



Update

May 2009

Virtis/Opis Users Group Meeting

By: Darren J. Kemna, M.S., P.E, User Group President

The Virtis and Opis BRIDGEWare User Groups met in Oklahoma City from August 5th thru August 7th, 2008. 84 users attended the conference including representatives from 25 state agencies, 1 local agency, and 5 consulting firms. The users gave presentations on various topics related to the rating and design of bridges with Virtis and Opis. The users discussed, voted upon and passed a new constitution that combined the Virtis and Opis user groups into one combined user group. Darren Kemna (Missouri DOT) was elected to the presidency of the Users Group while David Warner (Montana DOT) was elected to the Secretary position. Rebecca Curtis (Michigan DOT) and Jeff Olson (Montana DOT) were elected as the Vice-Presidents of the Virtis and Opis Sub Groups respectively.

Training sessions were held for both the Virtis and Opis products. On day one fundamentals training was conducted to give new users a feel for the Virtis and Opis products. The rest of the training was focused primarily on the newer features offered including the Virtis Standard Engine, Virtis Non-Standard Gage and Truss components, Opis R/C Superstructure Engine and the Opis Substructure Module.

Formal business meetings were held for the Virtis and Opis Sub Groups on day three. The Task Force gave a financial update and their strategic plan for the Virtis and Opis products. In addition, the Task Force led an informal brainstorming session to help set long-term goals for the products. The meeting concluded with a vote to prioritize user requested enhancements. A top ten list for Virtis and Opis was tallied after the meeting. Enhancements topping the list include: P/S transformed section properties, secondary load effects (moment magnification) for substructure design, and post-tensioned concrete.

The Virtis and Opis BRIDGEWare Users Group will be meeting again in Denver, Colorado on August 4th-5th, 2009. The meeting will be a mixture of user presentations, software training, and business meetings. All users of the Virtis and Opis programs are invited to the meeting as well as anyone interested in checking out the software. Fundamentals training will be provided as well as training on the new features offered in version 6.1. Please check the VOBug website (www.VOBug.org) for more information on this year's meeting. I hope to see you there.



Pontis Users Group Meeting

By: Paula Allec, California Department of Transportation

The 2008 Pontis User Group (UG) training was held in San Diego, CA on September 23-24, 2008.

There were 97 attendees for the UG conference last year, which was a great turnout.

Pontis has three new agency license holders for FY 2008; Washington DOT, Wisconsin DOT, and Nebraska DOT (NDOR). That brings to date 44 state agencies, 3 Local Government agencies, and 2 International agencies for a total of 49 Pontis license holders.

The Pontis 5.1 development and testing continues. The release date for 5.1 is scheduled for July 2009. During the 2008 Pontis User Group meeting, a sneak peak at Pontis 5.1 (web based version) was given to the users. The User Group had their roundtable discussion to develop enhancement priorities. The users had sixteen suggested items, some of which were enhancements for the software which were given to the Task Force to review.

The Pontis BETA Testing TAG met the Friday following the user training to discuss a number of enhancements to the software. There were twenty enhancements recommended for the software which include changes to the Bridge List Grid, enhancements to the Edit Layout and Edit Filter screens and improvements to the Last and Next Date on the Inspection Schedule page. Michael Baker completed those enhancements and BETA 5 disks were sent to the TAG on April 6th for testing. The final round of Pontis 5.1 BETA testing is to be conducted beginning May 18, 2009. Acceptance testing is scheduled to begin June 20, 2009, with the final release scheduled to be sent to all users July 2, 2009.

The different agenda items at the User Group training included: Pontis Basic Training, Pontis Data Model, Custom Web Forms, Module; Page and Data Level Control, Custom Crystal Reports, Developing Pontis Deterioration Model Expert Elicitations, CoRe Element Recommendations, Installing Pontis 5.1 - Enterprise, and a sneak peak at Pontis 5.1. A presentation was also given regarding the design development of Pontis 5.2.

Frequent conference calls continue between Michael Baker and the Pontis Task Force for the Pontis 5.2 detailed requirements and design. The Pontis 5.2 Enhanced Modules are: Project Planning, Preservation, Programming, and Results modules.

Hawaii volunteered to host the 2009 User Group training in Newport Beach, CA on September 23-24, 2009. Rhode Island also agreed to hold the User Group training in their state in 2010.



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AASHTO BRIDGEWare® Task Force and Management Team	
José L. Aldayuz	Project Manager, AASHTO
George H. Conner	Task Force Chair
Todd Thompson	Virtis/Opis Task Force
Dean Teal	Virtis/Opis Task Force
Tim Armbrecht	Virtis/Opis Task Force
George Colgrove	Virtis/Opis Task Force
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Scot Becker	Pontis Task Force
Paul Jensen	Pontis Task Force
Mike Johnson	Pontis Task Force
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