If You're Not Using LandXML – You Should Be (yes, all of you!)

September 2, 2015

This is a badly needed webinar… I don't think I've done one specifically on this topic before and, for the life of me, I don't know why. For years I've been speaking to large groups at conferences and trade shows and it never ceases to amaze me how few people know the benefit of using LandXML files!



This will be a little different from my regularly scheduled webinars because it's FREE to everyone, there is no purchase required and the material presented will apply to everyone regardless of the civil/survey/construction software you use. Whether you know it or not, you've probably got everything you need already in your current software – you just need to put it to use.

So, what prompted me to finally schedule it? These poor people still using Land Desktop or Eagle Point calling me in a panic because their hard drives have finally crashed and they can't get the old software installed on newer Windows machines. Don't get me wrong, I don't fault anyone for hanging on to something that works but the ones who call me never realized they had the tools to protect themselves and salvage years of project data all along.

You can register here (no strings attached – promise!) or keep reading for the full announcement…

> *Please join me in this free webinar while I explain the benefits of, and how to use, LandXML-formatted files to share and archive project-related data files regardless of the manufacturer or version of software you and other team members use.*
>
> *Although many people do not realize it, LandXML is a tool that's most likely in your hands now and won't require any additional purchase.*
>
> *This webinar is a MUST SEE for anyone still using Land Desktop, Eagle Point or other program that has been retired*

because it is increasingly difficult, if not impossible, to install these programs on newer computers.

The information provided in this webinar will apply equally to users of Carlson Software, Land Desktop, Civil 3d, TerraModel, Eagle Point and practically any other software for surveyors, engineers or contractors (including machine control systems).

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This webinar will last approximately 1 hour and there will be time for questions at the end.

Click here to register for the webinar now

It's Trade Show Season –

Come See Me!

September 2, 2015
It's trade show season again and I am happy to get the chance to go visit old friends and meet new ones over the next few months…

Next one upcoming is the SAMSOG Technical Seminar in Atlanta later this week. I appreciate the opportunity to present my classes to this group for the first time and I understand it's going to be quite a crowd; but they take walk-ins on the day of the event. I'll be covering *Tips & Tricks in CAD and Carlson* and an *Introduction to Field to Finish*.

Next will be the NJ SurvCon in Atlantic City which starts on 2/4. I think this is my third year and I really enjoy seeing everyone although they all tell me I talk funny! Again, it's *Tips & Tricks* but I'll also be presenting *How to Take a Project from Field to Finish with Carlson Survey*.

February 11th thru 13th I'll be in Columbus, Ohio for the 40th Anniversary of PLSO's Annual Conference. I'll be in

the exhibit hall for most of the time but on Friday will be teaching *CAD & Carlson Tips & Tricks*. Make sure you visit my booth and see how your CAD skills match up to surveyors in other states!

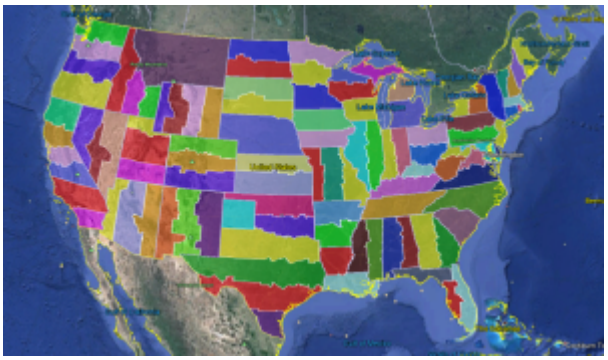
And, lastly (I think), I'll be in Murfreesboro TN at the TAPS 47th Annual Meeting & Exhibition from March 12-14. I'll be in the exhibit hall most of the time but will also be teaching *Field to Finish for Survey and GIS Collection from a GIS Dummy* on Thursday March 12th.

It's not a trade show but don't forget Carlson's 2015 User Conference at the end of April. I'll definitely be there since it's practically in the backyard of my hometown in Kentucky.

Looking forward to seeing everyone!

Google Earth/KMZ Overlays: Flood Zones, State Plane and UTM Zones

September 2, 2015



A CAD/Carlson Software buddy – Dent Cermak – passed along a response from FEMA to questions regarding the features available on FIRM maps. The FEMA rep recommended using National Flood Hazard Layer data to view flood data overlays on aerial, street and other imagery. The NFHL data is available via an online viewer here: http://fema.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=cbe088e7c8704464aa0fc34eb99e7f30.

