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Merry Christmas and Happy New
Year from all of us at Archway

ARCH WAY

The Newsletter for Friends of Archway Systems

Volume 16

Dec 07

Number 5

Upcoming Events:

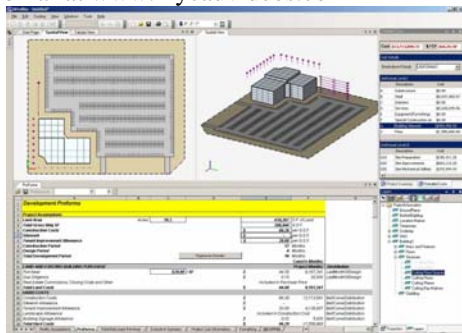
Dec 4,5	Users meetings (below)	USC & OCC
Dec 10 week	Technology Update	Several Nor. Cal.
Feb 17-Feb 23	National Engrs Week	Washington DC
Feb 28-Mar 1	EAST Annual Conf	Hot Springs AR
Mar 13-Mar 15	CITEA Annual Conf	Riverside CA
Mar 31-Apr 3	Westec 2008	LA Con Ctr
May 19-May 22	ecobuild america	Anaheim Con Ctr

User Meeting: Implementing 3D BIM

Don't miss this event! Everyone is talking about BIM (Building Information Modeling) and a few have actually implemented it successfully, but, the transition can be scary and difficult. Be sure to attend the MicroStation Users meetings coming up first week of December. Marty Doscher of Morphosis and Reg Prentice of Gensler will share their company's actual experience implementing 3D BIM via Bentley Architecture and Revit, respectively. They will present twice, first at **USC Harris 101 on Tuesday Dec 4 from 6:30 to 8:30pm**. Next, they will present at **Orange Coast College on Wednesday Dec 5 from 6pm to 8pm**. Supper will be served. No cost to you other than parking. Why not benefit from those that have done it? RSVP to Linda@archwaysystems.com

DProfiler for Building Cost

If you haven't yet seen DProfiler with RS Means from Beck Technologies, take 40 minutes and watch the recorded webinar at www.mycadvideos.com



Bentley Technology Update Road Show

Please be sure to attend any of the Northern California presentations to learn the latest in Bentley Technology including Bentley BIM and all the XM generation products including MicroStation, PowerCivil, WaterGEMS, Generative Components and more. Learn how to customize for maximum productivity. Learn about BentleyLEARN, the world's champ in online training. Educators are encouraged to join us including some students. Enjoy a meal with us and receive a CD with the latest software for your evaluation. The schedule:

December 10 Stanford Linear Accelerator Building 48
10:30am to 2:30pm XM, BIM, Haestad, BentleyLEARN and customizing with VBA

December 11 Stanford CIFE iRoom Building 550
12 noon to 2pm Lunch plus Bentley overview, BIM and Generative Components

December 11 UC Berkeley Extension South of Market Center, 95 Third, San Francisco, Room 205
6:30pm to 9PM Pizza plus Bentley overview, BIM and Generative Components

December 12 Cal State Sacramento Willow Suite Modoc Hall
4:30 to 6pm Supper plus Bentley overview, Haestad, BIM and Generative Components

December 13 Cal State Fresno EE 212
Parallel sessions with lunch served:

10am to 2pm
Introduction to
Haestad and
WaterGEMS
9am to 11am
Introduction to VBA
for MicroStation
11am to 1pm
Introduction to
Bentley
Architecture

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Who's who at Archway Systems

Arlene Black	Administration and sales
Leah Spitler	Civil engr software support
Tom Lazear	Admin, sales and training
George McMeans	Sales & training in Nor. Cal.
Mike Lazear	Programming & support
Erik Wordal	Training in Cal coastal
Rick Plummer	Consulting and sales

Josh Lazear	Webmaster & programming
Greg Hamano	Support & training
Sandy Lazear	Accounting
Linda Grubb	Support & administration
Daniel Lazear	Programming
Chris Grubb	Civil engr software support

REPORT

How many ways can you learn software?

In our consulting work, the one thing we run into at every client where they are implementing software systems to increase their productivity is the need for training. For whatever reason, it is easy to understand purchasing software but not so easy to set aside the time and money necessary for training. There are lots of reasons: the company is busy and they need the employees doing the work, or the company is tight with money, or philosophically they believe the employee can learn on his or her own.

Lots of studies show that productivity of employees is directly proportional to the amount of training they have in their job. Of course, this is based on the assumption that the company knows how to do their work, that is, has systems and procedures and standards in place that the employee can learn.

