

ANOTHER MITEK ADVANTAGE

REGULAR UPDATES PROTECT

Besides death and taxes, another event that no one can avoid is "change". Change is inevitable and we have to either adapt with it or suffer from it.

The ubiquitous computer now engages us and affects us in every aspect of our personal and business lives. It was not the case not so long ago.

I completed High School with a slide rule and owned my first calculator in university. There we used computer cards to write software programs.

I took a summer job at a Gang-Nail plant where a programmable calculator was used to produce cutting details.

When I first joined Gang-Nail in the mid-80's we shared a green-screen computer that occupied a room of its own.

Truss software has come a very long way since then and updates are released ever more frequently.

Regular availability of updates leads to the inevitable question: "Is it necessary to keep up with the latest version or should a user wait for a more convenient time?"

To answer this, it helps to know what a truss software update would typically cover.

ERRATA

Patches are quick updates that fix bugs as soon as any are encountered.

Most of these bugs are usually minor or obscure but the fixes are nonetheless important to protect the user against costly mistakes that could otherwise have been avoided.

In very rare occasions, the bugs may be more serious.

ENHANCEMENTS

Major and minor releases contain new features that increase the software's abilities.

It may offer more power, new functions, improved speed or greater ease of use.

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There could be new management tools, expanded design capabilities or additional equipment links that all contribute to enhance truss plant productivity and profit.

COMPLIANCE

As design standards and building regulations are regularly revised, nailplate manufacturers diligently implement these



changes in their design software as soon as they come into effect.

These software updates are critical for the design and supply of safe and compliant products that are not only required by building certifiers but also protect the truss manufacturer against liabilities should events not go as planned.

TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES

Our knowledge of truss technology is constantly growing with experience and research.

From time to time, new design or calculation methods are incorporated into the analysis to predict truss behaviour more accurately.

This is also made possible by ever-improving processing speed and power of computers allowing us to do so.

At other times, completely new systems are added.

As the opportunity arises, these developments are incorporated into truss software to keep pace with the advances and benefits that technology brings.

NEW PRODUCTS

As soon as new building products, e.g. timber materials, structural connectors or brackets are released into the market, they are added to the software for the fabricator to take advantage of them.

WHEN TO UPDATE

Just because there is an update, does that mean that the prior version is not only outdated but superseded? Yes, it effectively does.

Moreover, it is clear on one hand that there are benefits to be gained from keeping up to date with the latest version, and on the other hand that there are dangers from using superseded structural software.

Delaying updates exposes the user to program errors that have been fixed and producing outdated designs that no longer meet regulations or best practice.

The danger from non-compliance may be more costly than any savings perceived by not moving forward.

Keeping up to date will reward with maximum software capability and customer confidence (see also GN Guidelines #96).

Regular updating is accompanied by regular training and that motivates and empowers your staff and improves productivity.

There is no reason for complacency. If software is important to your business, keeping it up to date is simply common sense.

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