

ConnectPress Ltd.

2008 Building Information Modeling Software Vendors Directory

Welcome to the 2008 Building Information Modeling Vendors Directory, a valuable resource included with this special report offering a wealth of sources from leading vendors in the industry.

Bentley Architecture

www.bentley.com/architecture

Bentley Architecture is an advanced architectural building information modeling (BIM) application that enables architects and designers to create and explore design options, make better informed design decisions, plus, predict costs and performance, according to the Bentley Systems' Web site. Design and construction documents are automatically coordinated to help reduce errors and omissions. Bentley Architecture is part of Bentley's integrated suite of Building Information Modeling (BIM) applications streamlining integration between design, engineering, analysis, construction, and operations for the entire lifecycle of facilities.

BIMWorld

www.bimworld.com

This software, offered by BIMWorld, helps teams manage and share AutoCAD drawings and Revit files. BIMContentManager Desktop manages the Revit files and allows them to be shared via BIMContentManager Web. The software allows for simultaneous grid and thumbnail dualview; assigning and editing properties; sorting properties by various criteria; linking supplier products to file "families" and dragging and dropping families into Revit.

InterSpec

www.interspec.com

Specializing in e-SPECS for automated specification technology, this company's software links CAD drawings to master guide specifications. InterSpec is a leader in providing Internet-based management of construction specification services for AECO professionals. E-SPECS 4.0 integrates with Autodesk Revit, allowing building firms to increase coordination and reduce change orders. The software development grew in part out of customer requests.



Britt Lipy

Newforma

www.newforma.com

Newforma Project Center Fifth Edition is the key behind this five-year-old New Hampshire company's success in the AEC world. Newforma offers Project Information Management software to help teams manage data across all levels of an AEC project. It helps that the company was founded by seven professionals with decades of experience in software development and the needs of the AECO industry.

Newforma Project Center, connects team members together, organizes project information and streamlines project processes. According to the company, Newforma Project Center "is specifically designed to remove time- and money-draining inefficiencies from project execution in the AEC industry. (The software) is used by architects and engineers to organize and manage internal project information, share and track published project information with external team members and streamline project execution processes. Newforma Project Center software is a fully integrated solution which solves major AEC project execution

challenges including email management, comprehensive search, external communication, BIM/CAD design review, project monitoring and contract administration.”

Onuma

www.onuma.com

Onuma, the brainchild of founder Kimon Onuma, created the BIMStorm as a hands-on way for people from all kinds of professions to try Building Information Modeling in a risk-free environment. The company provides the kind of web-based, interoperable software needed to move BIM forward. Moreover, the company’s tools work with Autodesk Revit and more. Among the companies offerings are:

Onuma Planning Systems - The software simplifies complex operations and create simplified interfaces. According to Onuma, anyone “from principals with all the design knowledge, to the recently hired intern, anyone with Excel skills can be a BIMmer!”

OPS Accounts – create and share projects internally, then import and export via tools such as Revit and ArchiCAD. Can export to Google Earth and import/export to Excel. BIMXML Converter – import BIM files to OPS via this Java-based tool.

Revit Architecture

www.autodesk.com

The centerpiece of Autodesk BIM tools is Revit Architecture. The software was tailor-made for BIM. “It is based on parametric building modeling technology, which uses a relational database together with a behavioral model to capture and present building information dynamically,” according to the company.

Revit Architecture is based on parametric modeling technology. Using a relational database, the way Revit models a building is described by the company as “an integrated database of coordinated information. Beyond graphically depicting the design, much of the data needed for supporting sustainable design is captured naturally as design on the project proceeds.”

Revit Architecture also integrates with energy analysis tools and other tools used in the design of energy efficient, “green” buildings. New “green” building standards are increasingly mandated by states and towns for projects.

Revit Architecture efficiently produces the architectural renderings needed as part of the LEED certification process for green buildings. “A LEED requirement documented in the Revit building information model is far less likely to fall out of synch or be overlooked (and inadvertently violated) during project design than a requirement documented in a conventional CAD or object-CAD-based application,” according to the company.

Solibri

www.solibri.com

Solibri Model Checker compares the models produced by BIM software tools “for integrity, quality and physical safety.”

“The system offers easy-to-use visualization with an intuitive walk-in functionality,” according to the company’s Web site. “With a single mouse click, the system X-rays the building model and reveals potential flaws and weaknesses in the design, highlights the clashing components and checks that the model complies with the building codes and organization’s best practices.”

Solibri Model Viewer is a free software built for viewing Open Standard IFC files and Solibri Model Checker files. Solibri Model Viewer brings BIM files from all IFC compatible software products into a single environment that works on PC and Macintosh platforms.

Tekla

www.tekla.com

Tekla Structure is an open platform tool that streamlines the building process through standardization and interoperability. The software integrates with architectural programs and provides the level of 3D model detail needed for contractors. “Tekla models naturally develop in parallel, representing the ‘as-built’ condition of a building. Tekla Structures effectively integrates into any best-of-breed software driven workflow, while maintaining the highest levels of data integrity and accuracy,” according to the company.

Tekla Structures interfaces well with other existing applications, or can be used as a sole platform. Tekla Structures links with various systems through Tekla Open API application programming interface that is implemented using Microsoft .NET technology. Some of the standard formats supported by Tekla Structures are IFC, CIS/2, SDNF and DSTV. Examples of proprietary formats that integrate with Tekla Structures are DWG, DXF and DGN. This interoperability allows Tekla to work with both 3D geometry and model data from powerhouse tools like the Bentley BIM suite.

Trelligence

www.trelligence.com

Trelligence Affinity helps architects and building teams conduct early analysis and estimates for a project, before introducing more complex programs such as Revit and analysis tools. The program works with both CAD and BIM tools. “Affinity delivers a comprehensive design analysis tool, built on top of domain-specific knowledge templates,” that clients can configure for specific projects with unique needs such as healthcare centers, schools or science buildings.

Trelligence got its start in Houston, Tex. in 2002 as a software company targeting the architecture, engineering, contractor and owner (AECO) industry. Their tools focus on helping a planning team work together in the planning and pre-design of building projects.

Trelligence rolled out its Affinity version for Revit in July and was named an Autodesk Preferred Industry Partner. The two integrate to provide more power to BIM, connecting “the requirements of a building program with the elements of the spatial design,” according to the Web site.

Vela

www.velasystems.com

Vela Systems is a leader in developing mobile field software for the architecture, engineering, contractor and owner (AECO) industry.

It helps professionals replace their notebooks with software useable in the field via Tablet PCs, saving time, standardizing documents and boost collaboration among various professionals on a construction job.

In April, Tekla and Vela Systems joined to create a field and BIM software for construction supply chain management. Tekla brings its expertise in developing BIM software together with Vela’s field administration tools. “When enabled with field software and radio frequency identification, stakeholders in a construction project can manage critical-path building components and visualize the supply chain through a real-time, 4D simulation in which the fourth dimension is time,” according to an April press release from the company.

The information provided is not exhaustive and does not include all the products and services available from each company, nor does it include ALL vendors. We have, however, attempted to include the major software solutions and services.