

## How is VersaCAD 2008 for Windows different than other CAD

Mike Lazear, President of Archway Systems, Inc

VersaCAD 2008 for Windows is an entirely different product than typical CAD at an entirely different price point. Priced to suit any firm's budget. Economically priced to save scarce budget money. No hooks that force you to upgrade each year or licenses that expire so your software stops running. VersaCAD's license is perpetual. And, if you have several employees, purchase an unlimited corporate license starting at \$1000. Forget about the headaches of worrying about licenses, dongles, where the software can be installed, what to do when we get a new employee, etc. From single upgrade price of \$395, or renewal of Premium Service at \$595 or even an unlimited corporate license starting at \$1000, price can't be beat.

Speaking of licensing, other software uses draconian methods requiring logging into a website, or use of a hardware dongle, or tying the software to a particular computer. Some software includes embedded spies that watch your usage and report to the vendor. With VersaCAD, you install and go. If you need a backup copy on another computer, just install it there too. Or, if you want a copy on your home computer or for your son or daughter to learn CAD, that is fine too. If you have more than one professional, just purchase an unlimited license and then you or any of your employees can use the software anywhere with confidence. It is called trust.

CAD software is very comprehensive. So, with any CAD software you will occasionally need a phone call or email to answer a question or solve a problem. With VersaCAD Premium Service, you can call the actual developers of the software. No need to "punch 1 if you want licensing, punch 2 if you want support..." Sometimes you feel like you would like to punch someone.

VersaCAD is load and go. There are hundreds of professionally made symbols ready for your use. For mechanical designers: bolts, nuts, weld symbols and more. For the architect it includes: doors in plan and elevation, windows in plan and elevations, fireplace, bathrooms, bricks, shrubs, plants, trees, electrical, plumbing and more. No need to spend hours making up libraries of symbols. There are also starter files for your work. We know you mechanical and electrical designers use inches and architects work in feet and inches for example, so the file is already to go. Just open, save it under your project name and off you go.

Speaking of files, some architects and owners put everything but the kitchen sink in one huge file. Some CAD software will choke if the file is too large. VersaCAD 2008 for Windows can now handle any size file, right up to the limit of your hardware. Files as large as 500,000 objects have been opened and handled efficiently.

Also speaking of files, VersaCAD uses XML as a file format. Just like Microsoft and other leading software vendors use. The advantage of XML is you are never locked in. XML is a universal file format. VersaCAD is the only CAD software that actually stores information in XML.

And, how about talking to other CAD such as AutoCAD, Revit, MicroStation, Solid Works and ArchiCAD? VersaCAD's file translator can work in single or batch and can go between more AutoCAD formats than AutoCAD itself. All the way back to AutoCAD release 11 and all the way forward to AutoCAD 2009. MicroStation, Solid Works and ArchiCAD also read DXF so that has become a defacto industry standard.

VersaCAD is streamlined for the type of work you do and for the way you do that work. No extra fancy icons, tool bars and what not to learn. Just single keystroke commands that enable you to use one hand on the keyboard and one hand on the mouse to do your work. Only now the expensive CAD software is starting to add this capability. But, then it is expensive software.

Documentation is tops so you can avoid taking any class (which is a very expensive part of the more expensive software). A training manual is included on the CD. Just work all the exercises and you will be 70% up the learning curve and ready for productive work. Two kinds of Help: context sensitive to explain the command you are in at the time, plus conventional Windows Help that gives more in depth plus a Quickstart Guide.

VersaCAD Explorer is one of the best tools available in any CAD software. Just press F11 and up pops a view of all your drawings and libraries. A couple of clicks and you see the drawing you want and open it quickly. Or, look among the libraries and choose the symbol library and symbol you want. Or, organize your project with documents and use VersaCAD Explorer to manage the project including knowing which drawings are part of the package and be able to print those document sets with a couple of clicks.

Over 100 text fonts are included that meet every text requirement. These are vector fonts and are scalable to as large as needed.

Bill of Material module is available right off the VersaCAD main menu. This will track the count of any symbols such as doors, windows, nuts, bolts, pipe fittings and the like in order to produce schedules.

Bottom line: VersaCAD is the best bang for the buck in the industry.