Black & Veatch Boosts Productivity with ArcGIS for AutoCAD

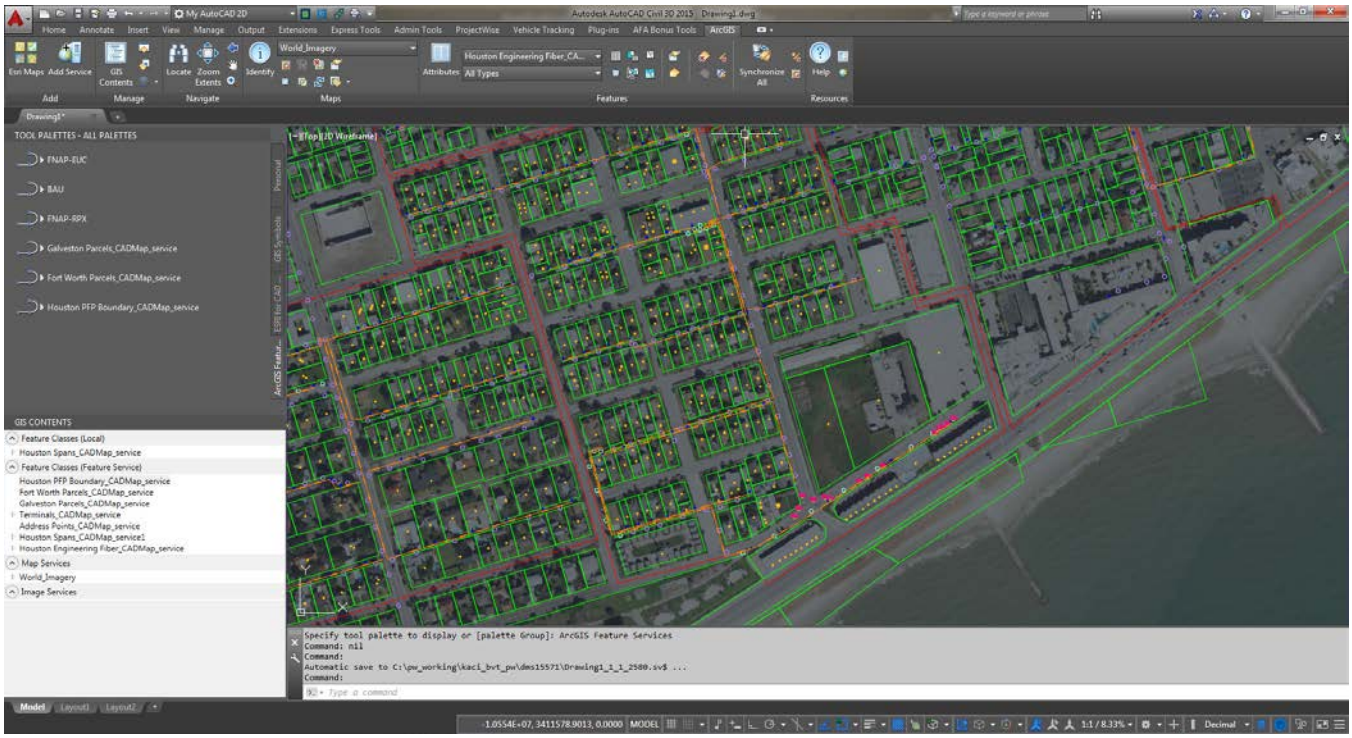
Founded in 1915, Black & Veatch is a leading global engineering, consulting, and construction company that delivers infrastructure solutions for energy, water, and telecommunications industries and government agencies. The company recently experienced large gains in productivity across several national fiber infrastructure design projects using ArcGIS for AutoCAD.

"We are reaping rewards such as efficiency in the production of drafting and print deliverables, the introduction of data management practices, and a true field-to-office data exchange," said Jay Curebanas, design technologist in the Black & Veatch telecommunications business unit.

Although it has been historically difficult to create engineering documents between geographic information system (GIS) technology and CAD, ArcGIS for AutoCAD has enabled a positive shift in that area.

"The CAD technicians are happy," Curebanas said. "Once they got past the learning curve, they saw the power of being able to quickly add annotations and features and see all the data on the screen."

ArcGIS for AutoCAD is a free, downloadable plug-in application that provides interoperability between AutoCAD and ArcGIS. Within the AutoCAD environment, users gain easy access to GIS maps in the form of map services, image services, and feature services hosted by ArcGIS Enterprise, or maps, imagery, and feature sources from ArcGIS Online. Additionally, ArcGIS for AutoCAD allows users to edit ArcGIS data created locally within an AutoCAD drawing or exported from ArcGIS Desktop.



"After much searching around the AEC [architecture, engineering, and construction] marketplace, we determined that ArcGIS for AutoCAD is the only tool that works with feature services exactly how one would expect," Curebanas said. "We just connect, consume, contribute, and close. It's that simple."

For Black & Veatch, the incorporation of ArcGIS for AutoCAD is speeding the workflow from field to office to engineering and production. When field crews go out to survey a route for fiber installation, they note poles and other assets along with field conditions. Office workers can view data, add to it, and perform quality control. The engineering team can reuse all the field-collected data right away. The CAD workforce can access the same data on demand. Previously, data would have been disparate—locked up in a file or spreadsheet—with various departments working separately from one another.

"Our successful results are absolutely a team victory," Curebanas said. "Field, GIS, engineering, and graphics professionals each play pivotal roles in this process, and all are contributing to our mission of Building a World of Difference."

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