



BSD

LinkLine

Building Systems Design, Inc.

A Newsletter for BSD SoftLink® Customers and Friends

FALL 2007

SpecLink-E: An Overview

Over the past few quarters this newsletter has published several articles describing our forthcoming SpecLink-E (SLE) product in some detail. As we approach the first beta release of this product, we thought it would be useful to provide an overview that also explains why we are making such a substantial investment. As we started development, we identified six areas where we thought we could achieve significant improvement over the SpecLink+ product. These included database technology, performance on the network, interoperability with other industry products, word processing tools, data updating processes, and product installation management. This article summarizes our efforts in these areas.

Database Technology SpecLink+ (SLP), our current product, was built as a desktop application serving smaller firms, using the Microsoft Access database format. It was gradually adapted to run on networks in larger firms. The new product, SLE, uses the Microsoft SQL Server database management engine and is designed to run well in every environment, ranging from a single computer to a wide area network of computers, to computers linked only by the Internet. SQL Server is an enterprise class system that can run on a single computer, although it is designed for simultaneous use by hundreds of users in multiple locations. SQL Server is a separate piece of software, but it comes preconfigured with SpecLink-E, is built into the SLE install, and does not require a separate purchase or a database administrator. Using SQL Server, projects are stored, copied, shared and edited in a single large database. They can be backed up as well as archived and are more

easily managed in this single database system.

Network Performance The move to a SQL Server-based system facilitates a new system architecture that is expected to significantly increase productivity when users are editing projects over a network. SLE should make it easy to edit projects and documents over WAN's (wide area networks) and VPN's (virtual private networks). When you edit a specification section in SLE, the new system brings the entire document, including the master version of the document, to your desktop and lets you work on it there, saving it to your disk as necessary, without making time consuming "trips" over the network to get or save data. Once the document is complete you can check it back in, saving it back to the single Projects database.

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ConsensusDOCS™ proudly endorsed by the following:



Figure 1

**Note: The Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee (EJCDC) actively participated in the drafting process, but is considering endorsement after initial publication.*

New ConsensusDOCS™ Contract Forms

A new set of standard construction contract forms will soon be available electronically. Scheduled for release in late September, ConsensusDOCS will include a full range of over 70 documents addressing everything from standard design-bid-build projects to design-build and construction management project delivery. Included in the collection will be a document that defines standard electronic communication protocol for a project and an innovative tri-party collaborative agreement for use by the owner, contractor, and designer.

ConsensusDOCS have been jointly developed by a consortium of twenty construction industry organizations representing groups as diverse as building owners, general contractors, subcontractors, design professionals, and sureties (*see Figure 1 for list of organizations involved*).

Two key organizations, *The Associated General Contractors of America (AGC)* and the *Construction Owners Association of America (COAA)* have combined their respective document programs and made their documents the starting point for consen-

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SpecLink® Helps DSGW Produce Specifications in Half the Time

DSGW is a Minnesota firm with offices in Duluth, Virginia, Grand Rapids and the Twin Cities.

DSGW provides architectural services to public and private community groups. They know that the word “community” has many meanings because communities come in every size and character. They work with private businesses, public institutions, neighborhoods, towns, suburbs and cities to design environments that enhance their daily lives, providing creative solutions that meet their clients’ aesthetic needs, quality expectations, budget and schedule parameters.

The Need: The concept of “community” and creating solutions for them permeates the way DSGW conducts business. One definition for community can be a group that has common goals. They knew that a good specification writing system should mimic a community: every part of the software should work together to produce the end goal. For example, when information is added, deleted or changed in one section, that modification should flow through to other parts of the specification.

Word-processing based specification writing systems lack this kind of coordination between sections. Sections can be added, deleted, or changed, but there is no synchronization of the data. This was something they wanted to change. It was one of the needs that motivated them to look at SpecLink.

