How to install Axiom MDL applications to a network

In this article, you will learn how to install Axiom's MDL tools to a network. This saves time when carrying out a site- or company-wide installation of Axiom's tools, especially for sites where many MicroStation users will be using them. Also, this type of installation gives the CAD manager or IT department control over the usage of the software (like restricting who uses the each program and ensuring that the latest version of the software is installed throughout the network). Before we begin, here is a quick refresher of a couple of key terms:

MDL = MicroStation Development Language. MDL is based upon the C programming language with Bentley-specific additions for MicroStation. Most Axiom applications are implemented using MDL.

DLL = Dynamic Link Library. A DLL is a collection of small programs, any of which can be loaded into memory and run *as needed* to support another running program.

Prior to starting this installation, it's a good idea to plan where on the network you want to install the Axiom product or products. Make sure that you have write access to modify that network location. It is not necessary to create an "Axiom" folder prior to installation, as there is a prompt to do so during the install. Also, this installation assumes that you have never installed an Axiom product on a local (client) machine before. If you have installed the product on a local machine before, remove it from its current local location before proceeding with the network installation.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this network installation, contact Axiom's licensing department for help. Call +1-727-442-7774 or e-mail license@axiomint.com.

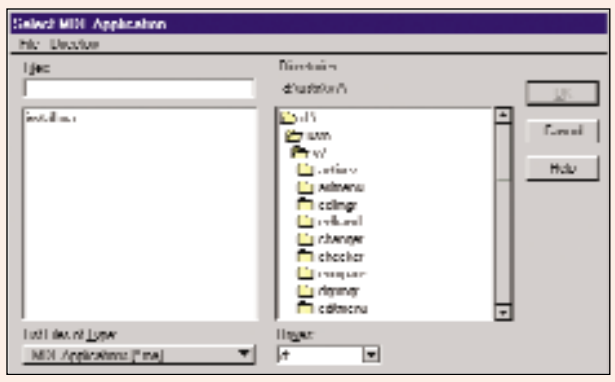
Materials needed

To perform the network install, you will need the following: an Axiom product CD and a diskette labeled "Axiom License File". You should have received these items from Axiom after you purchased your software. If you received your license file via e-mail, replace all instances of the "a:\axiom.lic" in this article with the location where you saved your license file. If you don't have both of these items, again, contact Axiom's licensing department.

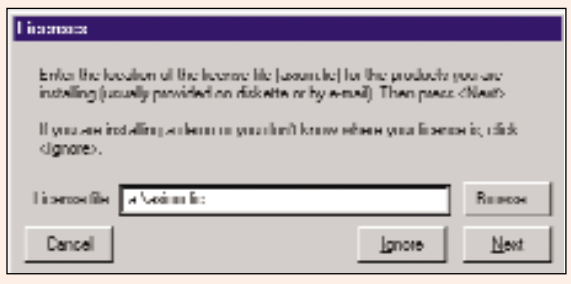
Base installation

Now we are ready to start. Here we go:

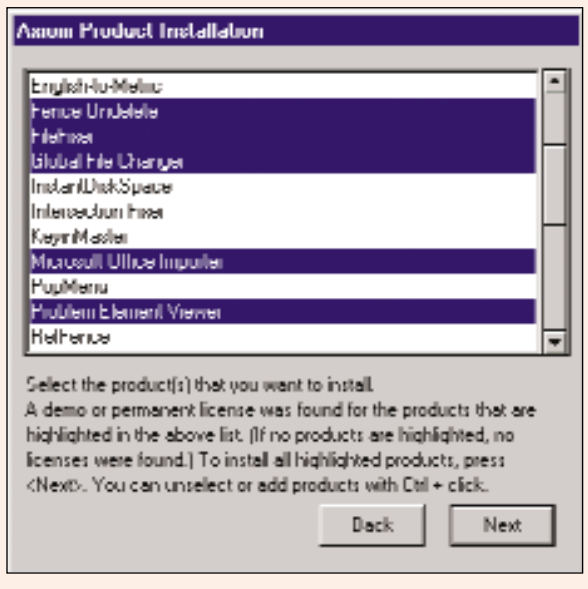
1) Place the Axiom product CD in your CD drive and the license diskette in your floppy drive. Start MicroStation.
2) From the MicroStation main menu bar, open the "MDL Applications" dialog box located under the "Utilities" menu. From the "MDL" dialog, click the <Browse…> button and specify the drive letter your product CD is in. For MicroStation 95, SE and J, select the \ustn\v7\ directory in the CD and double click install.ma. For MicroStation V8, select the \ustn\v8\ directory and double click install.ma.



3) After selecting install.ma, your machine will scan through the products on the CD.
4) Next, you will be prompted for the location of your Axiom license file. This file is located at a:\axiom.lic.



