e-Builder 7.5 Upgrade

This latest upgrade, the second of four in 2010, significantly expands bid management capabilities to help you achieve more competitive bids. Also, usability improvements make it easier to collaborate with project stakeholders, simplify e-Builder use and navigation even further, and provide visibility into project key performance indicators (KPIs).

Improved Overall Navigation

Reduce the number of clicks on the most recently viewed pages in e-Builder! You can now pull up a menu of most recently viewed pages and with one click go back to that page to do your work.

Expanding Bid Management Capabilities to Reduce Project Costs

Bid Analysis

We've expanded the Bidding Module's capabilities. You can already distribute bid packages electronically to reduce the time and costs associated with this process. With this latest upgrade, you will be able to quickly analyze and compare bid responses in a structured fashion within e-Builder. This will save you countless hours of trying to compile bids in different formats, and allow you to spend more time reviewing bids to quickly identify those that present you with the best fit for your project's scope.

Recording and Communication of Addenda

Ensuring that bidders have all the information they need is key to ensuring bidders submit the most accurate and competitive bid response. e-Builder will not only allow you to track whether bidders have considered the addenda in preparing their responses, but also make it easy to notify bidders of changes. To reduce the chance of bidders submitting incorrect or incomplete bids, bidders are now required to confirm that they have reviewed each addenda item when submitting bids. This will also ensure you have an audit trail that they've reviewed and considered each addendum.

Questions Submitted during the Bid Phase

During the bidding phase, bidders ask clarifying questions that require responses be communicated to all bidders. Failure to reply to a question or failure to provide the response to all bidders can result in incomplete bids, resulting in surprise post-award costs. e-Builder will offer the bidding manager a centralized log of all questions asked by bidders. It will be clear which need response, what the response was and whether it was communicated just to the person that asked or to all bidders. Bidders have access to a personal question and answer log that will show them questions they have asked, plus any responses sent to all bidders.

Phased Bidding with Multiple Bid Package Distribution

You will also be able to conduct Phased Bidding with Multiple Packages – creating multiple bid packages within one project, saving you the time required to create, manage, and locate multiple bid packages.

Submittals

New Privacy settings allow you to conduct private communications as needed during the submittals process without having to go outside of e-Builder. You can then maintain one record for audit purposes and not have to worry about losing your audit trail or trying to waste time compiling information from sources outside of e-Builder. As a result you won't compromise your ability to maintain a full project record that will help you mitigate litigation risks associated with poor documentation. In addition, you can eliminate the additional time required to manage these exchanges outside of e-Builder.

Documents

Visibility into Document Use and Access

Gain new visibility on who has accessed specific documents and what documents have been downloaded across different projects in one easy-to-create report. This significantly reduces the time it will take to track document access history.

Expanded Use of Public Folders for Faster Access to Files

In the past, when sharing a public folder and all of its subfolders, it was necessary to create separate URLs (web address) for each folder and distribute them one at a time. The new sharing capabilities let you enable one folder and all subfolders within, reducing the time required to share and access information contained in these folders.

Improved Visibility with Thumbnail Views for Project Photos

With a click of a mouse you now can view a thumbnail image of your project photos or other image related documents. No longer do you have to click on each image to decide which photo or image file you want to share or collaborate on. Simply look at the thumbnail right from the document listing and decide what you want to do with it.

Schedule

The New project status reports calculate progress not just using the baseline, but also the date that the report is run for a more accurate status check. Schedules are tracked and monitored off of a baseline. Since e-Builder's Schedule Module is collaborative, if users do not actively go in the schedule and update their tasks (i.e. marking them complete, pushing them out to be finished in the future, etc.), those tasks may still show as on time because the start and finish dates are compared against the saved baseline.

Track and Measure Vendor Performance with New Reports/Dashboards

New reporting capabilities allow you to track past performance on different processes (RFIs, submittals, change orders, etc.) and aggregate this data to help you determine the responsiveness of vendors. As a result you will be able to quickly identify those vendors that respond the fastest to action items, and the fastest to complete processes. Attain documented insight on which vendor or resource is performing at the highest level.

Enhanced Cost Controls

Cost Controls

A new and configurable cost-control rule is enabled to keep you from closing a commitment unless all changes are approved or the balance is zero. As a result you will have a more accurate view of the budget, ensuring all your commitment changes are accounted for.

