



Sage Timberline Office Newsletter

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Building Information Modeling (BIM)

More Than Just a Fancy Buzzword

If you're in the construction business, you've probably heard about Building Information Modeling (BIM) by now. If you think BIM is just another piece of gee whiz technology with a buzz that's bigger than it's bite, it may be time to reconsider. By many accounts, BIM is a game-changer in the construction industry and is already delivering real, tangible results. In fact, a study released in September 2009 by [McGraw-Hill Construction](#) revealed that nearly half (49%) of the respondents in their survey are using BIM or BIM-related tools and are experiencing real business benefit.

First, a Bit of Background on BIM

Before we talk about the potential value that BIM can bring to your business, it's useful to understand what BIM is exactly. Ask 10 people and you'll probably get 10 different definitions. But at a very basic level, BIM is a digital representation of the building process. BIM provides tools to create elaborate, multi-dimensional building designs **not** by drawing, but by digital modeling. Plus, the multi-dimensional aspect of BIM allows you include a 4th dimension (4D) related to project scheduling and sequencing and a 5th dimension (5D) related to cost estimating. For a more comprehensive definition and an online encyclopedia of BIM knowledge, check out www.BimWiki.com.

Benefits of BIM

Because BIM provides a digital representation of the building process, it more easily facilitates productive collaboration with designers regarding constructability of the project. You can perform "What If" analysis to identify potential problems in the pre-construction phase before they become costly mistakes and change orders in the field where they're more expensive and time-consuming to resolve. And with construction sequencing, you'll improve coordination of resources on the project and keep costs down. Using BIM to construct your "virtual building" leaves no stone unturned which leads to far more accurate cost estimates. Ultimately BIM results in better collaboration, better information, fewer errors, and more profitable projects.

What it Means to the Construction Industry

BIM is no longer an *emerging* technology. It's here to stay and is spreading quickly throughout the industry. The McGraw-Hill Construction report referenced earlier notes that "BIM leaders are quickly outdistancing their competition, and those who aren't preparing for this inevitable industry-wide transformation are going to struggle when the economy revitalizes." The study also notes that companies are leveraging BIM capabilities to win new work over their competitors and rate this among the greatest current benefits of BIM.

BIM and Sage Timberline Office

Sage recently announced an integration between Timberline Office and Autodesk Quantity Takeoff 2010 which provides Autodesk BIM users with an accurate link from design to cost estimation in Sage Timberline Office. With one click, Timberline Office customers can pull data from the BIM model directly into Sage Timberline Office Estimating and use that quantity and cost information throughout the design and construction process. [Contact us](#) if you'd like to learn about BIM or the new Autodesk integration for Sage Timberline Office.



Authorized Partner



Development Partner

Sage Timberline Office Summer Release

In August, Sage introduced a “Summer Release” update to Timberline Office Version 9.6. The update is available as a **download only** and offers up a handful of productivity improvements that we’ll explore here.

Sage Installation Manager

This new tool streamlines the process of installing updates by allowing you to update numerous workstations from a single location - a much more efficient use of your time.

A New Look for Inquiries

The table and form views from within Inquiries have been redesigned with a modern look with new icons in the toolbar that replace the buttons at the bottom of the window. This will make Inquiries more intuitive and easy to use. You now also have the ability to print all rows in an inquiry.

Streamlined Purchase Order

When you create a Purchase Order from a Work Order, the Work Order location description will automatically appear in the Purchase Order eliminating the need to do a system lookup which streamlines PO generation and minimizes data entry.

Submitting Enhancement Requests

As a Sage Timberline Office customer, your ideas help to make the product better. In recognition of that, Sage has created a forum for you to offer your comments and ideas. You can submit your ideas directly in Timberline Office and they’re automatically routed to the Sage Product Management team for consideration. You can also view other users’ comments as well as track the status of your requests.

Keeping Up with Technology

64-bit compatibility now includes Document Management and DocuVault.

Improved Payroll and Time Entry

Now you can enter payroll time within field reports and have that time sent directly to payroll. A new security setting has been added allowing you to control which operators are allowed to send time to payroll. Performing payroll time entry from the field saves valuable time.

Other Noteworthy Enhancements

Project Management now supports the ability to create an RFI from within the Field Report task which streamlines the process. Also within Document Management, you can import, route and work with documents in their original file formats (like Excel or Adobe). Finally, you now have the option to select whether to post materials received in purchasing at their net or gross value. Materials posted at gross value include taxes which will ensure a more accurate GL reconciliation.

Contact us if you’d like assistance installing the Sage Timberline Office Summer Release.

Zybertech Custom Software Development

As a Sage development partner, Zybertech offers custom software design & development. Our team has extensive experience in providing a customized Timberline solution or developing and designing stand alone software. For more information on our development & design, please contact melanie@zybertech.com or Melanie at (403) 202-7291 ext 214.

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