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Hot News

SpecMacros 2011 Update!

SpecMacros has been completely overhauled and updated, to address MS Office 2007 / 2010. Refer to [SpecMacros 2011 Update](#) for more information.

W2's Retirement Party

After 50 years in the business, Wayne Watson (W2) has retired this year. David has rallied the CSC Fellows in Edmonton to organize a Retirement Party on Sept. 30, 2011. Refer to [CSC Fellows throw W2 a Retirement Party](#).

BIMdrive is Here!

BIMdrive, Digicon's new flagship software for editing and managing specifications was released in July 2011. Refer to [BIMdrive is Here](#) for more information.

CMS Sections Updated

This month, CMS Divisions 3, 21, 22, 23, 26 sections have all undergone updates. Refer to [Canadian Master Specification \(CMS\)](#) for update details.

BrandedSPEC Goes BIM!

BrandedSPEC sections now ship with BIMdrive software. Refer to [BrandedSPECS to be Integrated with BIMdrive and e-SPECS](#)

Use them, free of charge by downloading from [Spex.ca](#).



Digicon News

CSC Fellows throw W2 a Retirement Party

After 50 years in the business, Wayne Watson (W2) is retiring this year. David rallied the CSC Fellows in Edmonton to organize a Retirement Party, which was thrown Friday, September 30, 2011 at the Delta Edmonton South hotel. People (primarily CSC members) from six provinces showed up (from as far away as Frederickton, NB) to wish Wayne farewell. Wayne, of course, was suitably impressed and thoroughly enjoyed the limelight. He didn't even need his parting gift to lift his spirits – a travel voucher gift certificate, using proceeds from the event fee and a gracious donation from the CSC Edmonton Chapter. The attendees were especially grateful for the wine sponsor donations – from RJC, IBI Group, Brock White, and Keith Robinson. Rumour has it that Wayne is already plotting his winter getaway on a cruise ship in the Caribbean.



Wayne is surrounded by the 10 other CSC past-presidents that attended: (L to R) Bob Murray, Gino Ferri, Phil Evans, Mary Friesen, Peter Semchuk, Wayne Watson, John Clinckett, Mike Schneider, Corinne Golding, Dennis Looten, and George Heath.

SpecMacros 2011 Update!

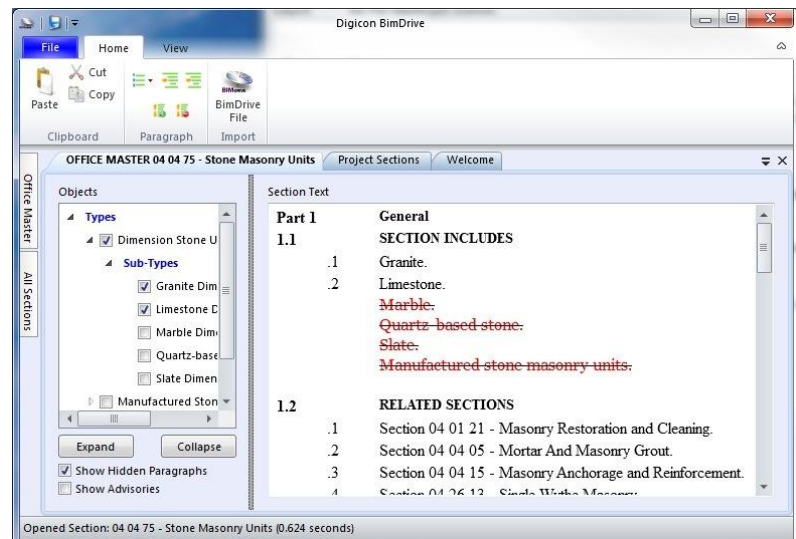
Digicon's best selling software, SpecMacros, has undergone a facelift. In fact, the software has been completely rewritten to simplify the interface, enable future extensibility, and generally more stable operation. By far the largest enhancement is for compatibility with Word 2007 and Word 2010 (DOCX files). Previously, SpecMacros would install but could only run on DOC files in compatibility mode. Our software licensing system has been upgraded to use the same licensing system we use for BIMdrive; SpecMacros will now be sold on a per-computer basis.

For those subscribers wondering, the developments of SpecMacros was always in the works; they were delayed so that efforts could be directed to BIMdrive development. Digicon is committed to continuing the enhancement of SpecMacros into the future, for users who prefer to do their editing in the MS Word environment.

BIMdrive is Here!

BIMdrive was released to the public in early July, and is now available from the [BIMdrive Page](#) on Spex.ca.

