8 MicroStation® Capabilities You Won't Find on Other CAD Platforms

Finding a CAD platform that meets your organizational needs can be overwhelming. Not all CAD platforms are created equal, but it does not have to be difficult. Here are eight key MicroStation capabilities that only we have—and you need.

1. **More effective collaboration.**
   MicroStation supports and integrates more than seven times the number of file formats than our competitors without frustrating translations. The application easily reads, shares, and consumes precise data in key industry formats, allowing you to aggregate and assemble multiple files in one place. Bentley developers have solved interoperability problems so you don't have to.

2. **Design within real-world context.**
   With MicroStation, communicating your design intent or evaluating a design with real-world context has never been easier. MicroStation can integrate geospatial information from thousands of supported coordinate systems into your designs. You can access data from Esri ArcGIS™ REST Feature and Map Services, as well as OGC Web Map Servers, or use real-time GPS data and Microsoft Bing maps to create and reference geospatial PDFs. The ability to model within the context of precise existing conditions saves time and eliminates error-prone manual work.

3. **Analyze and visualize models.**
   Communicate your design intent with MicroStation's visualization capabilities and increase the buy-in for your project across all stakeholders. MicroStation can analyze and visualize models based on their geometry or attributes. You can detect and resolve clashes, as well as analyze real-world solar exposure and shading. Real-time display styles can be applied to visualize models based on each object's height, slope, aspect angle, and other embedded properties.

4. **The design history feature changes everything.**
   Changes are part of life and part of your infrastructure project. Restoring changes at specific stages, tracking revisions, and comparing versions should be too. MicroStation gives you full control of revisions made in an active DGN file to manage your design process and increase efficiency. You can view and track changes made to the design, as well as who made the changes and when. If needed, you can restore changes to a prior state using the design history capability. Gone are the worries about constantly saving every change you have made to your file. MicroStation can do it for you.

5. **Use bigger data, faster.**
   With MicroStation, you can eliminate the risk of software crashes that are common with other CAD applications—and the lost work, corrupted files, and wasted time that result. MicroStation's high performance architecture allows you to open and work with very large raster, vector, and point cloud data much faster than other CAD software. Need to work with a multigigabyte model or a point cloud with billions of points? No problem, even with ordinary hardware.

6. **Market-leading CAD standards enforcement.**
   MicroStation greatly facilitates the proper application of organizational and project-specific standards and content. In fact, its unique CAD standards support is one of its greatest strengths over AutoCAD. CAD managers can easily apply templates to control geometry and data standards, such as styles for dimensions, text, lines, and detail symbols; organize and manage libraries of components, such as windows, doors, pipes, and pumps; and simplify the process of finding and sharing project-specific files and content. Once designs are complete, use automated capabilities to check drawings for standards compliance. MicroStation also makes it easier to manage design changes, as well as control and protect files.

7. **Easily find and manage components.**
   How many nearly identical components do you have in your CAD library and how long do you spend trying to find the right one for the design task at hand? MicroStation allows you to create and use smart parametric objects with pre-defined variants so that you can have fewer objects in your library to search through and manage. They also include the 3D and various 2D representations of those objects and can be managed and shared via cloud services with project teams along with any associated documents, such as specifications.

8. **Setting you up for success with built-in BIM.**
   MicroStation positions you, your team, and your company for the future. Its range of BIM-like functionality and workflows—as well as its ability to deliver data-driven, BIM-ready models—means that your deliverables can extend beyond geometry and drawings. MicroStation's robust information handling, paired with its mature and powerful modeling capabilities, make it a natural next step toward the world of BIM and all its benefits.

For a breakdown of MicroStation's features compared to other CAD platforms, view the [full comparison chart](#).