The Solution: SpecLink’s formatting features have helped DSGW reduce their specwriting time by 50%. Joe Watson, Specifier with DSGW in Duluth, Minnesota, says, “SpecLink has

“With SpecLink, we were able to have specifications to our client in three days.”

**Joe Watson,
Specifier
DSGW**

considerably reduced the time it takes for us to change footers and clean up imported text. As soon as you name the project, the footers formatting is done. And imported text takes on the formatting of the section to which it is imported. SpecLink has helped us in cleaning up the word processing ‘quirks’ associated with importing text from various sources.”

This ease of formatting was impressed upon Watson during a recent project. He recalls, “One of the best projects where we have been able to utilize the features that SpecLink offers was the Carlton County Maintenance Facility. This was a very large

job that was done with mostly imported materials. With SpecLink, we were able to have specifications to our client in three days.”

The Outcome: DSGW has been using SpecLink now for four years. They have taken advantage of how easy it is to create an Office Master in SpecLink, creating one for standard projects, and have benefited by using SpecLink’s automatic updating of reference standards. These two features have made creating specifications at DSGW much faster and easier. “Knowing that everything is being updated – such as ASTM numbers and other reference standards – was another major reason for our switch to SpecLink,” says Watson. “And being able to use the Office Master for similar jobs – easily removing paragraphs that don’t apply and adding new ones that do – has given us a great productivity advantage that we will use to continually grow our business.” ■



Fortune Bay Resort and Casino

Success at CSI

The 2007 CSI Show and Convention in Baltimore was a knockout success for BSD, from the Opening General Assembly through the Honors and Awards Gala on the final evening.

BSD received the 2007 CSI Construction Technology Award, which was presented to BSD’s president, Mr. Robert Paul Dean, AIA, CSI, CCS, at the opening assembly. This national award, which has been presented only three times, was given to BSD for its innovative specifications technology as embodied in BSD SpecLink®. BSD was also recognized during the Opening General Assembly for being one of the CSI Show sponsors and for being one of CSI’s education partners.

Mr. John Witherspoon, BSD’s founder and CEO, had the honor of cutting the ribbon to open the exhibit floor for the CSI Show. BSD’s remodeled booth was prominently located, with its lighted top acting as a beacon for the hundreds of attendees who visited us during the three days of the show. Fifteen-minute presentations were scheduled every 45 minutes in the BSD theatre, and most were well-attended. In addition, Mr. Dean and Ms. Susan McClendon, BSD’s Executive Vice President, each made continuing education presentations that were very well-received. Mr. Dean’s topic was “Specifications and Corporate Memory,” and Ms. McClendon spoke on “Letting CAD and BIM Write the Specifications.” Mr. Witherspoon also made several 20-minute presentations on new BSD products in the Product Education Lab located on the show floor.

One of the most innovative aspects of BSD’s participation in the CSI Show was the BSD Segway Sweepstakes. All attendees at the CSI convention were invited to participate in the drawing for a new Segway i2 that was on display at the BSD booth. A young lady rode another Segway around the convention center promoting the sweepstakes and handing out entry forms on all three days. We received about 500 completed entries, and the



See “CSI” on page 4

About Your SpecLink & PerSpective Updates

SpecLink+ Statistics:

- 527 sections total, 282 updated (53%)
- 525 non-proprietary sections
- 2 proprietary sections
- 56 sections with built-in checklists
- 91,105 paragraphs
- 102,414 internal links (targets and consequences)
- 25,955 notes to specifier
- 14,875 notes with live hyperlinks to Internet web pages
- 2,130 external documents referenced, with live hyperlinks to order information
- 961 ASTMs referenced, 100% verified within last 3 months, 24% updated
- 3 ASTMs never before referenced, 2 obsolete
- 1,169 other documents referenced, 75% verified this quarter*, 3% updated

- 184 standards organizations referenced
- 2,419 manufacturer listings, with live hyperlinks to their web sites
- 945 unique manufacturers listed in 371 non-proprietary sections

Short Form Specs Statistics:

