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Versa CAD

Versatile Computer Aided Design

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Upcoming Events

June 20,23 ASEE Salt Lake City
Aug 10-12 SIGGRAPH Los Angeles

VersaCAD 2004 for Windows

VersaCAD 2004 will ship this quarter. New features include a File Explorer which will find and display all your VersaCAD drawings on your harddrive, the latest in DWG/DXF translation, several new features, a set of SHX fonts that match VersaCAD fonts, a number of additional symbol libraries plus several "how tos" that describe how to use VersaCAD in specific applications, how to do 3D in Rhino from VersaCAD files, how to access millions of predrawn files via Thomas register and more. The new release will begin shipping to Premium Service subscribers before the end of August and will be available in kit form at the same time.

VersaCAD 2004 for Macintosh

VersaCAD 2004 for Macintosh is still under development. This will be the first VersaCAD release specifically written to run natively under Macintosh OSX. This first release is compatible with older VersaCAD but incorporates OSX specific features. The product CD includes several versions of VersaCAD Mac, in fact, includes a version that will run on any Macintosh computer ever built. The CD also includes a copy of 3DJoy with license for any Premium Service subscribers. The release also includes new symbol libraries and "how tos" that describe how to use VersaCAD in specific applications, how to do 3D with VersaCAD and 3DJoy and more.

VersaCAD Wins Michigan Contest

Two aspiring young architects from Holland Christian High School recently placed one and two in their region and both received honorable mention at the statewide contest for their design package produced with VersaCAD. Up against hundreds of other students using a variety of CAD products, Matt Tibbe and Chad Achterhof walked off with top honors. Both are students of Bob Lenger and both have

been mentored by Ed Vermurlen, AIA of Architronics in Grand Rapids MI. Both students were awarded their own personal, professional copy of VersaCAD and ArchiDOS to use in their college career. Our congratulations to Matt and Chad and to Bob Lenger and Ed Vermurlen.



Matt Tibbe, instructor Bob Lenger and Chad Achterhof showing their award winning set of architectural drawings done with VersaCAD 2003 for Windows. They placed first and second in their region and won honorable mentions out of 19 regions. VersaCAD is used by professionals and for CAD Education at over 2000 schools worldwide.

Architronics publishes ArchiDOS, a complete architectural design package based on VersaCAD.

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Who's who at Archway Systems

Arlene Black	Sales
Tom Lazear	Admin, Sales and training
George McMeans	Sales & training in Nor. Cal.
Mike Lazear	Programming & support
Sandy Lazear	Accounting
Jeff Martin	Civil Consultant and training
Erik Wordal	Training in Cal coastal

Rick Plummer	Mftr consultant and sales
Greg Crossley	Central Calif office
Josh Lazear	Webmaster
Dan Lazear	Administration
Greg Hamano	Support & Training
Oscar Diaz	Solid Edge Training
Matt Sloan	Administration

REPORT

CAD Education

Educating future architects, engineers and designers in the concepts and benefits of computer aided design has been the job of hundreds of educators over the past 30 years. That job has changed over the years and has reached a critical point here in 2004.

CAD was first taught in educational institutions in the mid to late 70s. For example, the Civil Engineering department at the University of Arizona in Tucson first introduced their students to CAD in 1979 using a product called T-Square running on a contemporary personal computer called the Terak (T-Square became VersaCAD when implemented on an IBM PC). University of Minnesota, Purdue and others started at about the same time. As the explosion of personal computers took place during the 80s, CAD software for personal computers got better and better and costs for hardware and software plummeted. Consequently, more and more schools could incorporate computer methods in their drafting, graphics, architecture and engineering courses. Today, nearly 100% of all courses in design incorporate computers.

The leaders in CAD education include AutoCAD, Bentley MicroStation, UGS Solid Edge, Archway's VersaCAD and others. All the vendors have claims to promote their products. Autodesk claims to be industry standard for drafting in most of the companies and engineering schools in the US. Bentley products are industry standard at 48 of 50 DOTs, large architects, large engineering and construction firms and many government agencies. Solid Edge and Inventor are standard at the midrange of mechanical CAD. VersaCAD has been used in education for over 25 years and has been used to design some of the world's leading surgical instruments, award winning ski lodges, huge department stores, the largest pipe organs in the world and more.

Every CAD software vendor faces the tradeoff of business issues such as making maximum profit plus developing a future workforce versus the more philanthropic ideas of contributing to education to make a stronger future for all. Some lean on the side of profit believing somewhat arrogantly that all students must learn their product. Others lean on the side of philanthropy and donate software to educational institutions at no charge.

