

Upgrading to Power InRoads from InRoads/InRoads Suite on AutoCAD

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1. Q: What is the difference between Power InRoads and InRoads on AutoCAD?

A: Power InRoads incorporates the MicroStation CAD platform and operates as a standalone product. InRoads layered on AutoCAD is dependent on a CAD product to operate. For more detailed information, refer to *Make the Move to Power InRoads: Enabling InRoads on AutoCAD Users to Advance to Proven, Standalone Technology*.

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2. Q: Do I have to change my InRoads design process?

A: No. The design workflows are the same for Power InRoads and InRoads on AutoCAD.

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3. Q: Do I have to translate any of my project files?

A: No. The file formats are the same.

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4. Q: How do I start Power InRoads?

A: Select the Power InRoads icon from the Bentley/Power InRoads program group.

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5. Q: Do I need to change layers to levels?

A: No. Levels can use the same names as layers.

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6. Q: Are the XIN files different?

A: The XIN file is the same; however, you will need to create new or modify some preferences to enable capabilities that did not exist in AutoCAD.

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7. Q: Can I have a default template for my graphics file?

A: Yes. There is a method that allows for a seed file upon startup.

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8. Q: How does Power InRoads provide for project management?

A: There are several levels of control for the management of files and standards using the time-tested MicroStation® workspace. Each designer can be a different user with privileges to the workspace and data. If you need more control over workflow processes and file management, Bentley offers an enterprise management system called [ProjectWise](#) which enhances your control over design projects.

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9. Q: When models are complete, what software do I need to create rendered images and animations of my project?

A: These capabilities are included in Power InRoads.

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10. Q: How can I use Power InRoads on a daily basis to work in or with DWGs to generate project deliverables?

A: Bentley DGN technology enables you to open, reference, and read/write directly to Autodesk's DWG format. This allows you to provide deliverables in required formats and collaborate with clients who rely solely on the DWG format or a combination of DGNs and DWGs.

In 2008, Bentley and Autodesk announced an agreement to expand interoperability between their portfolios of architectural, engineering, and construction (AEC) software. As part of this agreement, Bentley and Autodesk exchange software libraries (including Autodesk RealDWG) to improve the ability to read and write respective DWG and DGN formats in mixed environments with greater fidelity. This extends DGN functionality to allow tighter integration with Autodesk's DWG and enable users to view proxy objects in a DGN, an example being opening a DWG with Autodesk Civil 3D surface. The surface displays in the DGN as it would be if opened in Civil 3D.

For information regarding harvesting of civil engineering data directly from an Autodesk DWG object that has been brought into a Bentley civil application, please go to:
http://communities.bentley.com/products/road_site_design/w/road_and_site_design_wiki/viewing-autodesk-civil-3d-dwg-objects-with-bentley-civil-applications.aspx.

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11. Q: Will I need more disk space than that required for my current product installation?

A: No. InRoads on AutoCAD 2011 required 364 MB for InRoads and 1505 MB for AutoCAD, totaling 1869 MB. Power InRoads uses 1187 MB of disk space.

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12. Q: Can I continue to work in DWG files with Power InRoads?

A: Yes. DWG files can be worked in native mode with Power InRoads. There is a consideration though because some of the data storage for attribution and pay items is not retained in the DWG file format. If you are planning to deliver DWG format then it should be a publishing decision.

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13. Q: If I decide to work in native DWG, will my profiles and cross sections work?

A: Yes. You will need to set a configuration variable to save application data as documented in the Power InRoads ReadMe.

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14. Q: Will my old design graphics from DWG files (such as cross sections and profiles) work in Power InRoads?

A: No.

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15. Q: For drafters or clients working with the AutoCAD platform, will Power InRoads keep displayed profiles and cross sections in memory if there is a need to return to the DWG to make a fix?

A: Yes. When saving a drawing, be sure the Save Application Data option under Advanced > Application Data is toggled on.

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16. Q: Does Power InRoads allow users to share information through Google Earth?

A: Yes. Power InRoads has capabilities to assign a geographic coordinate system and export to Google Earth's KML file.

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17. Q: My designers have no experience with MicroStation. How difficult is the learning curve?

A: New users to MicroStation find the learning path to be simple and intuitive. The potential that MicroStation brings to design projects compensates many times over for the few days spent learning the new CAD platform. It's enough to say you will not want to go back to your old platform.

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18. Q: Is Power InRoads compatible with ProjectWise?

