



## ColumbiaSoft's *Document Locator*® Improves Collaboration Across the AEC Enterprise

“As any AEC firm knows, a good solution for managing documents and collaboration needs to have specialized capabilities for engineering and construction tasks,” says Carl Azar, VP Marketing for ColumbiaSoft. “However, as many firms have discovered, a solution that extends those capabilities to benefit the entire firm—including its vendors, customers, and contractors—has great advantages.” Azar says this is the main reason that *Document Locator* has attracted growing attention from firms looking for a collaboration solution to manage information company-wide in a manner that encourages user adoption.

### Engineered for People

According to Azar, ColumbiaSoft's *Document Locator* delivers user harmony by seamlessly integrating with key desktop applications. “This approach enhances the usefulness of familiar desktop applications and avoids the need for extensive user training and the dead end of low user acceptance,” Azar says. ColumbiaSoft's association with Microsoft—they are a Gold Certified Partner—means

that *Document Locator* is integrated with everything from *MS Office*®, to *SharePoint*, to an *Outlook*® integration that brings email management within the scope of the system.

### Benefits & Features

#### Collaboration

- Manage review cycles
- Maintain version control
- Automate business processes
- Maintain an auditable record

#### Access

- Instant search and retrieval
- Collaborate beyond the office
- Incorporate paper and faxes

#### Integration

- Microsoft
- AutoCAD
- Brava!

Integrations with construction project management software like *Prolog*® are just one of *Document Locator*'s many specialized capabilities for AEC. As an *Autodesk*® developer partner, ColumbiaSoft engineered its software to manage CAD files, and integration with *Brava!*® allows users anywhere to securely share and mark up files. *Document Locator* also connects with CRM, ERP, and other enterprise software to

After spending almost two years evaluating other solutions, “...we found the right solution in *Document Locator*.”

—Greg Gould, Chief Technical Officer  
Burns & McDonnell Engineering

integrate information with other applications.

### Beyond the Firewall

AEC firms commonly struggle to share documents and drawings in a secure and effective manner with vendors, contractors, owners, and employees working off-site or at satellite offices. By replacing legacy FTP (file transfer protocol) systems and shared-file servers that offer little control or organization, *Document Locator* offers a structured, non-hosted platform for collaboration inside and outside the office. Teams are able to exchange and collaborate on documents in real time from multiple locations without compromising information security. Unlike a hosted solution, information is stored in on-site servers so the company remains in control.

### Automation Drives Efficiency

Azar points out that *Document Locator* is “a platform for collaboration, with tools for automating document workflows and notifications.” These capabilities make organized collaboration a reality for all team members while ensuring an accurate record of changes, reviews, and approvals. Processes such as RFIs, vendor submittals, RFQs,

and change orders are just a few examples of where well-defined, automated workflows improve operations and keep tasks on schedule.

### Email Communications Captured

Email, the most widely used method of communicating approvals and exchanging information, is also incorporated into the *Document Locator* system. Messages and attachments can be automatically saved and organized, and they can be found in the future through instant searches.

### Clear Results

At Burns & McDonnell, one of the many engineering and construction companies where *Document Locator* is already deployed, the results are clear, according to Azar. “Thousands of work hours have been saved.”



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