Another way to access the NFHL data is to download it as a KMZ file that can be opened in Google Earth: https://hazards.fema.gov/femaportal/wps/portal/NFHLWMSkmzdownload.

So, I thought this was pretty cool and when I asked for Dent's permission to share on my website, he passed along a couple more .kmz files that were even more cool! These are courtesy of Ladd Nelson at Carlson Software.

If you have Google Earth installed on your computer, you only have to double-click to open these files in Google Earth.

KMZ file with US State Plane NAD83 Zones overlay – ZIP file

KMZ file with UTM Zones overlay – ZIP file

2014 That CAD Girl Workshop – Time to Register!

September 2, 2015

It's workshop and PDH time again!

We're mostly following the same calendar as last year with a 1/2 day in Asheville and 2 full days in Statesville and Raleigh. Each event includes drinks, snacks, lunch, door prizes/giveaways and "day-of-show" pricing for Carlson Software including new seats and maintenance renewals.

Register for the Statesville events by Sept 30th or for the

That CAD Girl

Raleigh events by Oct 31st for early registration discounts. Late fees will be applied to registrations within one week of each event.

Carlson Software Workshop in Asheville NC, Monday Nov 17th
View Announcement – ***Register Now!***

Statesville Workshop for Surveyors and Contractors, Tuesday Nov 18th
View Announcement – ***Register Now!***

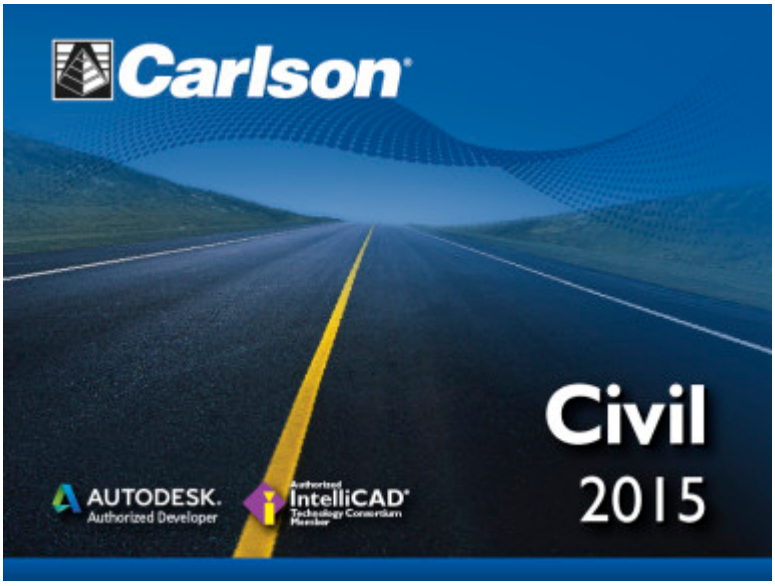
Statesville Workshop for Engineers and Designers, Wednesday Nov 19th
View Announcement – ***Register Now!***

Raleigh Workshop for Surveyors and Contractors, Tuesday Dec 9th
View Announcement – ***Register Now!***

Raleigh Workshop for Engineers and Designers, Wednesday Dec 10th

View Announcement – ***Register Now!***




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Carlson Tip of the Day… Virtually “printing” to PDF, DWF, JPG and PNG files

September 2, 2015

That CAD Girl



If you've recently switched from an AutoCAD-based program to Carlson with IntelliCAD, one thing you may miss is having the ability to virtually "plot" your drawings to PDF, DWF, JPG and PNG files instead of to paper. This functionality is not included in IntelliCAD and, from what I understand, including it would have significantly increased the price of each license so the developers decided to leave it out and allow users to purchase add-on programs if needed the functionality.

So, if you need to print to one of these formats, how can you do it?

If you primarily need to create PDF files and don't mind spending some kinda-big bucks, you can purchase a program such as **Adobe Acrobat**. Acrobat is a standalone program but it also installs as a virtual printer into Windows-based programs like Carlson, AutoCAD and even Microsoft Windows and Outlook.