- 16 sections corresponding to MasterFormat 1995 divisions
- 12 sections updated (75%)
- 8,308 paragraphs
- 1,564 notes to specifier, 1,023 with live hyperlinks
- 9,044 internal links (targets and consequences)
- 367 external documents referenced
- 226 ASTMs referenced, 100% verified within last 3 months
- 141 other documents referenced, 69% verified this quarter*, 3 updated

- 43 standards organizations referenced

PerSpective Performance Specs Statistics:

- 161 sections, 10 updated (6%)
- 17,392 paragraphs
- 22,115 internal links (targets and consequences)
- 4,024 notes to specifier, 926 with live hyperlinks
- 191 external documents referenced, with live hyperlinks to order information
- 50 ASTMs referenced, 100% verified within last 3 months
- 141 other documents referenced, 75% verified this quarter*, 2 updated
- 39 standards organizations referenced ■

* Documents issued more than two years ago are verified quarterly, as are annual or semiannual publications. The documents not verified this quarter were updated within the past two years.

Now Playing: SpecLink Webinars

Building Systems Design provides twice-weekly guided tours of the SpecLink® application. One-hour Webinars cover the basics to get you started on your first project.

Subjects covered include:

- Starting a new project
- Navigation of the Menu Bar and Tree Panel
- Discussion of the Status Columns in the Document Panel
- Explanation of choices, options, and fill-in-the blanks
- Creating and modifying headers and footers
- Printing options

We offer free SpecLink Webinars on Tuesdays at 11 AM and Thursdays at 4 PM, Eastern Time. Please call 1-800-266-7732 to schedule the time most convenient for you, and we will send you the information to register. ■

About the ASTM Updates

Standards published by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) make up 44% of the 2,205 documents referenced in SpecLink, the Short Form specs, and PerSpective - the largest number published by a single organization. All of those ASTMs were verified in the last quarter; 24% had been revised and 2 withdrawn. Each revised standard was compared to the previous edition and evaluated for its potential effect on the specifications before updating the sections. The ASTM updates affected 45% of SpecLink sections, 13 of the 16 Short Form sections, and 5% of PerSpective performance specifying sections.

Monitoring the continual, irregularly timed changes to ASTMs might be an almost impossible project, except that ASTM publishes an annual 4-volume compendium of the standards referenced in the model building codes, SpecLink and PerSpective, and other guide specifications - *ASTM Standards in Building Codes*. BSD furnishes ASTM the information they need to ensure that all of the standards referenced in SpecLink, Short Form, and PerSpective sections are included in this set.

We use *ASTM Standards in Building Codes* as the “current” edition for purposes of referencing edition dates for one reason: It’s simple. We know that most design professionals don’t have copies of many, if not most, of the ASTMs referenced, so we’ve chosen as our definitive edition the simplest (and most economical) way to purchase them. For \$925, you get over 1,300 ASTMs related to construction - for \$100 more, you can get them on DVD. There are three other ways to get ASTMs: Individually, at a minimum of \$30 per standard; individual volumes of the complete 80+-volume set of all ASTMs, at an average of \$200 each; or the entire collection, over \$8,500, either in print or on CD-ROM.

If you decide to add ASTMs to your reference library, we recommend *ASTM Standards in Building Codes*, published annually in early July. If you are not an ASTM member, you can get the 10 percent member discount if you place your order with Suzanne Pagano at (610) 832-9612 or spagano@astm.org; tell her you are a BSD SpecLink/PerSpective subscriber. For more information, go to www.astm.org. ■

New SpecLink Section

23 0130.51 (15015) - HVAC Air Duct Cleaning:

This section covers duct and equipment cleaning as well as post-cleaning testing and inspection. The section is based on the National Air Duct Cleaners Association (NADCA) standard "Assessment, Cleaning, and Restoration of HVAC Systems", which specifies performance criteria, methods of verification, and some cleaning methods. The section also includes preferred cleaning methods of fibrous glass insulated components and selected surface treatment product types. The section does not specify a specific method of cleaning or type of cleaning equipment but rather specifies the required end result. ■

