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Good drafting program for structural engineering firm?

thread507-110187

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racefan1 (Structural) Dec 13, 2004

Greetings,

I am a young engineer at a well established structural engineering firm. Our firm uses AutoCAD 14 with the Softdesk 8 add-on. Softdesk 8 has great features for drawing framing and foundation plans and for drawing details. Softdesk 8 fits our needs perfectly.

However, all of our architectural clients are using much newer versions of AutoCAD. To coordinate projects, we will email drawings back and forth with the architect. This works fine for them, but we have problems opening their drawings due to AutoCAD version compatibility. For a while, we would ask our clients to save the drawings in release 14 but newer versions of AutoCAD cannot save that far back. We need to upgrade just to stay close to our clients and ensure future software and hardware compatibility.

Does anyone have any recommendations? What are you currently using? What do you like/dislike about it?

Thank you.

jimga2 (Structural) Dec 20, 2004

- 1) I just got scadd draft (for autocad)a few weeks ago and ordered a 2nd copy today... in short you are "up and running" in a matter of minutes.
 - 2) Plan drawings and details are set up in seconds within a "scale fence"... you simply select "fence" off of a menu and then a scale, say 1/4"=1'-0", everything within the fence... text heights, arrowheads, layers, etc... everything is set up.
 - 3) You can even set up standards for your company and each client (if necessary)and copy them to every workstation.
 - 4) All materials are covered, concrete, steel, steel open web joists, light gage metal framing, wood and masonry.... all the typical building materials, both plans ans sections.
 - 5) This program paid for itself on the 1st job.
 - 6) Program was developed by a practicing structural engineer.
- YOU CAN DOWNLOAD A FREE TRIAL COPY @:
(<http://www.scadd.com/>) HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

nomarg3 (Structural) Dec 21, 2004

Our office has been using Scadd Draft for almost two years now, and we are extremely happy with the ease of use and corporate standardization.

I work for a small (8) person structural/civil firm and our structural group of (5) was lost so to speak when we switched from Autocad 14 w/ Softdesk add on to Autocad 2002. After struggling for a year or so we stumbled onto Scadd Draft and haven't looked back since. Yes, our office has considered Architectural desktop since most of our clients are using it. However, the low cost and exact features our office was looking for and found with Scadd Draft far outweighed the high price and complexity of Architectural desktop. We are currentny using the Scadd add on with Autocad 2002 on all 5 of our structural desktops. This program really helps keep all our drafting standards uniform from structural design software to engineer to draftsman. Definitely try it!

dydavis (Structural) Jan 9, 2005

Thanks to nomarg3 & jimga2 for your scadd draft recommendations. I have been searching for a replacement for our ASG/Softdesk add-in for years, too many years. I downloaded the trial and was using it in 10 minutes; and knew I would purchase it in 15 minutes. Anyone who used the original ASG Structural package will recognize this instantly. (Softdesk bought ASG and then Autodesk bought softdesk.) This post was a godsend. I had thought ADT was going to have to be it for us as the best of very few options. Thank you.

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