If you need to print to PDF, you could save some money and consider other after-market programs such as **CutePDF** or **PDF995** (or many others) that essentially serve the same purpose – installing as a PDF printer into Windows-based programs. Most of these programs have a free version but there's usually a catch such as a watermark on each PDF that says something like, "This document printed with …". If you purchase one of their other products, the watermark goes away. I currently use **Adobe Acrobat** but used **Win2PDF** for years.

If you need to print to PDF but also to other formats such as PNG, JPG and TIF, you may want to take a look at **PDF Creator from SourceForge**. I know this is the utility recommended by several of the tech support team at Carlson but I haven't used it myself.

I am not sure if the other programs that I listed above (PDF995, CutePDF and Win2PDF) allow you to "print" to formats other than PDF and I can't tell from their websites but, if anyone knows and wouldn't mind passing that information along to me, I'll update this post with the additional information.

As mentioned above, having these PDF-creating programs

installed like a printer directly in your Carlson programs makes them very convenient and handy – but there is most likely a cost associated with them all.

My final recommendation is free, but a little less convenient – it's **Autodesk's DWG TrueView** (this link changes all the time – apologies in advance). It's free, but it allows you to use all the virtual printers included in AutoCAD such as DWGtoPDF, DWGtoJPG, DWGtoPNG and DWF ePlot. In addition, TrueView also includes the oh-so-cool DWG TrueConvert program that enables you to convert one or more DWG files from any version to pretty much any other version. The downside to using this program is that it's a standalone program so you must save your drawing and then open again in TrueView in order to plot.

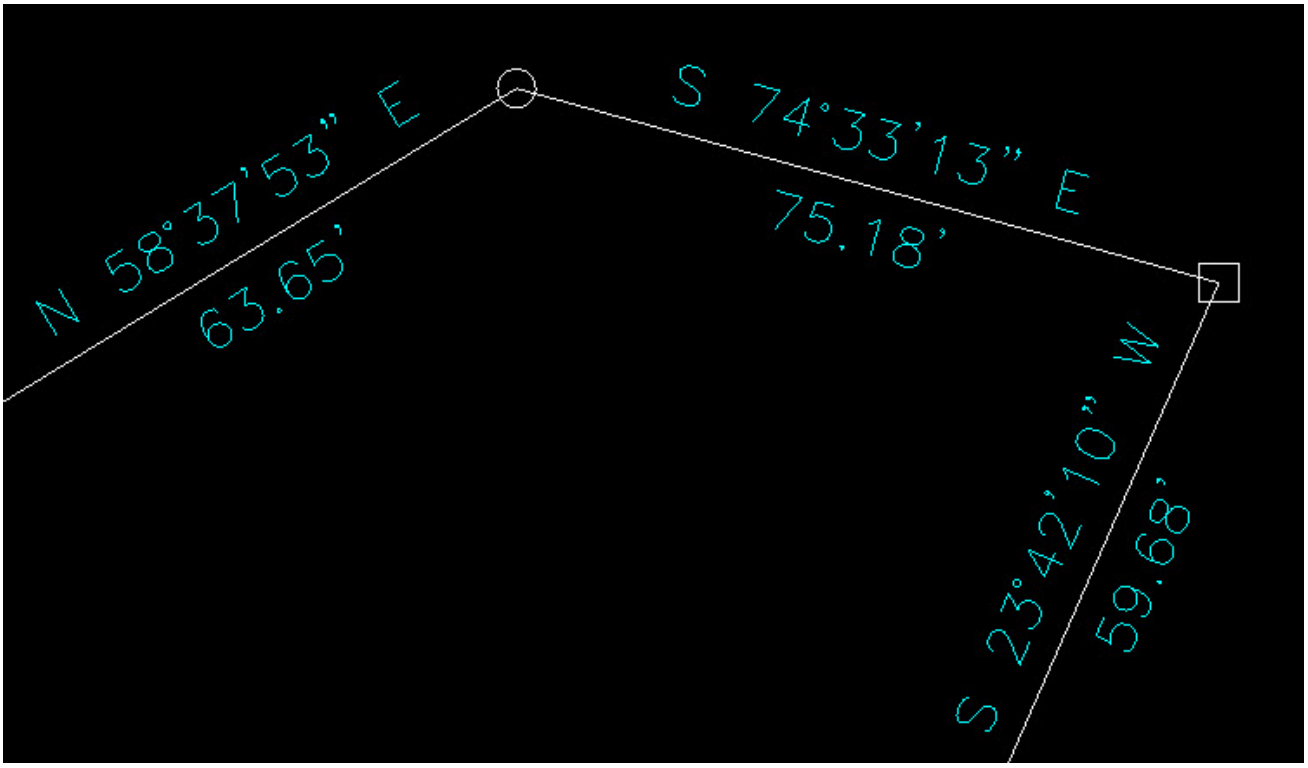
Happy Plotting!