Revised SpecLink Section

07 25 00 (07260) - Weather Barriers

Principal Changes, Fall 2007 Update:

- A new comprehensive checklist aids in specifying multiple applications and coordinating similar materials specified in other sections. Water-resistive barriers can be specified either in this section or in one of the sections where exterior stud walls and sheathing are specified: 054000 Cold-Formed Metal Framing, 061000 Rough Carpentry, or 092116 Gypsum Board Assemblies.
- New definitions were added to distinguish Air Barriers, Vapor Retarders, and Water-Resistive Barriers because the terminology is confusing.
- Two new articles were added in PART 2: Air Barriers and Water-Resistive Barriers. The existing main product article in PART 2 has been renamed Vapor Retarders, since all of the products in it were that type. The existing mastics and spray coatings were appended to the Vapor Retarders article, since they are also that type.
- PART 3 is almost entirely new.
- MF95 version title has changed from Vapor Retarders to Weather Barriers

This section covers supplementary air barriers, vapor retarders, and water-resistive barriers, primarily for exterior walls. This section uses the following definitions:

- Air Barrier: Retards air passage, is water vapor permeable, and is liquid moisture resistant. Air barriers are assumed to be vapor permeable because they are commonly installed on the cold side of exterior walls where a vapor retarder might be inadvisable. If a vapor retarder is appropriate in such a location, don't call it an air barrier, even though it does perform that function. Air barriers offered are mechanically fastened sheets ("housewraps") and spray or roller applied coatings. An air barrier can function as a water-resistive barrier (see below).

- Vapor Retarder: Retards passage of both air and water vapor. Must be sealed at joints and penetrations. Vapor retarders are used on the "warm" side of walls to preclude condensation inside the wall or insulation. Vapor retarders offered are mechanically fastened sheets, self-adhesive sheets, mastic and spray coatings.

- Water-resistive barrier: Neither air barrier nor vapor retarder but is liquid moisture resistant. Water-resistive barriers only protect the construction from damage due to precipitation. (The term "water-resistive barrier" is from the ICC International Building Code, 1404.2, which requires a minimum of one layer of No. 15 asphalt felt behind exterior wall veneer, unless other conditions are met.) Water-resistive barriers offered are No. 15 asphalt felt, waterproof Kraft building paper, and "housewrap" sheets installed lapped but not sealed. An air barrier can be used as a water-resistive barrier.

Many other materials and components specified in other sections can make up part of the entire "weather barrier". This section does not contain any provisions that define the air or vapor performance of those other materials. ■

Notes

We've Moved

As of May 14, our address is:

Building Systems Design, Inc.
Two Piedmont Center, Suite 300
3565 Piedmont Road, NE
Atlanta, GA 30305

SPEC WRITER JOB OPENING: BSD is looking for an architect or engineer to join us in maintaining and expanding SpecLink. For more information, go to www.bsdssoftlink.com/bsdjobs.htm or call (888) BSD-SOFT.

AIA CEUs SPONSORED BY BSD

In partnership with ARCHI-TECH magazine, BSD has authored several articles that are AIA- approved for one Learning Unit (HSW). These articles have appeared in past issues of ARCHI-TECH magazine and are currently posted at the magazine's web site. Each article includes a short set of questions designed to test the reader's comprehension of the content. The actual test, along with instructions on applying for AIA/CES credit, are offered only online — there is a \$10 charge for taking the exam. Each course will remain on the magazine's web site for one year after publication in the magazine. The ARCHI-TECH magazine CEU Series is at www.architechmag.com/ceus. Or visit BSD's Specifiers' Library at www.bsdssoftlink.com/library for links to the specific BSD-sponsored CEU articles, on *MasterFormat 2004* and *Specifying and Cost Estimating with BIM*. ■

"CSI" continued from page 2

brand new Segway i2 was won on the final day by Mr. Rick Jordak, an Applications Engineer with Bosch Security Systems.

