use for online training. WebEx, GoToMeeting and GoToWebinar are all very commonly used and popular. My preference is GoToMeeting and GoToWebinar as they have a very low footprint on your computer and are simple to use. When first entering an online

meeting, a small installation of the program occurs allowing you to view and interact with the presenter's computer.

GoToMeeting is smaller scale and better for personalized training. GoToWebinar can handle up to 1,000 "attendees" and is typically used for presentation or demonstration to a large group.

Some of the online meeting services are free, but most require a monthly fee. The fee is paid by the organizer who then has the ability to schedule meetings/webinars in advance or "Meet Now" for meetings on the fly. Your organizer will either email you a link to the meeting site or can tell you the link on the phone. Each meeting has a unique "Meeting ID" that you'll enter at the main page.

GoToMeeting is typically used for standard training where more than one person may need to show their screen and/or be given control of the mouse and keyboard. This interaction can take place in a variety of ways. When in a meeting, anyone can be given (and must accept) the "Presenter" role which allows others to view their computer. And, even though the Presenter always has priority, control of the mouse movement and keyboard entry may be granted to others in the meeting.

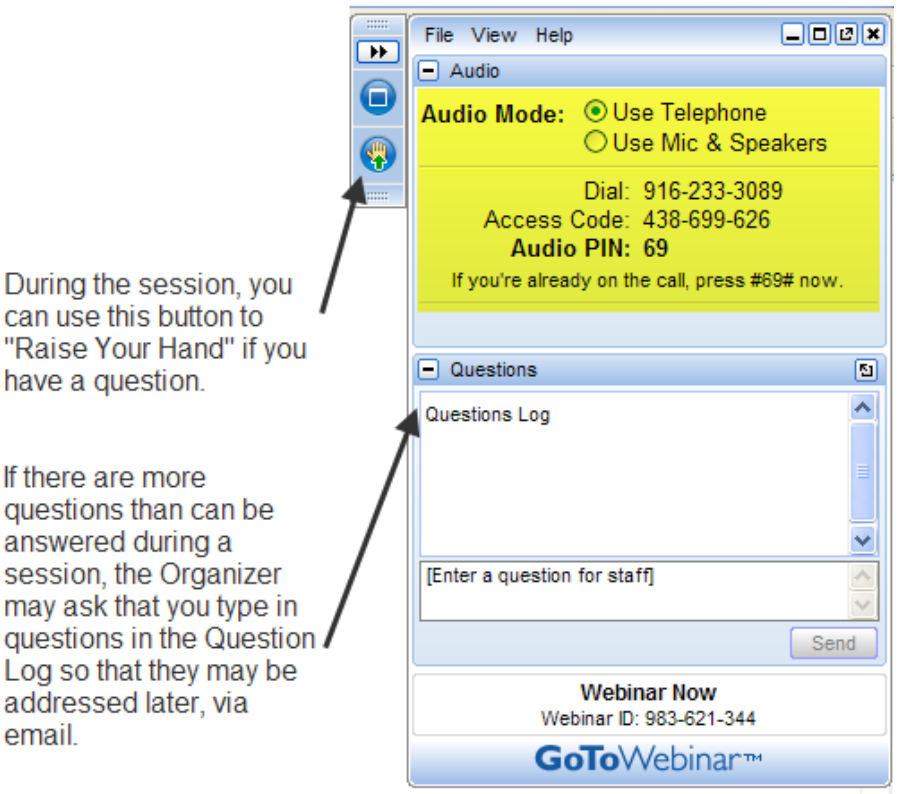
This allows someone else to work on my computer remotely.

The audio portion of the training usually takes place by calling in on a conference call line supplied by GoToMeeting. VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) is also available allowing you to use your computer's speakers and microphone but it is not recommended because of quality.

GoToWebinar is used for larger scale demonstration and presentations and can accommodate up to 1,000 Attendees. Online Webinars are generally structured to have one or more Presenters making the presentation.