Commitments (Usability)

We increased the length of the commitment drop down box to support the full description of a contract so that it makes it easy to find the right commitment you're looking for when executing a change order.

View Sorting (Usability)

Improved sorting capabilities which remember your initial ‘sort by column’ selection after you’ve moved away from the view make it easier and faster to access cost data. An expanded view of commitments shows all detail in one window for even faster visibility.

Data Entry (Usability)

Eliminate chances of losing commitment item entries that may occur if you forget to click the Add button. If you are tasked with entering commitments in e-Builder, when adding commitment items to a commitment you have to click on the Add link each time. With this enhancement, if you add a commitment item to a commitment and forget to click on the Add link, this is now automatically included when the commitment is saved, ensuring nothing is lost when performing this process.

Forms

Simplify Changes to Who has Rights to Form instances

You can update access rights to forms instantly across all instances in cases where an update in your process mandates this change. You can do this even if a form has already been initiated.

Forms Log

Reduce the time spent creating a report of logged items by displaying all the forms on one screen at once. When you filter forms within the module, you can display all the forms in one view, instead of multiple pages, and from this point you simply print your report.

Automate Closed Forms Notification

When RFIs or other construction administration related workflow forms close there is not an easy way to let those participants that are not an e-Builder user know of its resolution. You have to print it out, scan it, and distribute it via email or fax it over.
When a form closes you can automatically communicate this to other project participants using the “Request External Comment” button, improving communication and collaboration with associates who work outside of e-Builder. The notification will be automatically sent to anyone involved in the process by e-mail or fax.

Improve the Audit Trail

You can now start a process related to a new cost entry (i.e., budget change, contract approval, or similar items) in the same screen. This makes the process more intuitive while saving you a number of steps that would be required if you had to link a form to the cost item being entered.

Filtering to Help Users Quickly Determine Whom to Route Forms To

To simplify the routing of a process form such as action items, transmittals, RFIs, project issues, cost approvals, etc. you can now narrow the results of who can receive a form using a role filter. This filter then only shows those users in that role on the project.

Contacts

Need to find a contact or company fast? Do you not remember the exact name? Is your list of contacts/companies long and extend to multiple pages? We added alphabetical search to make it easier to find the contact you're looking for. For example, if you wanted to return all the companies that start with the letter 'A' then if you click o the letter 'A' the results will be returned.

Calendar

Quickly Scan Private vs. Public Items

You now can see at a glance which events are marked private vs. public, saving you time in determining which events you are required to attend.

Configurable Work Week

If you do business in other parts of the world (outside of the United States) and realize the work week is different there you can now set the work week and have it show correctly in the Calendar work week views. All users accessing the calendar work week views will now see the appropriate work week days making it easy for them to see the events that they need to attend.

Provide Visibility Into Meeting Cancellations to Save You Time

Provide attendees with visibility into the reasons for meeting cancellations quickly to reduce the number of questions that may come as a result. When a meeting organizer cancels or updates a meeting in the Calendar module we now prompt you to add a comment to explain the circumstances. The comment then automatically shows up in the updated email notification making it easy to let all attendees know the reason for the action.

Administrative

Form Configuration – Drop Down Menus

When building out values for drop downs on your forms you can now move the options collectively up and down or move values all the way to the top or bottom with one click making it easier to create and modify your form types.

Form Configuration – Copying Data Fields Across New Forms

We made it easy to copy one or more data fields that need to repeat in a form. For example, if you are building a daily inspection form and need to capture equipment used and manpower fields that repeat 10 times then you can now create the fields once and copy it 10 times speeding up the time it takes to build out form types.

Email Records to Project Participants

Never spend any time trying to figure out what emails you've sent to other project participants. Any email sent to project participants can now be tracked. A new Sent Items link is available in the Project Administration menu that lets you see all emails you've sent to various project team members.

Personalized Signature Block

In your setup you can now personalize a signature, (name, company, phone, address) so that it is automatically included in any message sent out of e-Builder.

Comments on Closed Forms

Administrators can now set each form type to allow or not allow comments when the forms are closed based on your requirements. For example, if you have a policy that requires that when a process is closed it cannot be modified, you can configure a form to close.