So, count the ways that employees can get trained: a. the employee can use the built-in tutorials in Help files to learn on their own over coffee breaks and lunch or in the evening. b. the employee can take a class at a local school or college c. the employee can learn at a short course given by the publisher of the software or at a certified training center, d. the employee can learn from an online, prerecorded class, or e. the employee can learn from an instructor-lead online course. Using Bentley as the example, here is an analysis of those ways:

Employee learning from the Help files. Lots of software has been learned this way in the past and Bentley software has tutorials in each of their products. But, today's software has become so complex that a do-it-yourself training program will generally only touch a tenth of the capability of the software. Also, since software is more and more integrated, it is more difficult to learn the whole system from self-help. And, few employees will spend their own valuable time learning a software product. So, while better than nothing, learning from the Help files leaves lots of productivity on the table.

Classes at local schools can be a very economical and effective way to learn a technical product such as MicroStation or AutoCAD. In Bentley's case there are a number of schools that do a great job in teaching MicroStation. That would include: Rio Hondo College, LA Trade Tech, Santa Ana College and more. And, a few teach other products such as Rio Hondo teaching InRoads. But, a company like a civil consulting company might use 10 products. No schools teach ProjectWise. Few teach

advanced products like Hammer. So, the schools can only teach the basics. And, this usually requires the employee to take the class on their own time. Some companies do give time off, such as to attend Rio Hondo's Friday course in InRoads. Schools go at a slower pace which can be good if the company has time or bad if the software must be learned for a specific project. To the extent possible though, school classes should be used.

Attending a short course in a particular software has long been used by companies that have a sudden need for learning a software product. For example, many companies require or suggest that MicroStation be used for their projects. Examples include Caltrans, Albertsons, Starbucks, Target and more. Often the only way to meet the project demands is to take a short course. Bentley offers hundreds of such courses all over the world. A schedule of courses can always be found at the Bentley website (www.bentley.com, then click Training). Courses are offered at Training Centers such as Archway and on site, which can be economical for larger groups. These courses do require a dedicated amount of the employee's time and the cost is not insignificant, but, well spent.

Bentley offers a variety of online courses including instructor lead and prerecorded. Online courses save travel time and expense and provide more time flexibility. The instructor lead courses can be purchased one by one or via an Enterprise Training Subscription (ETS). The ETS is an ideal solution for a company that is implementing a lot of new software or is growing fast, adding new employees. For one annual price, the subscriber can take all the online instructor lead courses plus all of the 600 prerecorded courses and can attend any of the short courses given around the world. The ETS also comes with some consulting help in setting up a custom training program. The minimum cost for this is \$20,000 per year, but, money very well spent.

Bentley's cache of prerecorded courses include everything from how to use a particular feature to a 4 day course like MicroStation Essentials. Prerecorded courses are available as a low cost package called BentleyLEARN.

The trend in technical training is clear. No online courses were available five years ago. Now a significant portion of all courses are taken online. That trend will continue to increase the amount taken online as the training software improves and the market gets used to it. Whichever training method is used, it is clear that the smart companies

are equipping their employees for productivity with training.

Training Class Schedule

Archway offers a variety of training classes using the latest of each software. All classes use certified materials and are held from 8:30 am to 5 pm. Locations: Huntington Beach training center (**HB**) and S.F. Bay area (**BA**). Classes can be delivered on-site and online. For latest Bentley courses, see also: <http://www.bentley.com/en-us/training/>

Call or email us for the latest class schedule.

Upcoming open enrollment classes:

InRoads Survey XM- This is a Bentley certified, 2-day class using Bentley's InRoads 8.9 training manual. Cost is including course book and instruction. HB: TBD

InRoads Site XM- This is a Bentley certified, 2-day class using Bentley's InRoads 8.9 training manual. Cost is including course book and instruction. HB: TBD

InRoads Fundamentals XM- This is a Bentley certified, 3-day class using Bentley's InRoads 8.9 training manual. Cost is \$1350 including course book and instruction. HB: TBD

STAAD.Pro Standard-Introduction to FEM. \$1500. HB TBD

Everything 3D Learn how to design in 3D using MicroStation's surface and solid modeling capability. \$1350 HB. TBD

Moving to MicroStation- Covers the basics of MicroStation 2D for persons who know another CAD. This is a good first class in Bentley's certified course series. Cost is \$1050 HB: Dec 18-20

Essential MicroStation- Even deeper than Moving to MicroStation, this four day class is basic for new users. Cost is \$1400 HB: TBD

Bentley MAP Covers the fundamentals of setting up a map database, mapping tools and more. Cost and time TBD

Rhino Level I Learn to make 3D NURBs models. \$695 HB. Discounts available for educators. TBD

Dealing with Caltrans Learn Caltrans standards. Includes Iplot, workspaces and more. 2-day class, \$1500 HB. TBD BA TBD

Getting the most out of your systems

Over the past couple of years, Archway has had the privilege of helping a number of companies increase their productivity and business systems. At MJC, we helped them review systems and guided them to the installation of a new, low cost, very effective manufacturing accounting system. At Angeles Can we helped identify problems with inventory. Currently, we are working on the largest consulting contract we have ever had, helping a very large organization implement new systems. We first conduct an AS-IS review that ends with a flowchart of all existing systems. It is really important for all to agree on what the current situation is before moving on. The second phase is a TO-BE analysis where the goal is to achieve consensus within the company of how systems should work and what is needed to make it happen. Then follows the functional specifications plus technical specs on what should be acquired or developed. Then, implementation and training.