Carlson Tip of the Day… Wiped Out Property Corner Symbols

September 2, 2015

I get this question quite a lot and thought it would be a good topic for Tips of the day…

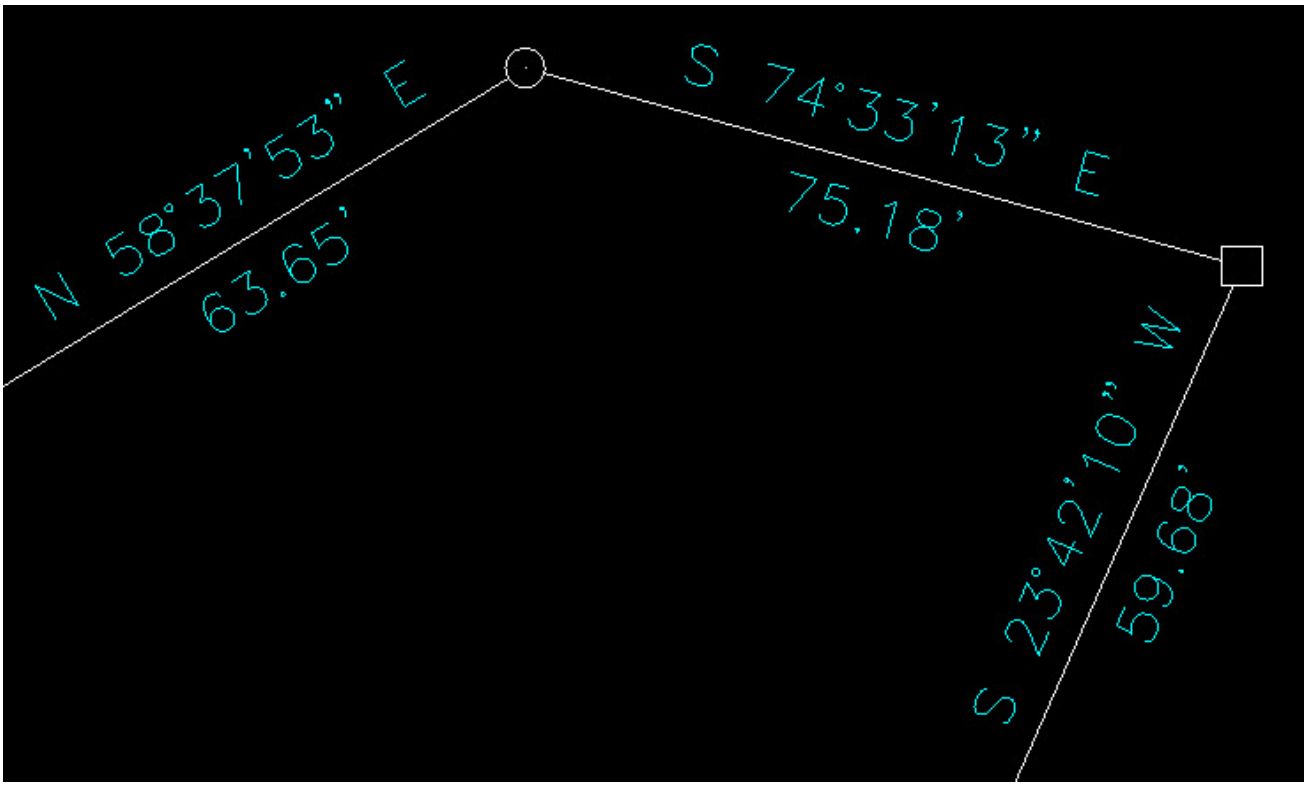
Problem: Lines or polylines of a boundary show up inside your open property corner symbols. See the image below for an example:



The additional problem is that, if you trim the lines inside the symbols to make it look cleaner, you're actually modifying the length of property lines so the distances from corner-to-corner are no longer accurate.

