

The PDF file format and what it's done for our company

1. Completely changed our approach to electronic file creation, transfer and viewing
2. Changed how we think about the Autodesk required "buy-in"
 - a. Never downwardly compatible
 - b. Forced upgrades
 - c. Static drawing, no intelligence
 - d. Lack of Objects
 - i. Visio
 - ii. Broderbund 3D Home Studio – little brother to Chief Architect
3. Integrated smoothly with Xerox Reproduction System
 - a. ACCXES
 - i. Document Submit, Document Retrieval, & Device Manager
 - ii. Integrated Accounting Database
 - iii. Scanning creates:
 1. PDF
 2. Tiff
 3. JPG (color)
 - b. Plot to file (.plt)
 - i. HPGL/2 –old as the hills
 - ii. Sheet Manager
 1. Document Set (this is the hook where Adobe steps in)
 2. Revisions, changes, & updates
 3. How do you manage it effectively – make it a no brainer
 - a. Saved Plot sets
 - b. Only update the changed sheets, doesn't care, does what it's told
 4. Full size Engineering plots
 - a. 600 sheets/hour – collated, stapled, ready to ship
 5. Word Documents –TIR
 - a. Includes graphics, figures, charts, manufacturers catalog cuts
 - b. Photos, site details etc.
 6. Photos sets (digital cameras – low res)
 7. Half-size sets from original file (first generation)
 - a. Grey scale issues – second generation
 - b. Color
 8. 8 ½ x 11 regular letter size
 - a. Job shack out in the field
 - b. Funky little inkjet printer
4. One to Many
 - a. Locate the information on the Web with rapid access
 - b. Able to post and update the same info
 - i. The files that create the paper plots also create the web content
 - c. Full sets of info (Sheet Manager hook)
 - d. Drill down example (threshold viewing)
 - i. State – City – District – Bldg – Fiber – Nodes – Equipment – Engineering Data – Autocad dwg (PDF time)
5. Revision and Update
 - a. Key to the highway
 - b. That's what we are selling as a company
 - c. Respond quickly then disseminate and distribute the information in a timely manner
 - i. For instance say every Friday morning the week's work is posted
 - ii. Each manager or supervisor can review the work and plan for next week's demands

- iii. Or you could do it daily
- d. How do you handle the changes?
 - i. Revision and markup capability within PDF
 - 1. Project management sites
 - 2. They are OK, but have way too much overhead and monkey motion
 - 3. Unless someone wants to use it, or enjoys using it no one will come.
 - a. Microsoft Project as an example – great product but no one will use it.
 - ii. I've tried it but had to save a copy.
 - iii. Easiest way is to view the info on the Web and talk on the phone, especially for non-power users (that's people who have a hard time with email).
- 6. Deployment over the Web
 - a. Go Live
 - i. Conduit to receive the files that would compose the Sheet Manager
 - ii. Different layouts would support each discipline
 - iii. Ability to publish directly from the site
 - iv. Dynamic files could link directly to the original file.
- 7. Where do we go from here?