At the Honors and Awards Gala on the final evening of the convention, BSD was recognized again as a CSI Strategic Partner. Overall, the 2007 CSI Show and Convention was one of the best we have ever participated in, and we were very pleased and honored to be acknowledged by CSI for our contributions. We are already looking forward to participating in CSI's next convention, *Construct 2008*, which will be held next June in Las Vegas. We hope to see you there! ■

“SpecLink-E” continued from page 1

Interoperability SpecLink-E is being constructed to participate in the building information modeling (BIM) environment with a number of industry connections planned. Initially, SLE is being built to exchange data with Autodesk’s Revit Architecture 2008 system. BSD is developing a pivotal application dubbed LinkMan-E (LME) that is designed to act as an intermediary, a “dashboard” displaying the status of products and assemblies in multiple collaborating applications. In the first round, these applications include SpecLink-E, Revit, and BSD CostLink/AE.

To do its work, LME maintains a library of “generic” assembly objects comprising “generic” product objects. LinkMan-E connects assemblies it recognizes in Revit to its generic assemblies and similarly links its generic products to those referenced in SLE. It displays the relationship between the two and, depending on the user’s preference, can actually select products in SLE. Using SLE’s linking system, a specification can be essentially “pre-edited” based on the content of the Revit project. LME will operate similarly to create links to and from CostLink/AE assemblies. The initial release of the LinkMan-E product is expected three to six months after the release of SpecLink-E.

Word Processing Tools BSD licenses third party word processing components to provide core functionality in SpecLink+. For development of SLE, BSD has licensed an internationally recognized word processing component that is highly programmable, allowing BSD to add its tools, linking technology, choice fields and other features in seamless fashion. The word processor is an MS Word-like component that supports full tables management, embedded images, page view (print layout), and editing with WYSIWYG header-footer creation. The new component will allow us to import and export the Microsoft Word .DOC format and print to PDF.

Related to the word processor upgrade, SLE is expanding the four standard project templates (CSI, Military, Block and Line Numbering) to allow any number of user-defined templates. Each template is a set of paragraph styles, each style comprising a selected font, numbering format, paragraph indentation scheme, and line spacing. Styles are then assigned to each of 10 outline levels. By default, the selected project template applies to all documents (sections) in the project, but in SLE any document can be assigned its own template that overrides the project template for that particular document.

Data Updating Processes Today, we provide quarterly updates to both software and data in a process that requires each and every computer to replace both data and software every quarter. In SpecLink-E we are separating the data updating (whether it be on a network or a single machine), from the software updating on every computer. The new Master database updating will be performed via the Internet. As the editors at BSD make a round of changes, or add a new document, or heavily update an existing one, the completed change will be queued on BSD’s server as a package waiting for pickup.

Meanwhile, at the customer’s site, SLE’s server software will periodically poll BSD’s server and download newly available packages, applying the change to the customer’s Master database. Since the SLE server software runs continuously, this activity could be scheduled to take place in the middle of the night or on weekends, when it would least hinder other office activity.

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SPECIFIER EDUCATION @ www.bssoftlink.com

BSD’s recently remodeled web site offers quite a few opportunities for learning, both about SpecLink and about writing specs. For new users, the entire site is useful — the same material used to attract subscribers would be useful to acquaint new users with the features of the software and database. But we also have a section of the site just *For Customers*. When you follow the link *For Customers*, you can choose one of three libraries — the Specifiers’ Library, the AE Estimators’ Library, or the CM Estimators’ Library. The Specifiers’ Library is designed to help users of all levels of expertise.

For new users, there is a Step-by-Step section to get you up and running as quickly as possible.

- § Step 1 is Installing and Learning SpecLink
- § Step 2 is a New User Webinar — every Tuesday and Thursday
- § Step 3 is getting acquainted with the Contents (the specs)
- § Step 4 is about actually producing a project specification!

