12d® Synergy™

Data Management by 12d

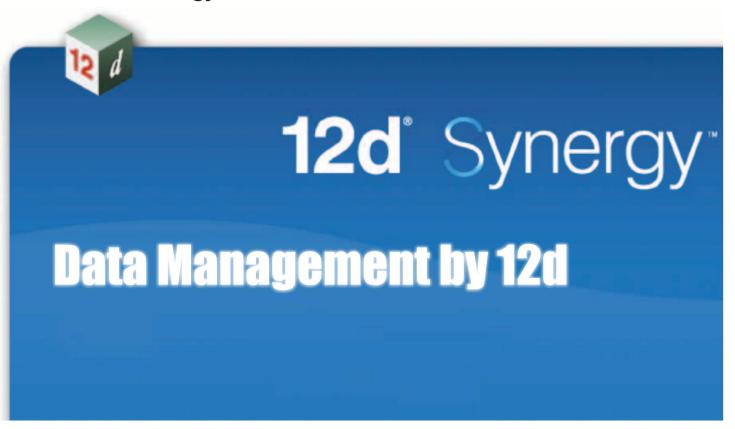*Showcased at the 12d Model International User Conference 2012, 12d Synergy is a data management and project collaboration tool that runs completely independent of 12d Model.*

Designed to house all of your project files (including non 12d Model files), this new product has broader implications within an organisation. This is because it is not designed to be solely used by technical staff such as surveyors and engineers, but can be used just as effectively by non-technical staff and ultimately all organisational departments.

The concept for 12d Synergy originated from 12d's internal programme team requiring a programme to manage files and versions of files for the development of 12d Model. As a result the team created a system that would ultimately be the foundation of 12d Synergy.

Today, 12d's administrative areas and departments (i.e. sales, marketing and support) have road tested and transitioned all of their working files into 12d Synergy, keeping the entire organisation on a single platform and relinquishing the need for a traditional network filing system.

Some of the features that you would expect from 12d Synergy include version control and master file edit control, advanced search through the assignment of attributes to files/folders/projects and setting pre-defined file naming structures to ensure 'best practice' and compliance. Further benefits include complete control of user access and permissions, system customisation to work with an organisation's existing systems and file content search capability within PDF and MS Office. Together with a complete file history

including a running commentary on changes and a complete task management area with the power of triggered messages, status changes and employee assignment, 12d Synergy is at the cutting edge of file management.

Last year, Christchurch company Eliot Sinclair led the charge and implemented 12d Synergy with all of their staff, both technical and administrative, to manage their project files, tasks and email communication. Recently we spoke with Eliot Sinclair's Technical Manager, Samuel Cech, about their recent implementation of 12d Synergy and asked him a few questions (see page 26).

12d Synergy is designed to be a single repository for all important information or as Managing Director, Dr Lee Gregory, describes it as 'Your single source of truth'.

'The initial roll out of 12d Synergy has occurred through a highly consultative approach to understanding the unique requirements of each individual client. As a result 12d Synergy is now at the stage where it can be rolled out to the wider market and we're excited to see the market response' said Dr Gregory.

If you would like to find out more about 12d Synergy then contact lane@12d.co.nz or visit www.12d.com to find your local contact outside of New Zealand.

What attracted you to take up 12d Synergy at such an early stage?

Samuel Cech: It was by chance that I sat at a meeting with 12d Solutions when they first introduced the idea of 12d Synergy as a collaboration and document management system for Civil Engineering design and Surveying applications. We were amazed by the features that extended to correspondence management. In particular, the management of large volume of emails and CAD drawings together with revision control.

Being on the bleeding edge of technology can be challenging but the rewards are systems with synergy. Having had 10 years experience with 12d Solutions' products, mainly 12d Model, we had a lot of faith in the final product. It has been a pleasure working with Dr Lee Gregory and Richard Stoliar so closely for the last year and seeing the product take shape.

How has 12d Synergy impacted the way Eliot Sinclair operates?

Samuel Cech: Eliot Sinclair were on a brink of needing a document management system that could integrate with 12d Model. We had a correspondence database system and separate file storage, but nothing that linked the two or allowed us to collaborate on projects quickly and easily.

After the earthquakes in Christchurch our IT focus changed towards future proofing and ensuring recovery after a disaster event would have minimal impact on business. Going away from paper based files or at least ensuring all documents are stored electronically is the first requirement. Our data storage has grown by 20% since introducing 12d Synergy while time to retrieve data reduced by 50%.

What features do you find the most practical, attractive and why?

Samuel Cech: From the IT systems point of view, the integration within modern Windows based servers is excellent. Active Directory and SQL platforms together with remote access and ease of administration of permissions, makes this system extremely easy to manage.

From a user's point of view the integration into Microsoft Office products, email client and 12d Model is seamless. At a click of a button emails are stored and retrieve and documents checked in and out from the database. Being able to access the information store from any computer that has the client application installed and connection to the internet is brilliant. The task scheduling features that allow assigning work to team members and send out reminders and track progress are one of the latest additions.

What does 12d Synergy offer the marketplace?

Samuel Cech: The features it promises are targeting the 12d user's needs. 12d Synergy is what we come to expect from 12d Solutions, just like 12d Model 10, it arrives slowly but as intended is feature packed with goodness from top to bottom.