

The Wizard is Here



The latest version of BSD SpecLink includes wizard capability! What is it? Basically, it's a new feature that allows you to insert non-printing and non-selectable text. What good is it? Well, Wizard capability allows you to add a *checklist* at the beginning of any SpecLink section with links to the body of the spec. Non-printing checklist paragraphs mean that you can easily add intelligence to your office master spec without worrying about extraneous text appearing in your output. The

non-selectable text (which also is non-printing) means you can add instructions and comments that are turned on automatically by links and cannot be included or excluded inadvertently by the user. In future releases of SpecLink, BSD plans to add a Wizard project with checklists for many of the more complex specification sections. In the meantime, you can use this new feature to make your office master easier to use by project architects.

The Wizard capability is implemented in SpecLink through another new feature—user-applied paragraph tags. These tags appear in a column that can be opened and closed from the View/Display Layout menu. The new tag selector is at the end of the Document toolbar. With the cursor in any paragraph, the current tag for the paragraph appears in the toolbar button. To change the tag, click the pull-down arrow to the right of the button to see the full list, and then click on the new tag desired. The complete list of tags is shown in the illustration to the right. Note that we have added a number of new tags, in addition to NP (non-printing) and NS (non-selectable). There are new reports available for the new tags, including CT (certificate), DC (design calculations), II (installation instructions), etc. Altogether, 1,100 new tags have been added to the SpecLink master. Like all requirements reports, the new reports are available from the Print dialog box.

CT	Certificate
DC	Design Calculations
EM	Extra Materials
FR	Field Report
IA	Independent Agency Field Testing
II	Installation Instructions
IQ	Installer Qualifications
MQ	Manufacturer Qualifications
MO	Mock-up
None	None
NP	Non-Printing (Wizard Text)
NS	Non-Selectable (Wizard Text)
OM	Operation_Maintenance Data
PI	Pre-Installation Meeting
PD	Product Data Submittal
PE	Professional Engineer Design
PR	Project Record Documents
QS	Qualifications Statement
RS	Reference Text Segment
RT	References Title
RE	Related Sections Segment
ST	Related Section Title
SR	Samples
SD	Shop Drawings
SW	Special Warranty Provisions
TR	Test Report
WE	Warranty, Executed
WS	Warranty, Specimen

The interface for SpecLink and PerSpective has significant changes this quarter! In response to requests from some of our subscribers who have various kinds of colorblindness and comments from users that it has been difficult to tell what text is active and what is not, we have made a number of changes designed to complement our color cues with shape and position variations. The most obvious result of these modifications is in the status boxes, which now change shape as well as color to indicate link status. Green links still appear as boxes, but yellow links now appear as triangles, and red links appear as octagonal stop signs. In addition, the status indicator for an active paragraph is now depressed, while an inactive paragraph displays a raised indicator. The icons for notes and for user-added and edited text have been changed so they are more descriptive and less dependent on color. The color cues in the status columns for cursor location and active/inactive paragraph status also have been modified to further highlight that information.

Another major change in the user interface is the behavior and location of the notes window. Instead of the original floating window, notes have now been “anchored” and appear in the same window as the navigation tree. On-off buttons on the toolbar allow any combination of tree, master note, and project note to share the space on the left side of the screen. Hyperlinks within the master notes now open a completely separate browser window, instead of opening the browser within the notes window. And finally, the hierarchy icons have been reduced in scale and made less obtrusive. We think the new look of SpecLink is more refined as well as more informative, and we hope you agree. For a more complete description of all the changes in SpecLink and PerSpective, please see the release notes that accompany your Summer update. You'll find them on the CD-ROM. As always, we welcome your feedback!