If done properly, a systems study can improve company performance and competitiveness and employee satisfaction. Let us know if you would like a proposal for improving your systems.

Learn 3 CAD Systems in one month

Drafting 165 at Orange Coast College introduces students to VersaCAD, MicroStation and Rhino 3D in four short weeks during the January "Intersession". The class is from 8am to 12:30 MWF. This fast paced class will make the student productive on all three software to round out the student's portfolio and double the number of job opportunities. VersaCAD used by Stater Brothers and 1000 others. MicroStation used by process plant design firms, Caltrans and the US Army Corps of Engineers. Rhino 3D the standard for shoe, jewelry and consumer product design as well as architecture. Signup at http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu/academics/class_schedule/Class+Schedule.htm

Generative Components Workshop

Generative Components is now a standard extension to MicroStation for SELECT subscribers. It is also a part of the BE Careers Subscription for any school. A School of Architecture recently purchased a subscription via an innovative approach. Rather than the school purchasing the subscription, 10 professors pooled their funds and purchased the subscription in the name of the school. Even a 10 seat subscription entitles all of the students and faculty to have the software for their own computer. Archway will conduct a complimentary, half day workshop onsite to get the professors and a few students going. The workshop covers the installation, launching, user interface and several tutorials including two roof examples and a bridge. The complimentary workshop is available to other local subscribing schools and an online version is available for remote schools, however, availability is limited so signup soon. There is also a new Bentley Institute formal class which is available at Bentley Training Centers.

Bentley Q4 Specials

If you are in the market for software, don't miss these great Bentley specials: for the architect, discounts up to 50% on 3D BIM. For the civil designer; 44% on PowerCivil. Give us a call or email tom@archwaysystems.com All specials end Dec 31, 2007.

ProjectWise Breakthrough

Recognizing the problems of lost time looking for files, the cost of out-of-date revisions, and confusion; many software companies have promoted computer systems as the solution. Autodesk's BuzzSaw, a host of independent software and Bentley's ProjectWise. ProjectWise has been in development for 10 years and has improved every year. Today, ProjectWise is without doubt the best software for any organization involved in architecture, engineering or construction. It handles MicroStation, AutoCAD, Office and many other files types better than any competing software. File searching, check-out control, project startup files, company standards are all handled efficiently with ProjectWise. It seems that the market is finally realizing the importance of a managed environment and demand is high.

This is the time for any company to implement ProjectWise or risk being left behind.

ARCHWAY'S PRODUCT LINE

Archway is a full service provider of technical software and hardware serving the Academic, Architectural, Civil and Mechanical Engineering markets.

DESIGN & ENGR SOFTWARE:

- MicroStation and applications
- Beck's DProfiler with RS Means
- VersaCAD Win & Mac
- InRoads, PowerCivil & Geopak Civil Software
- Haestad Hydraulic Analysis Software
- Solid Edge and applications
- TransMagic-translation software
- Magics X STL editing software

3D GRAPHICS & ANIMATION SOFTWARE:

- Rhino 3D, Flamingo, Penguin & Bongo
- Softimage
- solidThinking
- Bentley Navigator
- ArchVision libraries

COMPUTER PERIPHERALS

- Z Corp 3D Printers

PRODUCTS

ZPrinter[®] 450

World's Most Automated and Affordable Color 3D Printer



\$39,900*

* Manufacturer's Suggested U.S. List Price for Printer only. Options, shipping, local taxes and duties not included.



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SERVICES

- Training
- Phone support
- On-site support
- 3D Printing
- Customizing
- Consulting
- Contract software development
- CAD file translation

Archway Training Center

Checkout the training classes on page 3. Classes for every need for MicroStation, Haestad, InRoads, STAAD.Pro, RAM, Rhino, Solid Edge and VersaCAD. Increase your design productivity by learning from the experts.

Implementing BIM Free Seminar

Join us at USC Harris 101 on Dec 4 at 6:30pm or at Orange Coast College, Technology Building lobby on Dec 5 at 6pm. Two IT Directors from large architectural firms will report on how they successfully implemented BIM. Many \$thousands of consulting PLUS dinner, at no cost. RSVP to Linda@archwaysystems.com

Free CAD videos for Educators

http://www.be.org/en-US/BE+Careers/Products/BE_Careers_eSeminars

Checkout this site for free introductory videos and one hour webinars on the latest in CAD, FEM, and more.

Z 450 3D Printer

The new Z450 is a breakthrough in 3D Printing (rapid prototyping). Provides the lowest cost of operation and the only multicolor printer on the market all contained in one good looking box. Our customers use their Z for: building models, golf club models, machine parts and even city models as shown on picture at left. Archway provides sales and service including 3D Printing of your models.

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