

SPECSINTACT NEWS

July 1997

USER SUPPORT DESK

The SPECSINTACT User Support Desk is open Monday through Friday (excluding holidays) during the hours of 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM (E.T.). Any questions concerning the operation of the SPECSINTACT System should be directed to the Support Desk.

Voice mail is used to take calls after hours and also in the event that Support Desk personnel are helping other users.

SPECSINTACT User Support Desk

Phone: (407) 867-8800

FAX: (407) 867-1444

E-Mail Address: specsintact@ksc.nasa.gov

Home Page: <http://si.ksc.nasa.gov/specsintact>

SPECSINTACT SOFTWARE ON CCB

The 3rd quarter Construction Criteria Base (CCB) compact disc, #41, contains the following two versions of SPECSINTACT for Windows:

SPECSINTACT with SGML

Version 2.2

See What's New in Version 2.2 on the following page!

SPECSINTACT for Windows Version 1.7

(without SGML) *Unchanged*

Either of these SPECSINTACT applications may be used; however, each version uses different guide specification databases (Masters) from the CCB:

SPECSINTACT Masters in the Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML) format reside under the path `\sisgml\masters` on the CCB disc. Masters in the old format (i.e., the DOS editor format) reside under the path `\si\masters` on the CCB disc.

Before using SPECSINTACT with SGML, it is recommended that you complete open projects.

WHAT'S NEW IN SPECSINTACT VERSION 2.2

Some of the changes and enhancements made to SPECSINTACT with SGML in Version 2.2 are listed below. For a complete listing of modifications made to the software, visit the SPECSINTACT Home Page or click on the Release Notes icon after installation of Version 2.2.

Link Between Sections and Validation Log

An automatic link was established between the Editor's validation error log and the section(s) with errors. While in the SGML Editor, if you double-click on a line in the validation log, the Editor will now display the corresponding section positioned to the subpart where the error occurred.

Improved Jobs Section Overwrite Function

The Jobs program will now ask you to confirm your choice to overwrite sections before overwriting them. Also, the Overwrite Sections menu choice was moved to make it more difficult to accidentally select this choice.

New &EOD Tag (-- End of Document --) for Navy Division 00 Documents

Modifications were made in processing Navy Division 00 files, so that they will print and display the words "-- End of Document --" instead of "-- End of Section --". The applicable Navy sections were updated using the new &EOD tag. When printing Tables of Contents in Jobs, all 00 sections will now use the word document instead of section.

In most cases the SPECSINTACT installation process updates the section.ini, document.ini, and other.ini files (which in Version 2.2, incorporate the new &EOD tag). However, in some cases, such as network installations, users must manually delete these .ini files or reinstall locally.

Improved SPECSINTACT User's Guide

Version 2.2 incorporates updates to the User's Guide such as the addition of Appendix E, Helpful Editing Techniques, and a summary of new items in the guide. The navigation by icons feature has also been enhanced.

Editing Non-SGML Documents with Notepad or Wordpad

When you start to open a non-SGML document in the SGML Editor, you will now have the option of editing the document without converting it into SGML. This is the preferred way to

handle most text documents. When you choose this option, SPECSINTACT will first try to bring up the document in Microsoft Wordpad (Windows 95 or Windows NT). If this fails, SPECSINTACT will also try Microsoft Notepad (all Windows versions). In order for SPECSINTACT to find Notepad or Wordpad, make sure that one of these programs is located in either your Windows or Windows/System directory, or in a directory specified in your PATH statement. This feature was added in version 2.1.7.

Improved Software Stability

A number of problems that caused the software to lock up or crash were identified and corrected.

Improved Editor Processing

Several intermittent Editor problems were corrected, including those associated with large files, executing redlines, the validation process, screen display, and cursor positioning.

Submittal Register Modifications

The Submittal Register processing was modified and corrections were made in several areas including page numbering.

WordSpec Software (Beta Release 4)

SPECSINTACT editing functions may be performed in Microsoft Word for Windows by using WordSpec, an add-in for Word that supports specification editing. For more information on Beta Release 4, refer to the Readme.txt file located in the WordSpec directory, \SISGML\WORDSPEC, on your CCB disc. Updated versions are frequently available at our web site.

ATTENTION WordSpec USERS !

If you are presently using WordSpec, we would like to hear from you. Please call or E-Mail the SPECSINTACT Support Desk with your comments and suggestions.

The Development Center would like an estimate of the number of people using WordSpec and would also like to move this product out of the Beta phase. In order to remove the Beta designation and continue providing system enhancements, we need to hear from you.

