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Navigate the world of design technology

CAD Manager's Newsletter
STRATEGIES AND SOLUTIONS FOR THE REAL WORLD
By Robert Green

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Get the Most Out of What You Have

How to make the tools you already own work better for your CAD team.

In my email inbox one theme tends to repeat itself — the frustration of how hard it is to really change anything in your CAD environment. I've always observed that the real pace of technology change is much slower than CAD companies and their PR firms would have you believe. In fact, a lot of the stuff I get from these sources seems to bear no resemblance to the client offices I work in.

So, the question then becomes, if the whiz-bang new technology isn't making its way into our offices quickly, how can best we refocus to make the technology we already *have* work better? In this edition of *The CAD Manager's Newsletter*, we'll explore some practical answers to that question that CAD managers can use. Here goes.

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Objection Handling

If we won't implement futuristic new technology in our office soon, then why is it so hard to improve what we already have? In my experience, the "let's make things work better around here" logic tends to get derailed by one of the following objections:

1. **Senior management feels that technology which has already been implemented should be running optimally.** If our company purchased Revit 12 years ago, we shouldn't need to tweak it further, right? (Never mind the fact that the company's accounting system has been under constant revision for the last 10 years!)
2. **Users often express no desire to do anything different or better.** I'm sure you've heard users say things like, "I have already learned how to use the software, so why should I change anything now?" (I call this mental inertia and it is hard to overcome.)
3. **Project managers offer little help.** Project managers will often make statements like, "We've just got this running and now you want to mess with it again?" (Clearly expressing pessimism in the CAD manager's ability to make things better.)

All these factors combine to make optimizing existing software harder than you might think. This is why so many CAD managers get stuck supporting the same problems day after day, never seeming to make any progress.

Coping Strategies

One strategy for implementing newer/better procedures on existing software platforms I've found useful is focusing on error reduction. I mean, preventing errors saves money and senior management loves to save money, right? Therefore, it stands to reason that by lowering our error rate with existing software technology, we can generate savings without implementing new, big-ticket systems. This coping strategy is the only way I know of to deal with Objection #1 above.

Discover more coping strategies to help keep your office humming along —
even without all the new bells and whistles!

READ MORE >>

Tools & Resources

Webinar Watch: AMC Bridge Executive Series: Can AI Improve Construction Productivity? What Does ChatGPT Have to Say?
Wednesday, September 27, 11am EST. In today's technological landscape, there is a fascination with ChatGPT capabilities, AI, and machine learning. However, it's important to recognize that beyond the hype, there exist practical applications of these technologies that hold significant potential for the construction industry. AMC Bridge brings together technology innovators and construction industry professionals to discuss the real-world implementation of AI in the construction industry. Led by moderator Jim Brown, Founder and President of Tech-Clarity, he'll be joined with panelists: Anthony Hauck, Co-Founder and Chief Product Officer, Hypar; Lucas Manos, IT Director of Business Operations, Ryan Companies; Patrick Murphy, CEO and Founder, Togal.AI; and Igor Tsinman, President, AMC Bridge.
Register for webinar >>

E-Book: 2023 Project Management eBook for Manufacturing
Project Manager published this ebook that according to the publisher covers all stages of a manufacturing project and dives into topics such as manufacturing processes, supply chain planning, production schedules, demand planning and more. **Learn more >>**

Webinars: Vectorworks Webinar Line-up
You can view Vectorworks' list of webinars that are available on demand. Topics include Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Landscape Architecture, Algorithms-Aided Design in BIM Software, and more. **See the list >>**

Autodesk University 2023 Update: Ryan Reynolds Takes the Stage at AU
From a Golden Globe and Grammy-nominated *Deadpool* film franchise to his recognition as one of the most creative people in business, Ryan Reynolds knows a thing or two about what it means to be a force of change in an ever-changing world. Join Autodesk at AU General Session Day 2 to learn about Ryan Reynolds' approach to business, industry, and equity — and what it means to him to design and make a better world. **Learn More >>**