What should schools be teaching? Students should be learning the concepts of computer aided design starting from 2D CAD through 3D modeling. They should be learning the fundamentals of software tools, settings, commands, output and the like, not a particular, current software protocol. CAD products change. Companies customize. So, whatever CAD product a student learns today will not be the product used when the student goes into the workforce. Also, a student shouldn't learn just one product and assume that it is the only product on the market. Nearly every company using CAD has more than one software product to help them with their design process. So, the student who learns two software rather than one will be much more able to adapt to the peculiarities of their future employer.

Recently, Rubicon Consulting, a marketing company, conducted a survey of the buying expectations of educational institutions for 2004/2005. The results were reported at a conference in Madison WI during the first week of June 2004. Some of the results:
* School budgets for computer technology are reduced by an average of 18% over prior year, * hot topics: image processing, video, 3D modeling, web, *public higher ed hardest hit, *older tech subjects such as CAD will be reduced in favor of newer tech topics, *important issues for schools: good curriculum, training, costs.

A good strategy for any school that wants to continue teaching computer aided design in this period of low budgets and increasing demand for other topics will probably include the following: 1. Add a second CAD software to the lab to broaden the student's experience and defend against the criticism of being a training center for a particular product, 2. Use the second product to help drive down software costs, eg if expensive CAD is currently taught, skip an upgrade in favor of lower cost second CAD. Much more important to teach two CAD than to have the very latest of expensive CAD, especially when the second CAD is much less expensive, 3. Choose a second CAD that comes with a way to be introduced to 3D modeling along side the 2D drafting. 4. Choose a second CAD that comes with curriculum that is already available. Overworked teachers don't have time to develop and learn curriculum. In fact, give weight to products with good video or other means to train the trainer.

CAD courses unable to change to meet today's requirements are likely to be dropped at today's budget-starved schools.

Training Class Schedule

Archway offers a variety of training classes using the latest of each software. Classes are 1 to 4 days in duration and cover subjects in depth using certified materials. Classes are offered in Solid Edge, SolidThinking, Rhino, MicroStation and VersaCAD. All classes are 8:30 am to 5 pm. We now have three locations: our Huntington Beach training center (HB), Riverside CA (RS), and Bay area (BA) or classes can be delivered on-site. For MicroStation and other Bentley courses, see also: <http://bentleyinstitute.bentley.com/search/search.aspx>

Upcoming classes:

MicroStation V8 User Update 2nd Edition- Covers V8 and V8.1 new features. This is a revised, one day class. Course includes a workbook. Cost is \$300. HB: Jul 20, Aug 17, Sep 23

InRoads Basics- This is a Bentley certified, 4.5 day class using Bentley's InRoads 8.2 training manual. Cost is \$1650 including course book and instruction. Next class July 5-9

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 \$900 Jul 20-22, Aug 10-12, Aug 30-Sep 1, Sep 27.

Essential MicroStation. Even deeper than Moving to MicroStation, this four day class is basic for new users. Next classes: Cost is \$1400. Jul 13-16, Aug 3-6, Aug 24-27

Productive MicroStation. Covers advanced production features in MicroStation. Cost is \$1200 Jul 27-29, Aug 24-26, Sep 21-23

MicroStation Basics. A quick, 2 day course in MicroStation 2D that is tailored to a discipline, eg Civil, Architectural or plant. Fee is \$600. Jul 29-30, Aug 3-4, Aug 17-18, Sep 8-9, Sep 21-22

VersaCAD/Rhino Quickstart- Learn VersaCAD basics plus new translator and Library manager. Then, learn how to move files to Rhino and create 3D models. Two day class, \$495. TBA.

Rhino Level 1 training- Three days on how to model in Rhino 3D. Cost is \$695. TBA

Rhino Level 2 training- Advanced modelling in Rhino 3D. Cost is \$695. TBA

Solid Edge Basics - The goal of this 4 day course making the student ready for productive work with an introduction to Part, Assembly, Draft and Sheet Metal modules of Solid Edge. At \$1200 this is a very cost-effective and quick way to get started in Solid Edge. TBA

VersaCAD chosen for EAST 2004

The EAST initiative is expanding by 17 new high schools for 2004 bringing the total number of schools employing the program to about 220 nationwide. Like their predecessors, the 17 new schools in 2004 will all get an unlimited VersaCAD Windows & Mac campus license. The VersaCAD campus license, the best value in the industry, includes perpetual, permanent licenses for all VersaCAD software, no hassle licensing that enables the school to install VersaCAD on any number of computers, anywhere on campus as well as on the home computers of

students and faculty. Mac and/or Windows. Curriculum including 200 page workbook with exercise files, videotapes and Flash demos for Windows on CD plus support and upgrades. (see Back to School offer on page four). Both Mac & Windows include an intro to 3D.