Like GoToMeeting, the audio portion of GoToWebinar usually takes place by calling in on a conference call line supplied by GoToWebinar. However, in a Webinar setting, the Attendees are muted automatically by the Presenter so that everyone isn't blessed with the sound of crinkling potato chip bags and elevator music when someone puts the phone on hold. The Presenter has the ability to un-mute one or more Attendees as needed. The audio of all Attendees is managed by the Presenter by having each Attendee enter a unique "Audio PIN" upon arrival.

GoToWebinar has 2 ways to ask and respond to questions from Attendees. The Control Panel has a “Raise Your Hand” button that notifies the Presenter there is a question. Depending on time constraints, the Presenter may decide to un-mute and answer the question during the online session. If there are more questions than can be answered during a session, the Organizer may ask that you type in questions in the “Questions Log” so that they may be addressed at a later time.



Pros and Cons

I've put together what I consider to be the Pros and Cons of online training for CAD Software programs. Please pitch in and offer your comments.

Pros

- Can eliminate travel time and expenses
- Very cost effective option for customized one-on-one training
- Allows for personalized, absolutely customized training because it's normally one on one.
- Can't find a local trainer? No problem. Felicia Provencal can train you from Hawai'i – although you may want to go to her!
- Can be set up within minutes if there is a pressing technical support issue or project that suddenly comes up.
- Can be scheduled in shorter blocks of time – one of the best ways to make sure you retain what you are taught. I like to schedule 2 hours maximum per session.
- Shorter blocks of time allow for easy customization of training topics from one session to the next. If more time is needed on certain features, it's easy to squeeze in another 2 hour session.
- It IS interactive!
- All sessions can be recorded and played back at your convenience for a refresher.

Cons

- Some people are more comfortable sitting beside and working directly with the trainer
- It’s less interactive than hands-on, in person training.
- For hands on training and depending on the material being covered, it may not work as well if you have several folks needing training at one time.
- Requires a high-speed connection and a telephone headset allowing two hands on keyboard. A speakerphone can be used as long as feedback doesn’t become an issue.

Real World Example

I recently worked with a client from out of state. He is a grading contractor who thought he needed Carlson TakeOff training but, after some discussion, realized training in basic CAD (IntelliCAD) needed to come first and then TakeOff training.

The initial proposal was for me to travel there and spend 3-4 days training this client plus a second person (a competitor, in this case) who needed the same training. Both of them decided to give online training a try.

We scheduled online training for every morning one week. I worked with one from 7:30 – 9:30 am and then with the other from 10:30 – 12:30 pm. After the 3rd day, we had covered so much material that one asked to skip the next day so he could work with it himself and apply what he'd learned so far.

We ended up skipping two days. By the time we met again, he'd worked with it enough and become so much more proficient with the basic CAD operation that we were able to fast-forward through the next couple sessions and started working on his current project. Another subsequent session was cancelled because the rain finally stopped!

And then a few days later, he needed to get his project finished and out to bid. So, after our first session one morning, we set up another session at 4:00 that afternoon and worked until almost 7:00 that evening.

Both customers ended up very happy with the amount of material we covered and where they were with the software when we wrapped up our regular training. They still have the video recordings of the training for their reference to go back to when needed. In the end, the cost was almost the exact same as it would have been had I fulfilled the original

proposal but they both learned and retained much more because the training was customized and personalized to their specific jobs.

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

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Carlson Webinar

August 12, 2009
That CAD Girl was invited to present an hour-long webinar for Carlson Software on the topic, “CAD Standards for Carlson Software Using AutoCAD or IntelliCAD”.

The session can be viewed or downloaded here.

Carlson-IntelliCAD GIS Starter Kit from ESRI

August 12, 2009
Those currently using Carlson with IntelliCAD are eligible for a new "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.

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

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That CAD Girl – June Newsletter

August 12, 2009
Our June Newsletter can be downloaded HERE