Here's an alternative: You can download a modified set of

Carlson's point symbols that include a "wipeout" entity that hides the lines behind/underneath the open symbols instead of trimming them and changing the length of the lines. Using the new set of symbols, the same property lines and symbols look like those in the image below (notice that the distances of linework are unchanged):



How to do this?

Here is the knowledge base article on Carlson's website that includes a ZIP file with the new symbol DWG files and instructions on where the files must be saved.

End of Year Workshops – New format for 2013

September 2, 2015
After several years of the same format for our end of year workshops, we've changed it up a bit this year.

For the first time, we will have one full day in both Statesville and Raleigh NC dedicated to Surveying and GIS topics and an additional day focusing on Civil and Hydrology topics. Each day will also include a unique presentation of

the popular CAD Tips & Tricks session that, hopefully, sends everyone home with something they can use the next day.

In addition, we're conducting 1/2-day events in Wilmington and Hendersonville (Asheville area) covering a variety of topics.

Each full-day class will give NC licensed surveyors and engineers 8 PDH credits and the 1/2 day events are eligible for 4 PDH credits. All events include lunch, software pricing specials and giveaways.

November 11th, Hendersonville NC – $49 for 4 PDH credits
Download Hendersonville (Asheville) Announcement Here
Register for Hendersonville (Asheville) Workshop Here

November 12th, Survey & GIS Workshop, Statesville NC – $99 for 8 PDH credits
Download Statesville Survey/GIS Announcement Here
Register for Statesville Survey/GIS Workshop Here

November 13th, Civil & Hydrology Workshop, Statesville NC – $99 for 8 PDH credits
Download Statesville Civil/Hydro Announcement Here

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Register for Statesville Civil/Hydro Workshop Here

December 9th, Wilmington NC – $49 for 4 PDH credits
Download Wilmington Announcement Here
Register for Wilmington Workshop Here

December 11th, Survey & GIS Workshop, Raleigh NC – $99 for 8 PDH credits
($89 registration thru 10/31/2013)
Download Raleigh Survey/GIS Announcement Here
Register for Raleigh Survey/GIS Workshop Here

December 12th, Civil & Hydrology Workshop, Raleigh NC – $99 for 8 PDH credits
($89 registration thru 10/31/2013)
Download Raleigh Civil/Hydro Announcement Here
Register for Raleigh Civil/Hydro Workshop Here

That CAD Girl

That CAD Girl Newsletter | September 2013

September 2, 2015
Click here for the September 2013 issue of my newsletter…

Professional Surveyor Magazine – Assorted CAD Tips & Tricks

September 2, 2015
I'm a bit late pointing this out, but here's my latest Picks 'N' Clicks article for **Professional Surveyor Magazine**

CAD Tips & Tricks

CAD Standards Manager 2013

September 2, 2015
Updated: Next live webinar will be on Wednesday, April 10th

You can sign up here: **https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/859901974**

Sooo…. **This is pretty intriguing**.

Anyone who has attended one of my CAD Standards Round Table classes has heard me say, ***"To have an effective CAD Standard, you must make it easier to do things the right way than it is to do it the wrong way."***

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Well, I'm not finished with my research yet, but the **CAD Standards Manager** developed by **CAD Masters** may be just the application to make that happen. It can be installed on top of your AutoCAD-based programs to help organize your standardized layers, symbols, linetypes, dimension styles, etc. One of the best parts, to me, is that it supports multiple standards. If you have a client that requires you deliver your work product to their particular standard, this program can accommodate that too.

You can check out a pre-recorded webinar demonstrating their 2013 release here or **download this flyer detailing the highlights of the program**.

Or, better yet, sign up for their next live webinar here: ~~https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/621720174~~ **See Above**. It will be held on ~~Tuesday, March 12, 2013 from 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM PDT (2:30-3:30 PM ET)~~ **See Above**. Since this is a live presentation, you will have a chance to ask questions to see if the program will support your specific needs.

I have a simple request… If you sign up for the live webinar, please let them know you heard about it from **That CAD Girl**.