New VersaCAD Supplements

The next releases of both VersaCAD for Windows and VersaCAD for Macintosh will include a great deal of new content, including additional symbol libraries. If any of you Premium Service subscribers would like one ahead of time, let us know and we will email it to you. Examples: Weld pipe, desks, stairs, garage doors, restroom, vehicles, and a large architectural set with plan and elevation of doors, trees and shrubs, fixtures, electrical, and printed circuit board. The architectural set was donated by Vince Pulyear. More complete list to be sent with the update. If you have drawings you would like made into a symbol library or a symbol library you need or one you would like to share, let us know. Also, there is much available in Thomas Register's site for free. Check out www.versacad.com for how to access Thomas and how to make a 3D file out of your VersaCAD drawing. Or, finally, if you really want a lot of symbols, order the CADSymbols library made by IMSI and get 30million symbols for just \$249 (list price \$299).

VersaCAD Tips and Tricks

Try this 3rd party website for some really neat VersaCAD tips and tricks:

<http://versacad.motime.com> courtesy of Jim Longley.

VersaCAD plus Rhino 3D Special

Reminder: Instructors, get classroom license for both VersaCAD for Windows and Rhino 3D, \$1495 until September 30.

Professionals, get combination of VersaCAD and Rhino 3D for \$1495, offer good to September 30.

VersaCAD Corporate Site License

The new pricing for a VersaCAD unlimited Corporate Site License has proven to be very popular. An unlimited license is the most valuable, hassle free, cost effective way to own software as more and more VersaCAD users are finding: No dongles, no license files. Your consultants and vendors can be supplied a copy to make your work with them smoother, employees can install on their home computer to make learning and home work easy. Salespersons and the shop can have a copy to show drawings to customers and others. We continue to look for ways to make VersaCAD a more productive tool for the way you work. In case you missed it, here are the prices which are based on the principle that the smaller the company the less you should have to pay:

New Annual Subscription Pricing includes all Archway software plus Premium Service for the year:

Unlimited Site License Subscription

1-5 employees	\$1000
6-10 "	\$1500
11-19 "	\$2000
20-50 "	\$2500
51-100 "	\$3000
101 & up	\$4000

ARCHWAY'S PRODUCT LINE

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

CAD SOFTWARE:

- VersaCAD Win & Mac
- MicroStation and applications
- NetSPEX & SiteMenu for standards
- MicroStation utilities by GDM
- InRoads & Geopak Civil Software
- Solid Edge
- Plassotech finite element modeling
- Softree civil surveying
- Mech Soft
- AutoCAD LT
- TransMagic-translation

GRAPHICS & ANIMATION SOFTWARE:

- Softimage
- Solid Thinking
- Masterpiece (inside MicroStation)
- Rhino 3D, Flamingo, Penguin
- 3DJoy for Mac
- ArchVision libraries
- Adobe: Photoshop, Video Collection...
- Macromedia: Illustrator, Director, Flash...

COMPUTER PERIPHERALS

- Applica –enables 4 users of one PC
- Lightest portable XGA projector
- 3D MicroScribe digitizer

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

- Field Manager from Info Tech
- Estimator from Info Tech

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SERVICES

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- Contract software development
- Web page development
- CAD file translation

VersaCAD Fonts for AutoCAD Users

David Edwards of TC Fonts has provided us with a set of AutoCAD SHX fonts which match the standard VersaCAD STK fonts. Using the supplied mapping tables and sending these fonts to your consultants using AutoCAD, your text will make the round trip perfectly. These fonts and mapping tables will be included in the next release of VersaCAD for Windows. For more information on font support for VersaCAD users, including SHX and Truetype conversions, contact David Edwards at dave@tcfonts.com.

VersaCAD Back to School Specials

VersaCAD campus site license for Windows & Mac, at the special price of just \$795 (regularly \$995) from July through September of this year. **Only \$595 for Mac-only.** See article "VersaCAD chosen for EAST 2004" for the contents of the site license. Existing VersaCAD Campus License holders can renew their maintenance service called Premium Service for 50% off the regular price during the same period. So, for just \$297.50, any existing VersaCAD school can renew maintenance and receive the 2004 product editions. (one school charged 20 students a small lab fee which was enough for the school to get a VersaCAD campus license and the students a free copy)

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