BIMdrive enables users to assemble their project specifications through a point-and-click interface, using the pre-structured CMS specifications. Links between the materials and their properties (the terms used in the checkboxes) are already linked to specification data. The first version of the software has been developed with 'data integrity' as our primary objective; CMS will look very similar to the word processor version, and software controls are in place to insure that free-style editing does not corrupt the underlying knowledge. Physical connections to BIM models (for more automated links between models and the specifications) is anticipated to be added during 2011.



This point-and-click assembly process, and BIMdrive's "default values" embedded in CMS optional texts, enable users to produce an early draft specification literally in minutes!

The first edition release of BIMdrive software will offer the following primary features:

- assembly of the specification through a "build" process, rather than a "delete" process, by selecting clauses through an 'object' checkbox interface,
- global (project wide) management of specification format settings (margins, headers and footers, etc),
- automated management of section to section cross-references,
- simple automated table of contents, with an ability to add custom line entries (identify external documents),
- global toggling of "Units of Measurement" (toggling project-wide inch-pound or metric units at any time, yet still allow a "change of mind or an alternate choice" later),
- option validation - BIMdrive warns users to verify that default offered options are valid, and prompts users to enter "blank" values if otherwise,
- data validation – BIMdrive can detect when users edit an object in an unexpected manner that fundamentally changes its meaning or potentially conflicts with other related requirements,
- office master specification management; permits a specifier to keep track of "preferences" in an office master, and apply them to future projects (office master preferences can be applied separately, even after the office master specification has been updated),
- Plus many more features to aid specification editing (long awaited by experienced specifiers).

BIMdrive and SpecMacro Webinars

Digicon is preparing to deliver software seminars over the web. These seminars will be short (15-30 minutes), and will showcase BIMdrive and SpecMacro capabilities to prospective customers. When the Webinars are ready, we will distribute post a notice on Digicon and Spex.ca web sites, and send e-mails to our Spex.ca subscribers.

BrandedSPEC* News

Digicon Seals on BrandedSPECS

Specifications developed for North American product manufacturers by Digicon are affixed with a "Seal", which communicates to the industry that these proprietary specifications meet the same stringent standards as the generic master specifications published by Spex.ca. Canadian CSC or American CSI proprietary specifications are reviewed or re-developed by Digicon and are "branded" with our Seal. This reassures specifiers that the specification content is current for the year dated, and that it meets our "standard of care".



BrandedSPECS Integrated into BIMdrive and e-SPECS

Over the next few months, with the announcement of our alliance with e-SPECS and the release of our new BIMdrive software, Digicon intends to automatically add BrandedSPEC sections to the Demo versions of those software. BrandedSPECS will not only be available in word processing format from the Spex.ca web site, but automatically included in BIMdrive and e-SPECS software.

*BrandedSPEC is a library of brand name (proprietary) master specifications, product descriptions and MSDS sheets, that have been specially written to enable ease of specifying a particular manufactured product. The cost of development and maintenance of BrandedSPEC documents is borne by the manufacturers themselves, and offered to the construction industry FREE. For more information, browse the Spex.ca BrandedSPEC Page online 24/7.

Contact Geri at 519-712-9509, or our toll-free number, for further information on our BrandedSPEC services for manufacturers or information on manufacturers for whom we have provided these documents since 1998.

Industry News

E-SPECS News

BIM Integration in TWO DAYS!

Are you still hearing excuses such as "BIM Integration will take a long time" or "It will take a long time to learn"? InterSpec can help integrate YOUR model and Canadian CMS- or NMS-based specs using e-SPECS, with most designs taking just two days. Receive more value having InterSpec integrate your recent school or hospital sized project which takes just three days. InterSpec will use your project in the half day Revit Implementation Training Session and even provide a FREE consultation on your next BIM project using the integration. The two days even includes ramping up on your BIM model and pulling your preferences from your spec manual!

e-SPECS for Revit integration and automation has been continually enhanced over the past 6 years so if you are still hearing excuses about why it won't work at your firm, let InterSpec experts kick start your integration for you. The e-SPECS Revit Pilot Integration Program can not only be used on completed projects, but projects in the DD/CD stage as well. Remember that e-SPECS for Revit doesn't tie your hands to just the BIM integration; you can always insert sections using the e-SPECS Checklist or import Word files into the project, edit using the e-SPECS Editor, and export to Word files at any time.