For everyone, there are sections on specifying issues, ways to optimize your production procedures, and places to get help. Some highlights are:

- § Specifying LEED Requirements
- § All about CSI/CSC’s MasterFormat™, SectionFormat™, and PageFormat™
- § Making an office master, with a Powerpoint slide show
- § Basics of spec writing, such as knowing who your audience is, different methods of specifying, and best practices
- § A link to [Ask BSD Specification Writers](#)
- § About reference standards, model codes, laws and regulations relating to construction, and how to get them

This is also the Download Center, where you can download the latest edition of SpecLink plus:

- § Summary of Changes for the last few updates
- § Details on significant changes to specific sections
- § The latest quarterly newsletter
- § The building product manufacturer Referral Form (see Q&A)

BSD LinkLine Fall 2007

LinkLine

A BSD SoftLink® Publication

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The LinkLine is published by Building Systems Design, Inc. Two Piedmont Center, Suite 300 3565 Piedmont Road, NE Atlanta, GA 30305

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Get the latest on BSD by visiting our web page at www.bssoftlink.com



All Products

Q I have a new computer. Can I use the same access key as my old one?

A Each access key is unique to the computer or server where the software was installed. Before removing from the old computer, call Tech Support at 800-266-7732 to Unpermit your current installation. When that is done, you can get a key for the new computer. To save time, install the software on the new computer before calling Tech Support. We can get your Unpermit Code from the old computer and issue a new key in the same phone call.

Q I never installed my last update. What do I do?

A Install the most recent update over your existing installation using the updated instructions on the CD or website. You do not need to install prior updates for SpecLink, nor do you need a new Access Key (unless you have not yet entered your renewal key or have a new computer).

SpecLink+ and Perspective

Q What is the difference between Demote and Demote Branch?

A When you use the demote or promote commands, you are changing just the single paragraph where your cursor is placed by moving it down or up a level. When you demote or promote a branch, you are changing the paragraph where your cursor is placed and any lower level paragraphs that are “children” to that paragraph. To change several like-level paragraphs in a row, highlight them all and demote or promote the whole group at once.

Q A building product rep asked me how his company can get listed in SpecLink. What can I say to him?

A 1. Tell him that BSD welcomes manufacturer feedback and he can contact our spec writers through our

website or at (888) BSD-SOFT.

2. Refer him to our website; there is a whole section for Building Product Manufacturers.

3. If you would like to earn a cash referral award for yourself, go to our Specifiers' Library, www.bsdssoftlink.com/library, download the Referral Form, read the terms and instructions, and fax or mail it to us.

Q What is the difference between an access key and the serial code?

A The access key gives you access to the data to which you subscribed. You get the access key when you initially subscribe after you install the product and call tech support with your access ID. When you renew your subscription annually, you are emailed a new key that provides access for another year. The serial code is only used when you download the quarterly updates from our website, and is required during the installation process. It is SLP4457117, is the same for all users, and does not change. It is included in the email that you get from Support each quarter when the update is ready to be downloaded.

Q Are there plans for an ability to link Revit data directly into SpecLink+? If so, what is the projected availability?

A We are working on a new version of the BSD SpecLink software that is tentatively called SpecLink-E, or SLE. We are also working on a separate linking program called BSD LinkMan, for Link Manager. The first “interoperable” release of LinkMan has been designed to work with the Autodesk Revit Building product and will provide meaningful links between Revit elements and SpecLink-E paragraphs and sections. The SpecLink-E release is expected in the first quarter of 2008 and the LinkMan release is expected shortly thereafter. We have not yet announced a delivery date for either product. The SpecLink-E product will include conversion commands to move SpecLink+ projects and office masters to SpecLink-E without any loss of data.

CostLink/CM and CostLink/AE

Q Do the costs in the R.S. Means database include the installing contractor's overhead and profit?

