

Technology Deployment Initiatives and Partnership Program Request for Funding FY 2005

FHWA Strategic Goal Area: Productivity

Focus Technology: None

Project Title: Importing Microsoft documents into MicroStation

Problem Statement: WFLHD has always needed an easy and flexible method for importing Excel Spreadsheets and other Microsoft documents into MicroStation.

Proposal: A copy of Axiom's Office Importer software will be used for evaluation. During the evaluation period, productivity enhancement and software effectiveness will be tested.

Benefits: Microsoft Office Importer enables MicroStation users to import and link nearly unlimited quantities of spreadsheet data into MicroStation with ease, formatting and reliability vastly superior to MicroStation's built-in LiveLinks command. On a test conducted, Microsoft Office Importer had no problem in pasting a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet containing 14 columns and 700 rows of data with a single paste.

Microsoft Office Importer allows the linked data in the MicroStation file to be updated automatically each time it is opened or on command from the user. Microsoft Office Importer also provides far greater formatting control of the elements it creates in MicroStation; the linked data retains the grid lines, text size, italics, bolding, underline, line spacing and other visual aspects of the spreadsheet or word processing file being placed. Microsoft Office Importer can also import and link in data from Microsoft Word files.

- When pasted in MicroStation, the color and weight of text appear the same as they do in the source document
- When pasted in MicroStation, the color, weight and line style of borders appear the same as they do in the source document.
- Users now have the option to paste text and borders using the symbology from the active MicroStation file or to select specific color, weight, line style and level regardless of the active symbology.
- Links are updated automatically every time the MicroStation file is opened or can be updated while working on the MicroStation file.
- Creates clean, presentation-quality output.
- Great for tabular data like bill of materials, equipment schedules, estimates and quantities.
- Great for text data such as installation notes and detail notes.
- Use familiar Windows applications to create, sort and tabulate your data, and then paste it to your design file after it is formatted

- Native MicroStation text and linear elements minimize design file size and plotting issues.
- Enables personnel without CAD training to prepare schedules and notes in familiar Windows applications.
- Saves time creating tabular data in MicroStation.

Resources/Cost: \$5000

Duration: February 1-September 30, 2005

Organization/Method: WFLHD CADD staff would maintain this software.

Submitter:

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