What's New at Cadalyst

SPONSORED: Technology Guides Infrastructure Sustainability Efforts
Cadalyst interviews Bentley Systems' Rodrigo Fernandes and discusses how new tools can support carbon analysis and help address workforce shortages. *By Cadalyst Staff*
Read more >>

CADALYST VIDEO: Cadalyst and IMAGINiT Discuss AI and Construction
IMAGINiT Technologies presented at the The Future of Construction: Automation, Offsite & Field Technology Conference in Toronto, Canada. Scott Wolslager, Senior Engagement Manager at IMAGINiT, answered a few pointed questions for Cadalyst readers about AI and construction.
Watch the video >>

VIEWPOINT: The Automation Revolution: How AI Technologies are Transforming Design
Co-founder and CCO of Transcend encourages engineers to embrace AI technology to automate repetitive tasks and unlock new frontiers for critical infrastructure. *By Adam Tank, Transcend.* **Read more >>**

CAD Cartoon

By Roger Penwill   Keep 'em Laughing!

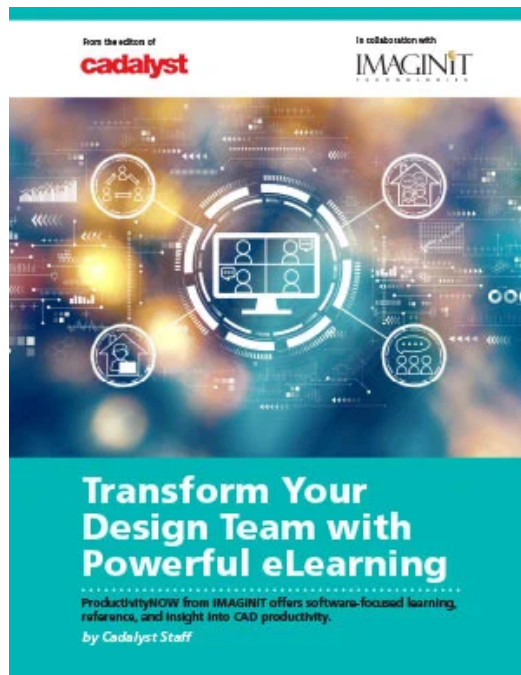# Free Resources

Take the Gradual Path to BIM

Implementing BIM can be an overwhelming challenge, but you don't have to take on everything at once — Bentley MicroStation allows design and construction firms to progress one step at a time.

To learn how incremental advances leveraging your existing investments in CAD and related technologies can yield big benefits over time — for both your company and the project owner — download your copy of this free white paper today.
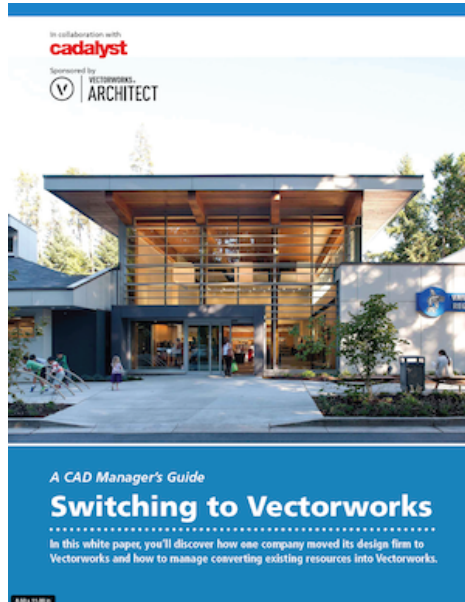
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Transform Your Design Team with Powerful eLearning

Training your workforce continues to be one of the most important pillars to forming a strong and efficient team. The challenge becomes making sure your staff are

using their design software to the best of their abilities and following your CAD standards. How do you build this foundation and continue to invest in your employees?

Find out how ProductivityNOW from IMAGINiT offers you software-focused learning, reference, and insight into CAD productivity. *By Cadalyst Staff*

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A CAD Manager's Guide to Switching to Vectorworks

Discover how one company moved its design firm to Vectorworks and how to manage converting existing resources into Vectorworks.

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