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CONSTRUCTION IN THE CLOUD

Empowering the Field

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Release Radar Blog Now Online

BCX Spooling Application Builds and Attaches a .MAJ File

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EMPOWERING THE FIELD

BuildCentrix unveils Packages and collapsable data pane for smoother operations

By / Jessica Kirby

BuildCentrix is excited to announce two new upgrades that typify its larger strategy when it comes to enhancing workflow and providing users with real-time, relevant data for projects of all sizes, scopes, and utility.

A new release in model spooling for Packages and a new pane of relevant data bring greater control and flexibility into users' hands with dynamic, 3D modeling.

"These are critical changes because more and more of the work in secondary trades is done in a Revit model," says BCX CEO James Beveridge. "We are always looking at enhancements in this area."

One new feature is a collapsable pane of relevant data that remains open on the screen in the view of the order. "In the current view, the user creates a work order and to view the piece and its dimensions, they would have to click on the piece to open the shape and its relevant fields," Beveridge says. "The enhancement provides an overlapping screen that displays this data and any ongoing changes to the piece."

The second release is a Packages function, which allows users to separate and home in on the parts of a project most relevant to their current work. When viewing a project, for example, users can select part of a project, model, or takeoff/spool to see its components and overall functionality. "On a big tower you might have ten storeys but only two floors might be ready for your trade," Beveridge says. "In this case, the user can work out of Packages, which is a good way to filter down and get a more granular look at a piece of the work."

BCX released the first version of these upgrades in 2023 but has fine-tuned them with user feedback and is re-releasing them to provide more flexibility and interaction when working in the BCX platform.

"We made these upgrades because many projects will have a Revit deliverable," Beveridge says. "The owner will hire an architect, who uses Revit to design the building. In the building process, the engineer receives the Revit model and makes sure each piece of the building does its job. The job goes to tender,

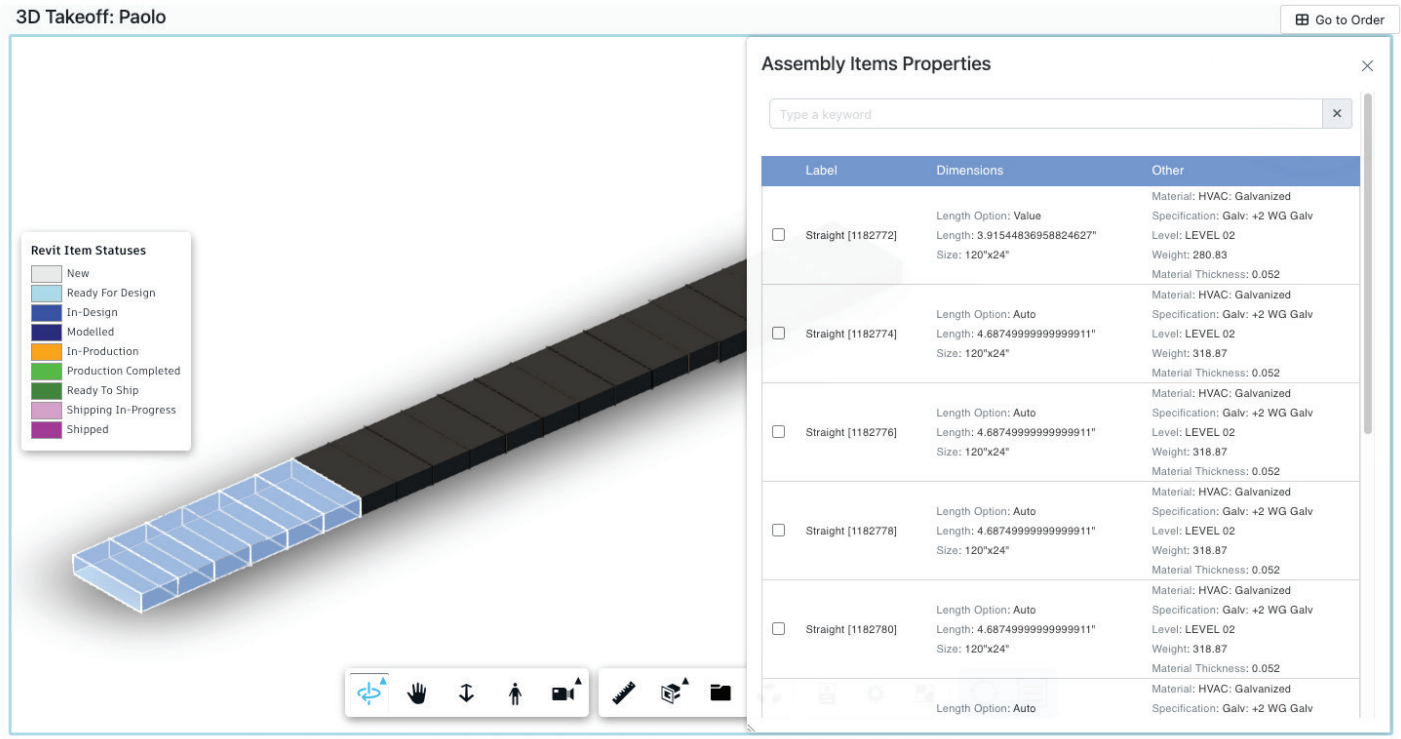
and the tradespeople receive the model and have to make it real-world to function within their trades."