A: Yes. For more details, please refer to the *ProjectWise and Plotting Integration* document which is located in InRoads Group directory.

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19. Q: We have ProjectWise and InRoads running on AutoCAD. How can we manage our civil files in ProjectWise?

A: Civil files can be managed in ProjectWise® while running Power InRoads; however, civil files cannot be managed in ProjectWise while running on AutoCAD.

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20. Q: Can I view the 3D components generated in the Roadway Designer?

A: Power InRoads enables you to view components as a three-dimensional mesh in the design file and display the components directly from Roadway Designer. You cannot display components during surface generation or when using the Surface > View commands when running on AutoCAD.

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21. Q: I have to provide my customer/consultant/ministry a drawing file. How can I do this on Power InRoads?

A: In Power InRoads you can open, work in, and save as drawing files (.dwgs).

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22. Q: My machine has 64-bit operating system, and I cannot install InRoads to run on AutoCAD.

A: Power InRoads can be installed on a 64-bit operating system.

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23. Q: I would like to sign up for training, but all I see are courses for InRoads on MicroStation. Does Bentley have any training for Power InRoads?

A: Since Power InRoads is MicroStation and InRoads, the training you take for InRoads applies.

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24. Q: My company uses Power InRoads, and we are going after a state DOT design project. The state uses InRoads and the project deliverables – besides a design file for MicroStation – are the alignment and surface files. Is there anything we need to do so that the state can use our files?

A: Just check with the state to make sure of the version they are using, and then save the alignment and surface files out to their version.

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25. Q: Can I use my legacy data from several years ago?

A: Power InRoads can open data from most previous versions of InRoads and save as previous versions for compatibility. The Bentley Technical Support Group is available to assist as needed with prior project data retrieval.

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26. Q: What limitations will I encounter if I move to Power InRoads from InRoads on AutoCAD?

A: There are no limitations. When you move to Power InRoads from InRoads on AutoCAD, you will experience even more functionality and greater capabilities.

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27. Q: When I move from InRoads to Power InRoads, do I need a new license?

A: Yes, you will need a new license for Power InRoads.

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28. Q: We use key-ins in AutoCAD. Can we use the same key-ins in Power InRoads?

A: Power InRoads includes a utility, Alias Manager, which enables the use of AutoCAD key-ins. Using a simple text file that contains two records for each alias, the Alias Manager allows you to map one command set to another. For more information regarding Alias Manager, go to:

http://communities.bentley.com/communities/other_communities/askinga/w/askinga/understanding-the-alias-manager.aspx.

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29. Q: Our office uses AutoCAD. If we use Power InRoads and create a DGN, how will that translate to DWG, and what compatibility issues will need to be addressed?

A: Power InRoads (MicroStation) uses Real DWG functionality from Autodesk to create, save and edit DWG files.

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30. Q: Can old DWG files created using InRoads in AutoCAD be opened in Power InRoads and continue the road design project, or will there be compatibility problems with Power InRoads recognizing InRoads data (such as geometry or contours) previously generated in the AutoCAD environment?

A: Profiles and cross section files are not recognized as InRoads data. The graphics will need to be regenerated. All data files (such as FWD, ALG, DTM, etc.) will work with no issues.

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31. Q: If I use the new task-based civil geometry and surface modeling tools in Power InRoads, do I have to work in a DGN format? And if yes, then if I translate the DGN to a DWG file so that the drafters in the office who use AutoCAD can complete the final plans, will it transfer to DWG with 100 percent fidelity?

A: The new functionality is only available in DGN format. Graphics can be saved to DWG, but the application data is specific to DGN and cannot be persisted in AutoCAD.

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32. Q: Do I need to make a separate installation for both InRoads and the CAD platform? Do they require a different license file or activation key?

A: The Power InRoads setup is a single installation which includes all of the CAD capabilities. Power InRoads only requires one activation/license key.

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33. Q: What happens to all my custom AutoCAD files? Can I still use the line styles, text styles, dimension styles, blocks libraries, and so on that I have defined for my projects?

A: Yes, you can still use all these files. MicroStation capabilities included in Power InRoads manage all these AutoCAD custom definitions. They can be attached to the design work file in the AutoCAD native format and can even be imported and transformed to the Bentley proper format.

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34. Q: We use custom XSL stylesheets on AutoCAD with InRoads. Can we use them with Power InRoads?

A: Yes.

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