



The Envision Group Inc. specializes in MicroStation, InRoads, AutoCAD, Civil 3D & CAiCE software. We utilize our experience by teaming with you to provide training, consulting, and support to users and system administrators. We also provide 3D modeling and rendering services using MicroStation, InRoads, and other advanced software.

## News

### Bentley's Forthcoming MicroStation Release to Incorporate Luxology's Photorealistic Rendering Engine

Bentley Systems, Incorporated announced that it has entered into a technology agreement with Luxology LLC — maker of the modo 3D software widely used by video professionals and graphic artists. Through this agreement, Bentley will license Luxology's super-fast, photorealistic rendering engine for inclusion in its forthcoming release of MicroStation. Though the Luxology technology is the preferred renderer for a broad community of users, including major film studios, it is ideally suited to the demanding requirements of AEC applications to quickly produce extremely high-quality images and animations from huge datasets that typically include vast numbers of parametrically replicated geometry elements.

The super-fast Luxology rendering engine, combined with breakthrough compression techniques for replicated geometry in MicroStation, will allow users to generate images and animations with life-like detail, and uniquely enable designers to make real-time decisions from near-real-time rendering within interactive AEC workflows.

[ [READ MORE](#) ]

The Envision Group, Inc has been using these two platforms in our daily work for over a year now. The speed that MicroStation can create a 3D model and the speed of the rendering engine of Luxology's Modo software is a great combination. The images below are of a recent project that we completed using MicroStation XM and Modo. The rendering time in Modo using Global Illumination with Physical Sun and Sky was only 30 minutes while the rendering time in MicroStation using Radiosity or Particle Trace would have been easily 6 hours. We all will be looking forward to great strides with MicroStation rendering and animations in the near future.



### Mid-Continent MicroStation Community 2008 Conference

Approximately 300 MicroStation users attended the most recent MCMC Conference in Overland Park, KS that ran from August 26 – August 27. The Envision Group was one of six vendors in attendance at the conference. Visitors to our booth were interested in our MicroStation and InRoads related training as well as our configuration and programming services.

During the conference, Rod Wing presented a "MicroStation Configuration Tips and Tricks" session that was attended by approximately 30 people. Conference attendees not only received a copy of the presentation, but also a very useful tool for creating MicroStation configuration files. The tool demonstrated during the presentation is a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that contains all of the documented MicroStation XM configuration variables (as well as many undocumented ones) and a description of each. Also included are capability settings, the various operators and their descriptions, as well as code snippets that allow for personal function key menus, AccuDraw shortcuts, etc. Last, but not least, the spreadsheet also contains a macro that writes these settings out to any one of four configuration files:

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## SPREAD THE WORD

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## QUICK LINKS

[Click for past issues](#)



Startup.cfg  
Site.cfg  
Project.cfg  
User.cfg

If you are interested in obtaining the PowerPoint presentation and the MicroStation Configuration Variable spreadsheet please [email us](#) your request.

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Legal Stuff:

We do not sell Bentley or Autodesk products.  
MicroStation and InRoads are Bentley products and trademarked as such.  
AutoCAD, Civil 3D, and CAICE are Autodesk products and trademarked as such.  
We only offer this information as a benefit to our subscribers.

## Events

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### [The IDDEA Group 2008 Fall Conference](#)

**October 1-3, 2008**

Scheman Center  
Iowa State University Campus  
Ames, Iowa

[Visit Our Booth](#)

### [2008 WCA Annual Conference and Marketplace](#)

**October 12-14, 2008**

Kalahari Resort & Convention Center  
Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin

[Visit Our Booth](#)

### [Roads and Bridges User Conference – West](#)

**November 3-5, 2008**

The Scottsdale Plaza Resort  
Scottsdale, Arizona

### [Autodesk University](#)

**December 2-5, 2008**

The Venetian Hotel  
Las Vegas, Nevada

[Visit Our Booth](#)

### [Roads and Bridges User Conference – East](#)

**December 15-17, 2008**

The Westin Diplomat Resort & Spa  
Hollywood, Florida

### [Nebraska User Group Spring 2009 Conference & Workshops](#)

**March 2009**

Cornhusker Marriott  
Lincoln, Nebraska

### [Bentley BE Conference 2009](#)

**May 11-14 2009**

Charlotte, North Carolina

## MicroStation Tip

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## Replicate References

Occasionally the situation arises when you need to add a reference file to an existing sheet. Additionally you would like settings such as rotation, scaling, clip boundaries, etc to be identical to a reference that is already attached.

[\[ MICROSTATION TIP \]](#)

### MicroStation XM Tip

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## Inserting Symbols

The Word Processor dialog has a new drop down list for selecting symbols such as Degree, Centerline, and Fractions.

[\[ MICROSTATION XM TIP \]](#)

### VBA Tip

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## Testing for the Existence of a File

Many times in a macro you will need to determine if a file exists prior to opening it in an application, or using the Open function for your own text read/write operations. There is no built-in "does file exist" function in VBA so what do you do?

[\[ VBA TIP \]](#)

### InRoads Tip

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## Vertical Alignment from Surface

Did you know you can create a vertical alignment by extracting DTM elevations? This may come in handy when working on resurfacing jobs or extracting profiles offset from an alignment.

[\[ INROADS TIP \]](#)

### AutoCAD Tip

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## Copying an Element from a Reference File to the Active Drawing

For users moving from MicroStation to AutoCAD, finding the equivalent AutoCAD command for something you have routinely done in MicroStation is not always intuitive. The process of copying elements from a file reference into the active drawing is an example.

[\[ AUTOCAD TIP \]](#)

### Civil 3D Tip

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## Deleting Layers that are Referenced by a Style

Deleting layers in a DWG that are referenced by a style is not normally recommended, but may be required at time.

[\[ CIVIL 3D TIP \]](#)

[ [Tip Archives](#) ]

## Open Enrollment Classes

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<a href="#">MicroStation V8 Fundamentals</a>	September 15-18	Madison, WI
<a href="#">MicroStation V8 2004 Upgrade</a>	September 22-23	Madison, WI
<a href="#">Online MicroStation V8 Fundamentals</a>	October 6-9	Madison, WI
<a href="#">Online MicroStation V8 2004 Power User</a>	October 21-22	Madison, WI
<a href="#">MicroStation V8 Fundamentals</a>	November 4-7	Madison, WI
<a href="#">MicroStation V8 2004 Upgrade</a>	November 18-19	Madison, WI
<a href="#">InRoads Fundamentals</a>	September 8-12	Madison, WI
<a href="#">InRoads Update</a>	October 2-3	Madison, WI
<a href="#">InRoads Fundamentals</a>	October 6-10	Madison, WI
<a href="#">Online InRoads Survey</a>	November 11-12	Madison, WI
<a href="#">Online InRoads Update</a>	December 16-17	Madison, WI
<a href="#">InRoads Site</a>	January 6-8	Madison, WI
<a href="#">AutoCAD Fundamentals</a>	December 15-18	Madison, WI
<a href="#">AutoCAD Map 3D</a>	October 21-23	Madison, WI
<a href="#">AutoCAD Civil 3D Introduction to Corridor Design</a>	September 24-25	Madison, WI
<a href="#">Advanced Concepts in Civil 3D</a>	September 29-October 1	Madison, WI
<a href="#">AutoCAD Civil 3D Fundamentals</a>	October 27-29	Madison, WI
<a href="#">Residential Grading</a>	October 30	Madison, WI
<b>CAiCE Fundamentals</b>	November 10-13	Madison, WI

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