A In CostLink/AE, they do. In CostLink/CM, they do not. In

CostLink/AE the bare costs equal the arithmetic sum of Material (which is the bare material cost plus a specified percentage for profit), Labor (the base labor cost plus total overhead and profit), and Equipment (the bare equipment cost plus a specified percentage for profit). Details for the calculation of Overhead and Profit on labor are on the back cover of the appropriate R.S. Means cost book. In CostLink/CM, you have the flexibility to define the subcontractor markups for each contractor individually.

Q I want to copy folders from only the Assemblies database into my project. How do I do that?

A Drag and drop them using your right mouse button. Open both databases and tile them vertically. When you drop the folder into the project database, choose the option Copy Folders Here. If you do not need all the folders you copied in, use the Delete Empty Folders option under the Tools menu to remove the empty folders.

CostLink/CM

Q How can I create alternates in my estimate?

A Reporting of alternates is available with both portrait 1 and 2 reports and the landscape 1 report. First, be sure to set up your estimate so the entire Base Cost is in your first level one folder, and so each level one folder after that contains alternate costs. When your estimate is complete, from the File menu, choose Reports Setup. Select Portrait 1 or 2 or Landscape 1, and then select 'Use Level One for Base Cost and Alternates.' Click OK. The folder icons for the alternates now have plus signs. When you print your reports, a total Base Bid will be printed for the costs in your first level one folder, and the following level one folders will print as additive or deductive alternates. If you need to modify the estimate, unclick the Alternates choice, make the changes, and then re-click the choice. ■

More questions?

Contact BSD Technical Support:

Toll Free: 800-266-7732

In Atlanta: 404-365-9226

Email: support@bsdssoftlink.com

“ConsensusDOCS” continued from page 1

sus among all the participating organizations. According to Brian Perlberg, AGC Senior Counsel for Construction Law and Contract Documents, “Publication of the ConsensusDOCS will transform construction in the United States, because it is the first time the entire industry was invited to participate equally in the development of true consensus documents. Instead of contracts that are biased toward one group or one set of special interests, these documents have been fashioned to offer truly balanced contractual rights and responsibilities that are fair to all parties.”

In addition to taking project collaboration to a new level, the new documents pointedly address the issue of dispute resolution. The ConsensusDOCS philosophy is to align the interests of the various parties to achieve superior project results. This includes encouraging direct communications to resolve problems before they become contentious and turn into claims. Mediation is required before arbitration or litigation, and innovative language has been inserted that is designed to mitigate issues before they can escalate.

The ConsensusDOCS documents will be available in electronic form through DocuBuilder® software that was developed by Building Systems Design, Inc. (BSD). The documents will be available either through annual subscription or through a Meter Mode™ purchase that deducts the document cost from a prepaid meter each time a final document is printed. Subscribers may purchase comprehensive access to all documents or may opt for a less expensive subscription to a particular catalog, such as the design-build documents. Subscriptions and Meter Mode purchases can be made online at www.ConsensusDOCS.org, where additional information about the documents is also available. Information about DocuBuilder and ConsensusDOCS can also be obtained by telephone, at 800-282-1423. ■

Groups Participating in ConsensusDOCS Development

- American Subcontractors Association, Inc. (ASA),
- Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC),
- Associated General Contractors of America (AGC),
- Associated Specialty Contractors, Inc. (ASC),
- Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT),
- Construction Owners Association of America (COAA),
- Construction Users Roundtable (CURT),
- Finishing Contractors Association (FCA)
- Lean Construction Institute (LCI),
- Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA),
- National Association of State Facilities Administrators (NASFA),
- National Association of Surety Bond Producers (NASBP),
- National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA),
- National Insulation Association (NIA),
- National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA),
- National Subcontractor Alliance (NSA),
- Painting and Decorating Contractors of America (PDCA),
- Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors (PHCC),
- Sheet Metal & Air Conditioning Contractors’ National Association (SMACNA),
- Surety & Fidelity Association of America (SFAA).

