



Update

September, 2009

Virtis®/Opis®

Users Group Meeting

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

The Virtis and Opis BRIDGEWare Users Group met in Denver from August 4th thru August 5th. 95 users attended the conference including representatives from 26 state agencies, 2 local agencies, and 22 consulting firms. The users gave presentations on various topics related to the rating and design of bridges with Virtis and Opis. In addition, the BRIDGEWare Task Force and Michael Baker, Inc gave product updates discussing new features expected in the 6.1 and future releases.

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 Floortrusses, Fishbelly Web Profiles, LRFR with the Virtis Standard Engine, Opis P/S Superstructure Engine and the Opis Substructure Module.

Business discussions were a top priority at the conference. The users primary focus were discussions about product enhancements and the overall direction of the products. Amjad Waheed (Ohio DOT) was appointed to the position of Secretary to fill the vacancy left when David Warner resigned. Paul Campisi (New York DOT) was elected to the vice-presidency of the Virtis Group while Terry Leatherwood (Tennessee DOT) succeeded to the Presidency. Jeff Olsen (Montana DOT) retained his position as Vice-president of the Opis Group. 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: post-tensioned concrete, secondary load effects (moment magnification) for substructure design, and a wizard for shear stud design.

For more detailed information about the Users Group Meeting please visit the VOBug.org website. I hope to see everyone back next year in Nashville, Tennessee

Combined Virtis and Opis Ranking

Enhancement	Ranking
<i>Add Post Tensioned Concrete</i>	1
<i>Secondary load effects</i>	2
<i>Need Shear Stud Wizard</i>	3
<i>Copy Columns</i>	4
<i>Ability to define a entire bridge/structure definition for RC Slab bridges</i>	5
<i>Concrete Box Girder Bridge</i>	6
<i>Post Tension Concrete Girder</i>	7
<i>Truss LL distribution factor</i>	8
<i>Compute PS transformed section properties instead of gross properties</i>	9
<i>Automatic calculation of contraflexure points</i>	10

The Pontis User Group meeting is scheduled for September 23 and 24, 2009 in Newport Beach, California

James Fu of Hawaii DOT has been working diligently on the arrangements for the meeting. Some of the agenda items will include: an overview of the recently released Pontis 5.1, an update on Pontis 5.2 activities, CORE element changes, NBI translator revisions as well as user presentations.

Meet the Baker Pontis Developers Team!!

By: Jose Aldayuz, PE - Michael Baker Jr., Inc.

During the last few months, Baker has been working on the release of Pontis 5.1 and also collaborating with Paul Thompson in the delivery of the Systems Requirement Document for Pontis 5.2 to the BRIDGEWare Task Force. Both of these projects are fundamental milestones in how bridge management will be conducted in the future, not only in the United States but also worldwide. Our team is very fortunate to work side by side with a visionary Task Force that has marked the new way for the discipline of managing bridges.

Pontis 5.2 will shift paradigms and offer much more than just the most “economical” solution. Preservation of the bridge condition, traffic safety enhancement, vulnerability to extreme events, agency and user cost minimization will now be items to be considered within the Pontis framework. Here is the team of developers that embraces the challenge of making all of this possible.

Girish is a senior developer in the BRIDGEWare software development team at Baker. He manages all the technical aspects of software development life cycle and assists in project management of Pontis 5.1. He is currently involved in the Pontis 5.2 design activities and Pontis 5.1 implementation initiatives of various state bridge agencies. Girish graduated from University of Florida with Master of Civil Engineering with major in Structures and Masters in Computer Information Science & Engineering He likes to spend his free time with his two wonderful children and help them learn new things



Girish Bhanushali

Ed graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a BS degree in Computer Science. After graduating, he has worked in a number of industries such as airline with The Sabre Group and CJ Aviation Group and process control with Eaton Corporation as a computer programmer. He has been working for the Michael Baker Corporation since February 2009 where he has worked on a variety Pontis tasks and PennDot web programming projects.

He has worked on Pontis and Pontis implementations and is primarily involved in database configuration, testing, reporting. Outside of work, Ed is interested in biking.



Ed Hilker

Herman Lee is a registered professional engineer working on the AASHTOWare's products Virtis and Opis. He is enthusiastic about his involvement in the multi-objective optimization engine development in Pontis 5.2. He has a Master's degree in Civil Engineering from Colorado State University and a Master's degree in Information Technology with specialization in Software Design and Management from Carnegie Mellon University. He has experience in the development of structural engineering analysis, design, drafting, and manufacturing software system



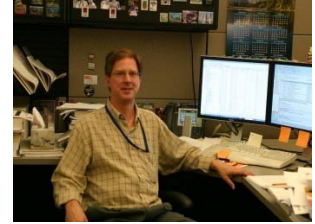
Herman Lee

Mehrdad is a lead Software Engineer working on both AASHTOWare projects Pontis and Virtis/Opis. He has a Masters degree in Structural Engineering from Shiraz University, a Masters degree in Computer-Aided Engineering and Management and a Masters degree in Information Technology both from Carnegie Mellon University. His professional experience includes software project and task management, architectural design, development, testing, maintenance, support, and training while working on AASHTOWare and some other related projects. His structural engineering experience includes structural design of bridges; high capacity grain storage silos; industrial, residential, and office buildings.



Mehrdad Ordoobadi

Scott Peterson graduated from Texas A&M University in 1987 with a BS degree in Geography with concentrations in Computer Science and Mechanical Engineering. After graduating he worked for a small mapping firm in Albany, NY and for AAA as a cartographer and computer programmer. He has been working for the Michael Baker Corporation since 1995, where he has worked on a variety of mapping and programming projects. He has worked on Pontis from the initial proposal to the present, and is primarily involved in documenting, testing, reporting, technical support and providing technical assistance to the project manager. Outside of work, Scott is interested in travel and sailboat racing.



Scott Peterson

Weidong Shi graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 2005 with a MS degree in Information Science. After graduating he worked as a system programmer III / web engineering specialist III for the University of Pittsburgh and Orrick and Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP. Weidong has been working as a software systems developer III in Michael Baker Jr. Inc since 2008, where he has been primarily involved in Pontis 5.1 system's continuing development, a variety of enhancements, and management of test processing with his extensive web application experiences and expertise of MS .NET technologies. In his spare time, Weidong is interested in travelling and photography



Weidong Shi

AASHTO BRIDGEWare® Task Force and Management Team

Jim Ramsey	Project Manager, AASHTO
Wendy Gagnier	Assistant Project Manager, AASHTO
Dennis O'Shea - Delaware DOT	BRIDGEWare Task Force Chairman
Scot Becker - Wisconsin DOT	Pontis Task Force
Paul Jensen - Montana DOT	Pontis Task Force
Mike Johnson - Caltrans	Pontis Task Force
Vacant	Pontis Task Force
Wade Casey	Pontis Task Force, FHWA liaison
Tim Armbrecht - Illinois DOT	BRIDGEWare Task Force Vice Chair
Beckie Curtis - Michigan DOT	Virtis/Opis Task Force
Dean Teal - Kansas DOT	Virtis/Opis Task Force
Vacant	Virtis/Opis Task Force
Tom Saad	Virtis/Opis FHWA liaison

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