Note: WordSpec97 is now available for users of Microsoft Office 97.

DISCONTINUANCE OF DOS-BASED MASTER TEXT

NASA and the Army Corps of Engineers will discontinue updates to and the release of Master Text in the old DOS-based format (i.e., Masters used with SPECSINTACT Version 1.7 and previous). The 4th quarter CCB disc will contain the **FINAL RELEASE** of NASA and Army DOS-based Masters.

SPECSINTACT WEB SITE

The SPECSINTACT web site, <http://si.ksc.nasa.gov/specsintact>, is the place to get all the latest details about the SPECSINTACT system. Although the Construction Criteria Base (CCB) is the primary distribution method for SPECSINTACT software and Master Text, the web site is an important tool for getting the latest updates. You have the option of downloading the latest versions of SPECSINTACT with SGML and WordSpec from our web site.

For the latest SPECSINTACT News and for Support information, including help with common problems and SPECSINTACT training information, check the web site regularly.

Bookmark

<http://si.ksc.nasa.gov/specsintact>
today !

SPECSINTACT Inter-Agency Meeting

The SPECSINTACT Interagency Configuration Control and Coordinating Board (SI-CCCB) met on April 23 in Alexandria, Virginia. The meeting was hosted by NASA Headquarters. To review the minutes of the meeting in their entirety, please visit the SPECSINTACT Home Page address listed on page one.

The Electronic Bid Sets process, SPECSINTACT training, and tailoring options were some of the items discussed. Other items discussed were SPECSINTACT status, WordSpec, task prioritization, and discontinuance of the DOS Master Text databases.

The next Inter-Agency Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 1997 at Kennedy Space Center, Florida.

NASA NEWS**NASA MASTER TEXT UPDATES**

Reference updates and other minor changes were performed on the NASA Master Text. For details concerning changes to the NASA and NASA/KSC Master Text, refer to the Agency Document Files

command found on the SPECSINTACT Forms / Documents Menu (SGML) and the Assistance Menu (non-SGML). Select the file named CHANGES to access this information.

NASA SPECSINTACT BOARD MEETS

The NASA SPECSINTACT Configuration, Control and Coordinating Board (NS-CCCB) met on May 7 and 8 at Stennis Space Center. A NASA SPECSINTACT operators' meeting was held concurrently. To review minutes of the meeting, please visit the SPECSINTACT Home Page address given on page one. Current text changes including the lead abatement template document were reviewed. Other topics discussed were the SPECSINTACT Home Page, tailoring options, and operators' suggestions. It was also decided that October 1997 will be the last release of the DOS Master Text for NASA.

The next meeting of the NS-CCCB is tentatively scheduled to be held at Langley in November 1997.

NAVY NEWS

Navy SPECSINTACT Survey

NAVFAC recently conducted a survey to determine whether problems that users experienced with the initial versions of the SGML software had been resolved to their satisfaction. NAVFAC also wanted to determine how much longer users will need the DOS-based Navy guide specifications.

NAVFAC is still compiling the results of the survey and will report them at a later date.

ARMY NEWS

Revised Numbering of Guide Specifications.

As an ongoing effort, CEGS numbers are being revised to conform to the 1996 release of the CSI MasterFormat, 1995 Edition. CEGS are being renumbered, as required, when the specifications are revised as part of the Criteria Document Update Program.

CEAGS to be Replaced with “pre-editing” Option in CEGS

Corps of Engineers Abridged Guide Specifications (CEAGS) serve a valuable purpose, but they are expensive to maintain. In order to retain the CEAGS benefits and reduce maintenance costs, “pre-editing” capabilities within SPECSINTACT will be used to generate smaller “narrow scope” sections. Various CEGS will be coded in a manner that will permit users to include only those paragraphs that pertain to a particular construction element in the section they want to edit for a project. Sections with the “pre-editing” option are expected to start entering the system about October 1997. All CEAGS should be replaced by about mid-FY98.

Mandatory Use of SPECSINTACT for Corps Projects

By memorandum dated 14 April 1997, the use of SPECSINTACT became mandatory for the production of project specifications for future military projects (see details in the memorandum) based on CEGS specifications. This action follows the policy on mandatory use of SPECSINTACT for Civil Works projects established in ER 1110-2-1201.

Combining of CEGS and CWGS

Plans have been made to combine the Military Programs guide specifications (CEGS) and the Civil Works guide specifications into a single guide specification system which will retain the CEGS designation. This change is expected to start in early FY98 and to be completed before the end of the fiscal year.