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The long awaited release of VR7 has finally arrived, with probably the greatest advancements yet in production, accuracy and ease of use! We have made tremendous strides to simplify the user interface, employing more of the programs amazing internal intelligence. You no longer need concern yourself with pipe types! The new Simple Interface option allows you to simply choose a pipe size and draw. The program automatically assigns the pipe role as a Branch Line, Cross Main, Riser Nipple, etc. by its size, location and orientation and to what it is connecting.

The revamped “right-click” to get defaults feature allows the user to simply select any system component in the drawing to initiate the command. After just few minutes into the design, this will alleviate having to access commands from the newly consolidated toolbars or menu pull downs. The new elevation lock keeps all piping at the user specified elevation regardless of snap-point elevation or “Z” coordinate input. This feature simplifies 3D design to the point of emulating simple 2D design with the added benefit of providing completely automated hydraulic calculations. After placing the piping for lines and mains at desired elevations, the program will now connect all selected pipes utilizing the new automatic riser nipple command.

One of AutoSPRINK’s most amazing new features is the “Global clipping slide bar”. Simply select any system component and move the handy slide bar to crop away everything in the drawing except the desired work area. Elements that are not visible cannot be selected to cause unforeseen problems. Your computer resources are only required to render the remaining visible portions of the system. It will make even the largest drawing files perform as though they contained only the few visible elements!

We feel these features combined with the numerous other commands and added functionality, will increase production another 30% to 50% or more, while greatly assisting to maintain design accuracy.

We hope these sensational innovations will help placate any qualms our loyal users may have had over the tardiness of this release. As you may or may not be aware, in addition to redesigning the fundamental functionality of the program, we had to also overcome another enormous obstacle: maintaining AutoCAD compatibility. AutoDesk’s latest release utilizes a new programming format called “Unicode” that was not compatible with AutoSPRINK. To maintain complete compatibility with their 2007/2008/+ releases it was necessary to reprogram all our previous years of program source code to maintain compatibility with their new format. A task of this magnitude was daunting to say the very least, but also imagine having to test and resolve all the issues associated with every command and feature of this multifaceted program when these changes were completed.

In a further effort to restore your confidence, we would like to assure you that we are already hard at work on VR8, which we plan to release prior to year’s end. It will incorporate a new AutoCAD based program we are now completing called “AutoPREP”. Cleaning up complex AutoCAD files, and continually issued revision drawings, to make them usable for design was probably the biggest issue left for us to resolve.

We have developed an AutoCAD based automated cleanup program that intelligently manages this task to epic proportions. The program allows the user to quickly recognize all table entities, X’refs Layers, Blocks, Dictionary’s etc., to determine their importance to their design need. X’refs, are detached or inserted, missing xref’s can be easily detached freeing the invisible lock AutoCAD drawing files have on missing external references. Blocks are automatically zoomed enabling the user to quickly determine the

blocks value for their design need. Attributes are quickly extracted to standard text. Invisible attributes are kept or removed, removing the chance that the tag value appears from a conventional explode. Exact duplicate entities, lines, circles, arc's etc. are removed. Hatching is automatically zoomed allowing the user to save, delete or explode. Text is also automatically zoomed. Text can also be globally reviewed and deleted or altered. Text style are simply handled, switch none, one, two or all styles to a desired style. Tens of thousands of non-object bytes of data, sometimes imported as symbols, are also removed.

Drawing files that took many hours to prepare can be cleaned in a matter of minutes improving importability and greatly reducing total drawing file size. Moreover, when re-importing a revision drawing, the built-in memory wizard logs the Architect and drawing number along with all previous activity to prepare the drawing. It then mimics the same tasks on any revision drawings with literally the push of a button.

The user may also elect to preview all design changes by highlighting any and all revisions on screen prior to import. This includes added or deleted items that can be viewed separate and apart from the entire background drawing or highlighted in it with differing coloration for added and deleted drawing components. These features allow the user to quickly and easily decide if the revised drawing is even worth re-importing.

The "memory wizard" can also be used to batch-process numerous drawing files and will automatically prepare the entire set of drawings, based on what was done to the initial drawing. From then on, it will remember everything done to the set to make revision-drawing import nearly automatic. When more powerful computers become available, this will only take a matter of minutes but for now: set it and come back the next day to drawing files ready for design.

In addition to removing all redundant lines and superfluous drawing clutter, the program transforms all complex text boxes into simple text lines. Complicated text formats are one of the more taxing display issues for most graphics cards. Reducing them to simple text lines not only increases speed and allows the user to change font type, and it also allows the program to actually interpret the text. In doing so, AutoPREP can also automatically convert simple lines into their real world 3D counterparts. For example: it will automatically convert all single line beams, or any other structural members in the drawing, to the corresponding database structural member in the drawing. It will "Read" columns as well and build them to drawing specified heights. To construct a realistic 3D model then becomes a simple task of importing the drawing into AutoSPRINK. The only drawback here is that components are not intelligent objects and will import as simple polytriangle units.

VR8's AutoPREP within AutoSPRINK feature will be nothing less than spectacular. It will not only clean up cad files for design but the 2D line conversion to a realistic 3D model will nearly be automatic, utilizing AutoSPRINK's own internally intelligent objects combined with its state of the art elevation commands. We are also implementing object enablers for importing other trade's 3D elements. It will soon be much simpler and faster to utilize our non-AutoCAD based AutoSPRINK program for import/export than it will be to use any other AutoCAD based design package, including AutoCAD.

Our AutoCAD based version of AutoPREP will be available soon at which time we will notify you and provide pricing. It will greatly assist your design staff with the tedious and time-consuming task of drawing preparation and prove invaluable on large projects with unrelenting design revisions. There is no need to hesitate purchasing this program as we will credit all purchases towards its licensing fees when it is available in VR8.

We have included a VR7 Release Overview detailing many of the important new features of this release. A complete list of new feature will be posted on our website (AutoSPRINK \Sales \New Features). To truly get the full benefits of this release, I'm sure that you can appreciate the value of certified VR7 Update Training, and Intermediate Training for those of you who have been waiting for the new release before attending, so check the Training Schedules posted on our website for class dates and make your

reservations as early as possible (AutoSPRINK \Support \Training). Update and Intermediate Training will be combined for your convenience.

As always, if you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us. We would also like to hear from you regarding new feature suggestions or added capability that you would like to see in future releases of the program.

Thank you for being an important part of our growing family of excellence in design and we wish you all the success and prosperity you deserve for taking the leap with us into the future of design.

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