The BCX team wanted to make the process of putting Revit work into BCX for processing a fluid, interactive experience. Traditionally, a takeoff or spool is made with a PDF of the run of material, and that is sent to the shop along with a .MAJ file from CAMDuct. Using that model, the field person marks it up with a pen and sends it back to the office, and the person there releases the spool to the shop for fabrication. Model spooling minimizes the back and forth, allowing field personnel to make the order with access to dynamic, real-time, interactive data. When they make a work order with a 3D image, they can see the breakdown of parts and pieces, the status, and all relevant data, including labor costs, shipping date and location, material cost, and how it all goes together.

The BCX team wanted to make the process of putting Revit work into BCX for processing a fluid, interactive experience.

"Model spooling and these most recent enhancements make the process more dynamic," Beveridge says. "The typical process is backwards because the people working the project are receiving preset information from the office. BCX gives the field access in 3D, so onsite personnel can see how the pieces go together and can make better decisions. This can also prevent burnout in the office."

Learn more or schedule a free demo at *buildcentrix.com*. ▪



BuildCentrix

BCX comprises the following modules. While there is no requirement to use them all, they are available for contractors to grow into.

- Field ordering of sheet metal and piping and plumbing
- Machine integration
- CAM integration (Trimble, PractiCAM, CAMduct)
- Watts orbital welder
- Field timecards
- Shop timecards
- Labor reporting
- Payroll integration (all applicable payroll packages for contractors)
- ERP/accounting integration for jobs and labor codes
- Revit® integration
- CAD integration
- Content generation (not dependent on old Windows databases)
- Labor and material costing and pricing
- 3D Blueprint takeoffs for duct, plumbing, and piping

JM Brennan, inc.
MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS

Streamlining Processes Using Digital Solutions

By / BuildCentrix

The Challenge

J.M. Brennan, Inc., a family-owned mechanical contracting company founded in 1932, had built a stellar reputation serving Milwaukee's hospitals, universities, and manufacturing facilities for over 90 years. However, their manual processes were holding them back.

"We relied heavily on data entry, which opened the door for mistakes, forgotten materials, and inconsistencies," explains Dan Wittig, sheet metal manager at J.M. Brennan. "Our field crews had to juggle multiple accounts and email chains just to place orders."

The company's design, fabrication, and field teams operated in silos, with orders typed up and sent manually through service vendors. Dimension errors and mistakes weren't caught until late in the process, causing costly delays and putting unnecessary pressure on already busy crews.

The Solution

When J.M. Brennan discovered BuildCentrix, the platform's ability to eliminate manual data entry and catch dimension errors in real-time immediately caught their attention. The centralized system promised to allow field crews to order directly from vendors without managing multiple accounts.

"The onboarding was smooth and surprisingly well received," Wittig notes. "Our crews aren't always excited about new tech, but it clicked once they saw how much time it saved them. Even the guys who don't consider themselves tech-savvy were excited to use it."

The Results

BuildCentrix transformed J.M. Brennan's workflows by replacing manual steps with smart entry systems that catch mistakes before they happen, automatic billing that ensures nothing gets missed, and a production calendar that keeps all teams aligned.

"We've cut down on mistakes and forgotten items because of automatic billing and error-checking," Wittig explains. "What used to take multiple emails and manual entries can now be done directly from the field in one spot."

The financial impact has been significant, with eliminated forgotten materials, streamlined billing, and time savings across teams translating directly into cost reductions, and all without adding headcount.

Looking Forward

The digital platform positions J.M. Brennan for future growth and scalability. "We're already looking at expanding into logistics and material recording, and having everything in one system sets us up for scalability," says Wittig.

