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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

A Closer Look at Estimating

In a highly competitive and challenging environment, a reliable cost estimate is critical in successfully bidding on and winning new projects. A truly accurate and flexible cost estimating tool allows you present multiple options, track and adjust for variances during the project, and finish the job with a healthy profit and satisfied customer. Let's take a look at how Sage Timberline Estimating can help you track all costs, eliminate the guesswork, and win more business.

Sage Timberline Office Estimating

Sage Timberline Office Estimating lays the foundation for an estimating process that's more structured and accurate than most paper-based or generic spreadsheet methods. A wizard-driven set up walks you through the process of creating your custom estimating database. Plus, it's easy to learn with an online help system that offers step-by-step instructions for many of the most common estimating tasks - a great tool for getting new estimators up and running quickly.

Flexible, Interactive Spreadsheets

With estimating spreadsheets, you can open and compare several estimates at once and even drag items from one spreadsheet into another. You can also view work by location, by division or item, takeoff order, assembly, bid item or other user-defined Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) code. It all means that you can create, manage, and generate more estimates in less time - and more bids can mean more business!

Your Estimate Process Will Really TAKEOFF

Sage Timberline Estimating Standard provides several options for handling takeoffs including:

Quick Takeoff - Simply drag one or more items from the database directly into the spreadsheet on the screen. Enter dimensions and the software automatically calculates all

quantities for you.

Item takeoff—If you want to work with database items before they go into your estimate, you can drag them into the item takeoff window. When you're ready, just click a button to add them to your spreadsheet.

Smart Assemblies takeoff—To save time, you can take off all the items of a wall, door, or other building component in just one step. Estimating databases include a variety of common assemblies that you can modify. Or you can build your own.

The Numbers Are Looking Good

Now that your numbers are solid, you'll want to impress your prospective customers with professional-looking reports that are easy to read and understand. That's exactly what you get with the presentation-quality reports that come standard with Sage Timberline Office Estimating.

Many Businesses, Many Flavors of Estimating

Each construction business has unique estimating processes with a variety of items, formulas and assemblies. That's why Sage Timberline Estimating offers a variety of features and modules to suit your needs from basic tools for getting started to advanced tools for complex estimates.

NEED A REFRESHER?

Sage offers **Anytime Learning** sessions that are recordings of instructor-led presentations. These 5 to 20 minute sessions are available online and are a fantastic way to get new users up and running quickly or as a refresher to revisit skills you haven't used in a while. A couple of sample courses include year-end procedures and a review

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