Contact an e-SPECS Sales Representative now to request more information on the e-SPECS Revit Pilot Integration Program.

buildingSMART International

Next buildingSMART Meeting

The next buildingSMART International (bSI) meeting is scheduled for Oslo, Norway during the week of 19 - 23 March 2012. Refer to the [buildingSMART International web site](#) for more information.



CSC News

CSC Conference – May 23 - 27, 2012 – Ottawa, ON

The next CSC Conference is being hosted by the Ottawa Chapter in May 2012. As we write this article, the CSC web site has not yet been updated. Please monitor <http://csc-dcc.ca/Conferences/> for Conference details.



Other Recent CSC Publications

This is a list of recent new publications, in case you missed the announcements.

- *MasterFormat 2011*; browse directly to the Spex.ca MasterFormat 2011. Discounts are available to current CSC members.
- *Specifier 1 Student Handbook* Published on Spex.ca; refer to the [CSC Specifier 1](#) page on Spex.ca.
- *UniFormat 2010* published ; browse directly to the [Spex.ca UniFormat 2010 Page](#). Discounts are available for CSC members.

CCDC News

CCDC has now published the following long awaited documents:

- CCDC 5A – Construction Management Contract – For Services
- CCDC 5B – Construction Management Contract – For Services and Construction
- CCDC 17 – Stipulated Price Contract Between Owner and the Trade Contractor for Construction Management

These documents are available now on the Canadian Construction Association – CCDC Documents website for a nominal cost. Digicon has implemented Division 00 and 01 updates to CMS to complement these new contract forms.

ICIS News

Delegates Assembly – Oslo, Norway - June 3 to 6, 2012

ICIS members meet annually to discuss the latest trends in specifications globally. Canada actually now has three (3) members at ICIS: Digicon, CSC and now NMSS (the NMS Secretariat) who joined last June at the DA in Denmark.



Digicon's own David Watson continues to serve as the ICIS Secretary, at least until June 2012. The next Delegates Assembly will held June 2012 in Oslo, Norway.

SpecSuite News, 2011-10 (Q4) Update

Canadian Master Specification (CMS) Updates

This update includes sections from Division 3, 21, 22, 23, and 26. The primary changes include updating standards references, and the usual modifications in the name of compatibility with BIMdrive. These modifications serve not

only BIMdrive, but improve the readability (and usefulness) of the other file formats. The mechanical sections will undergo a number of enhancements over the next few quarters.

MiniSPEC Updates

This update does not include any MiniSPEC files.

Sections Updated This Quarter

Library	Section #	Section Name	Status
CMS	Division 3	Concrete Sections	Updated
CMS	Division 21	Fire Protection Sections	Updated
CMS	Division 22	Plumbing Sections	Updated
CMS	Division 23	HVAC Sections	Updated
CMS	Division 26	Electrical Sections	Updated

* CMS Discipline package codes: A = Architectural, C = Civil Engineering, E = Electrical, H = Heritage, I = Interiors, L = Landscape, M = Mechanical, R=Roofing/Waterproofing, S=Structural

Relevant URL Links

The following URL links will serve to link readers to topics which are included in our newsletter and activities that impact our industry.

Arcom (publishers of AIA MASTERSPEC) (<http://www.arcomnet.com>)

BrandedSPEC (<https://secure.spex.ca/index.php?page=branded/index.php>)

Building Information Modelling (BIM) Forum (<http://www.insightinfo.com/bimforum>)

BuildingSMART Alliance (North American chapter of BuildingSMART): (<http://www.buildingsmartalliance.com>)

BuildingSMART International (formerly IAI) (<http://www.buildingsmart.com>)

Canada BIM Council (CBC) (<http://www.canbim.com>)

Canada Green Building Council (<http://www.cagbc.org>)

CCDC Documents: (<http://www.ccdc.org/home.html>)

Construction Specifications Canada (CSC) (<http://www.csc-dcc.ca>)

Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) (<http://www.csinet.org>)

CSC Conference: <http://www.cscconference.ca>

Digicon Information Inc. (<http://www.digicon.ab.ca>)

IFD Library (<http://www.ifd-library.org>)

Institute for BIM in Canada (IBC): (<http://www.ibr-bim.ca/>)

International Construction Information Society (ICIS) (<http://www.icis.org>)

Interspec Inc. (E-SPECS): (<http://www.e-specs.com>)

MasterFormat 2010 (free downloadable PDF on Spex.ca Free page):(<https://secure.spex.ca/index.php?page=freedocs/index.php>)

OmniClass (<http://www.omniclass.ca> and <http://www.omniclass.org>)

Spex.ca (<http://www.spex.ca>)

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