5) Click on <Next>.
6) You will now see a list of Axiom products that can be installed. Products are highlighted when you have a license for them. You can install all of the highlighted products by clicking the <Next> button. If you wish to exclude a product, de-select it by holding down <Ctrl> and clicking it.



7) Next, the Axiom "End-user License Agreement" window comes up. Read it and click on the <Accept> button to proceed.
8) Next, a dialog box will pop up prompting you for the base Axiom installation directory — all Axiom applications will be installed in sub-directories under the directory you specify. Here is where you will want to specify the pre-established network location. Be sure to add "axiom" in the path. For example, if you want to install the products to the root of server drive "x" the directory you would want to specify would be "x:\axiom\". With the correct path entered in the command line, click on the <OK> button to begin the installation.
9) Once the products are installed, you will receive a "Successful installation" message. Click the <OK> button to close the window and MicroStation. This will finalize your installation.

This concludes the base installation.

System configurations

Now there are only a few steps left to allow other users to automatically access the programs from the network.

1) During the initial installation, there are four ".DLL" files that get automatically copied to the Windows System folder of the machine which the installation was executed from. These files are: axilib.dll, aximdl.dll, axiomsys.dll and axireg.dll. These files need to be made accessible to other machines. So, go to your Windows System folder and copy these files and paste them into the Axiom base directory on the network. The Windows System folder's location varies with each Windows version. Here are the typical locations:
   For Windows 98: c:\Windows\System\
   For Windows NT and 2000: c:\WINNT\System32\
   For Windows XP: c:\Windows\System32\
2) Now, the configuration file called "axiom.cfg" which is created at MicroStation's "application" level, needs to be added to every machine needing access to the products. The default location for this file is:
   For MicroStation SE and 95: c:\WIN32APP\config\appl\
   For MicroStation J: c:\Bentley\program\microstation\config\appl\
   For MicroStation V8: c:\Program files\Bentley\program\microstation\config\appl\
   When copying the "axiom.cfg" file to other machines, place it in the same directory as it was on the original machine. That is to say, that if the file is being copied from the "c:\WIN32APP\config\appl\" directory on the original machine, it should be copied to that same directory in the new machine.

   Now, your network installation is complete. Enjoy!

Contact Axiom

If you need help with installation of Axiom software, please contact Axiom at +1-727-442-7774 or e-mail license@axiomint.com. MST

Bentley releases MicroStation V8 2004 edition with enhanced PDF and DWG support.

Exton, Pennsylvania, USA — On 30 April 2004, Bentley officially released the latest generation of MicroStation: MicroStation V8 2004. The release boasts support for Adobe PDF, enhanced DWG interoperability and digital security.

The following is an overview of some of the enhancements and core technologies of MicroStation V8 2004:

The Print core technology includes support for Adobe PDF (Portable Document Format), the dominant standard for electronic deliverables in AEC. Users can publish composite, secure, compact PDF deliverables sourced from DGN or DWG drawings (with raster and vector data), specifications, schedules, bills of material and other project information. The PDF document preserves the level and reference structures of MicroStation files and can include hyperlinks, digital signatures and bookmarks. MicroStation support for PDF makes it easy for organizations to establish a PDF-based electronic delivery and sharing process.

The Digital Security core technology, entirely new in MicroStation V8, allows for electronic signatures on drawings, as well as multi-level access privileges for projects. Managers are assured of reliable approval processes and secure workflows.

The DWG core technology, also new in V8, means that MicroStation users can work natively with DWG files, DGN files or any mix of the two. Only in MicroStation can users fully participate in and deliver projects in either popular format — a clear competitive advantage for them and their organizations.

The 3D core technology provides a comprehensive set of surface, solid and mesh modeling and manipulation tools, as well as a broad range of rendering choices. New to MicroStation V8 are feature modeling, parametric cells (a recurrent cell in a design that is modified by inputting different dimensions, instead of by re-drawing the cell) and particle trace rendering (visualization of the simulated behavior of moving objects). These additions allow organizations to standardize on a single product for a full spectrum of 3D support integrated with 2D design.

The References core technology lets users reference work being done in other files. In V8, references can be now nested rather than being limited to a single level, providing interoperability with the XREF type in DWG files. Also, references now allow for multiple sheet definitions — recognized by other Bentley products — in a single file. These enhancements present new opportunities for additional design and drafting standards.

The Dimensioning core technology lets users create labels that calculate and display linear, angular or radial measurements. Additions to V8 include checks for disconnected dimensions.

The Drawing Aids core technology provides placement and manipulation tools for design and drafting productivity. In V8, AccuSnap and AccuDraw offer enhanced interactive feedback and snap order can be defined for specific workflows.

For more information on MicroStation V8 2004 edition, visit Bentley's Web site at www.bentley.com. MST