For mechanical contractors considering similar investments, Wittig's advice is clear: "The biggest advantage is accuracy and time savings. For a large company with a lot of service work like ours, the ability to keep field teams, design, and vendors aligned in one place makes a huge difference. It's simple, effective, and it just works."

Learn more or schedule a free demo at *buildcentrix.com*. ▪

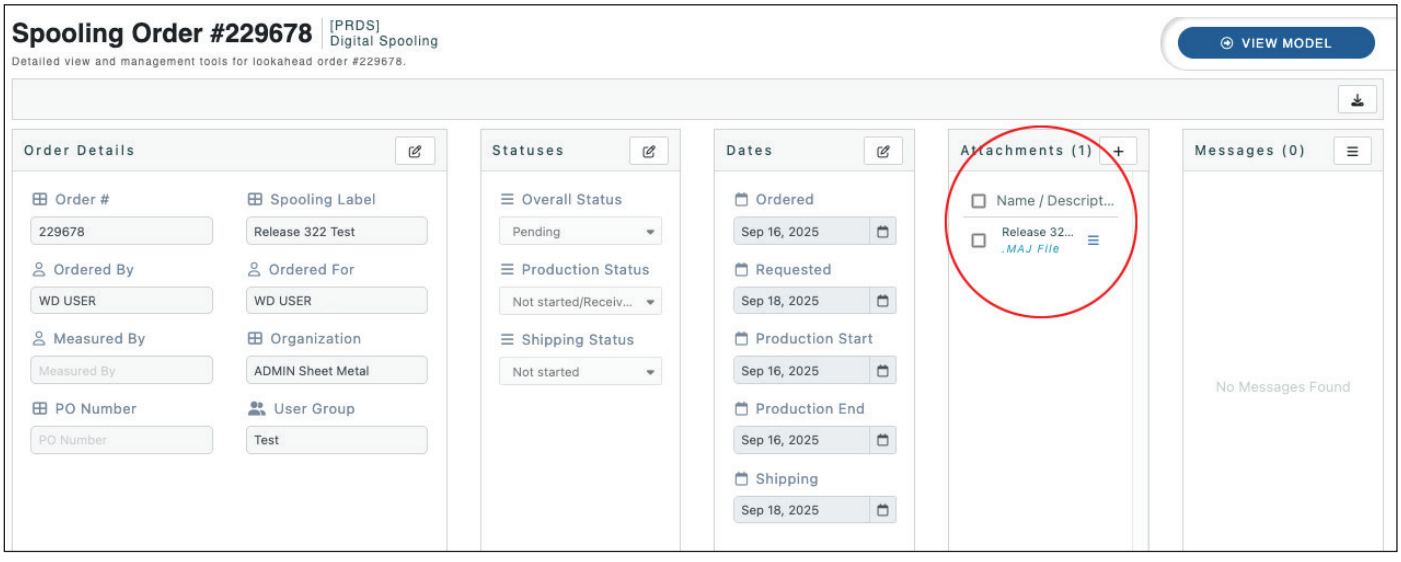
Release Radar blog now online

At BCX we release new features, fixes, and enhancements about every two weeks. Releases can include a plethora of technical updates for everything required to run a secure and stable platform as well as large and small feature updates and improvements.

Typically, we've used email, newsletters, and other services to keep users informed; however, we've received some excellent user feedback asking for a better list of these releases so we've started a Release Radar Blog on the BCX website.

The Release Radar Blog is organized by Release Number, and each release includes a brief list and description of any and all user-related features and enhancements completed by service (e.g., Spooling, 3D Takeoffs, Calendars, Timecards). If you notice missing Release Numbers it is because those releases are highly technical in nature and do not include any user related updates.

Check out the blog at *buildcentrix.com/release-radar-2* and email *support@buildcentrix.com* for information or support. ▪



Did you know the BCX Spooling application builds and attaches a .MAJ file to every spooling order?

With work coming in from multiple sources, keeping all the order data from submission to installation is key to reducing wasted time and eliminating errors. If REVIT plays a big role in your construction process, using the BCX Spooling plugins guarantees the exact .MAJ file for every spool seamlessly enters production on the shop floor. Once a spool is submitted for production, the BCX plugin automatically uploads the corresponding .MAJ file as an attachment to the work order. CAM operators simply import the attached spool .MAJ and start fabrication, which means no more searching on networks or shared drives.

If you are interested in using the BXC Spooling Plugins email *support@buildcentrix.com* ▪