

May 2003

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Increase your Knowledge



This is MicroStation - Straight out of the box!

This is just a small sample of what is possible with the software you are using right now. Our client asked us to generate a virtual studio for producing a video where the actors were filmed using 'green-screen' technology with the background environment being created in MicroStation.

Let us transfer our knowledge to you by expanding your horizons in MicroStation and/or InRoads.

[Benefit from our experience.](#)

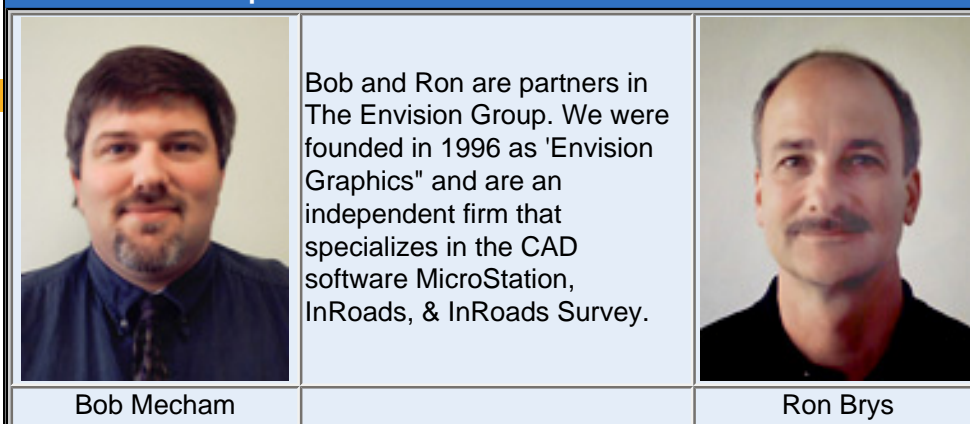
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QUICK LINKS

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The Envision Group


OK, now that you know what our mugs look like, stop us and say Hi if you see us at the upcoming Bentley conference.

Events

[Area III HEEP Conference](#) - May 21-23 Ames, Iowa

[AEC Systems Tradeshow](#) - June 2-5 Washington, D.C.

Bentley:

[Bentley International User Conference](#) - May 18 -22 Baltimore, MD.
(meet us there)



[Click for details.](#)

[Bentley Transportation Seminars](#)

Bentley Transportation Seminar Notes

A Bentley Transportation Seminar was held in Madison, WI last week. The seminar was put on in conjunction with the Wisconsin DOT and Wisconsin Automated User Group. The morning started with an overview of Bentley's presence with the Nations DOT's. MicroStation is used in 49 of the states as the main CAD package. The only state not using MicroStation was Colorado. However, they are using Bentley products on the T-REX Transportation Expansion Project. Bentley's Civil Engineering products InRoads, MX Roads and GeoPak are used in 44 of the states.

There was a demonstration of MicroStation V8.1 showing some of the new features in this release. One of those new features was digital signatures, this allows the people reviewing and approving drawings to digitally stamp drawings they have reviewed. If any changes are made to the drawing after the file was stamped the stamp becomes void. Then utilizing the Design History the reviewer can go back to the drawing and quickly see what changes were made if the changes are acceptable the reviewer can re-sign the drawing.

Another new tool in MicroStation V8.1 found under MicroStation>Utilities> was Named Groups. Think of Named Groups as saved Selection Set Filters. When a Named Group has been created you can display only the named groups in your view, remember to turn on View Attributes Setting Displayset. It has only been a week but I am already trying different ways to incorporate Named Groups into my workflow.

MicroStation Tip

Last month we had several questions about working in a 3D MicroStation file. Here are solutions to a couple of the most common issues we hear about.

Key-ins: (watch your prompt & message fields)

AZ=? will display your 'active depth' (the elevation data points will assume when drawing elements).

AZ=800.12 will set your active depth (the elevation you want to draw at).

DP=? will display the 'vertical slice' you are viewing in your 3D file.

DP=-500,1600 will set your display depth from negative 500 to positive 1600

- You can not 'draw' outside your active depth. Attempting to set your AZ beyond the upper or lower limits of your display depth will force your AZ to the DP limits.
- Snapping (tentative point) to elements will generate not only the familiar x,y values, but also the z (elevation).
- Snapping to 'blank screen space' will display your active depth.
- Turning on your 'depth lock' will allow snapping to elements at differing elevations but only draw at your active depth.
- 'Fit' (with expand clipping planes on) will fit your design file to the x,y, & z limits of the graphics in your file.
- Palettes for 3D view control are at MicroStation>Tools>View Control.

InRoads Tip

InRoads and 3D.

- If you create a horizontal alignment by keying in coordinates, you can assign the z value at the same time. xy=xvalue,yvalue,zvalue (or ne=nvalue,yvalue,zvalue)
- If you create a horizontal alignment by picking-on-the-screen, your "Plotting Height" variable is used to determine the elevation of the graphics drawn. The same is true if the z value is not entered by key-in.
- Plotting Height is set in InRoads>Tools>Options [Geometry] tab.
- Unlike MicroStation, with InRoads you can 'draw' outside your display depth. This fools a lot of users into thinking nothing is happening when they generate alignments and the graphics do not display.

Have a MicroStation or InRoads question? [Submit](#) it to us and you just might find your answer in next month's newsletter.

Open enrollment
Open-Enrollment Classes With Seats Available.

InRoads Fundamentals - June 15-18	Madison, WI
InRoads Level II - June 10-13	Madison, WI
InRoads Storm & Sanitary - June 18-20	Madison, WI
InRoads Delta V7 to V8 - June 23,24	Madison, WI
InRoads Fundamentals - July 15-18	Madison, WI
InRoads Survey Basics - Aug. 6,7	Madison, WI
InRoads Site - August 13,14	Madison, WI

MicroStation V8 User Update - May 1-2	Madison, WI
MicroStation Advanced - May 13-15	Madison, WI
MicroStation V8 Admin Update - June 16,17	Madison, WI
MicroStation 3D - June 25-27	Madison, WI
MicroStation V8 User Update - July 8-9	Madison, WI
MicroStation AccuDraw - July 10	Madison, WI
MicroStation Fundamentals - Aug. 19-21	Madison, WI

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