“SpecLink-E” continued from page 5

Keeping projects up-to-date with changes to the Master will work similarly to SpecLink+. Once changes are posted to the Master database, the server software will mark each project (that has not been marked with a permanent “Do Not Update” flag) with the changes, and the project manager will decide if and when to apply the changes to the project.

Product Installation The server software will be installed with installation techniques that are more or less standard. However, the software that runs on each user’s computer, referred to as client software, will use a new technique that Microsoft has named Click Once installation. The customer will need to make a single installation to a location on the local or wide area network that all users can access. For the very first installation on each user’s computer, the user will need to run the setup file from the network install. Administrator rights are not required to run this install and no questions are asked during the install. The software is installed automatically to a subdirectory deep in the user’s Local Settings directory. The Click Once installation technique is a new, Microsoft-recommended and supported approach to network installs and also works on a standalone computer.

When BSD delivers an update to the Click Once client install, either by download or CD, the customer will need to install it to the same location on the network used for the original installation. Each client installation automatically checks this location at each start-up of the client software and, on finding a new version, automatically updates itself. Users are not required to do anything. It is also possible to rollback a client installation once performed if, for example, there is a problem with the new version.

And More There are of course more new features. For example, there is a new optional security system that lets you assign an administrator and set up user roles for specific users that determine the user’s access to the software and to certain important commands. It’s also possible to set up project level security to determine which users have access to a given project and in what role. But we don’t want to spoil all the surprises.

If you are a current SpecLink customer or are willing to become one, you can sign up to participate in the upcoming Beta Program. You need to be willing to work with software that is not production ready, and you need to fill out anomaly reports as you run into problems. You will likely run into problems but you will also get a feel for what is coming down the pike, and what the future holds for SpecLink users. To apply for the beta program send an email to support@bsdsoftlink.com with the words “SpecLink-E Beta Program” in the subject line. For current subscription customers, you will receive the SpecLink-E upgrade as part of your subscription. There are no additional charges, although subscription prices are expected to rise somewhat as we move forward. ■

Training Schedule

The BSD SpecLink+ Workshop

The BSD SpecLink+ Workshop consists of two one-day workshops. The first day is devoted to learning the basics of SpecLink+, including how to navigate within the software, start a new project, edit sections, understand how the links and choices work, and how to format, print and export the final document. It is designed for new users. The second day is designed for those who want to learn how to create and maintain their own office master. This day covers the concepts of an office master, how to customize your master by adding choices, links, and tags, as well as creating your own checklists. Users must already be familiar with the basics of SpecLink+ to attend the second day.

BSD SpecLink+ Either Day* \$495 Both Days* \$895

September 11th & 12th, Atlanta
September 18th & 19th, Philadelphia
October 16th & 17th, Atlanta
October 23rd & 24th, Minneapolis
November 6th & 7th, Los Angeles
December 4th & 5th, Atlanta
December 11th & 12th, Cincinnati

AIA Members: We will report your course completion for 7 or 14 Continuing Education Units

CSI Members: Submit Course Completion Certificate for 7 or 14 Education Contact Hours (ECHs) toward your CCS, CCCA, or CCPR Certification renewal

* Class starts at 9:00 AM and ends at 5 PM.

BSD CostLink/AE 1 day* \$595

BSD CostLink/CM 3 days* \$1295

Scheduled on a demand basis.
Call 888-273-7638.

AIA Members: Submit Course Completion Certificate for 7 Continuing Education Units for CostLink/AE training, or 24 Continuing Education Units for CostLink/CM training
CSI Members: Submit Course Completion Certificate for Education Contact Hours (ECHs) toward your CCS, CCCA, or CCPR Certification renewal - 7 for CostLink/AE training, 24 for CostLink/CM training

* Class starts at 9:00 AM and ends at 5 PM.

BSD class schedules are online at www.bsdssoftlink.com. Select a product and click the Training link. Get directions & information on travel, hotels, & Atlanta!



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