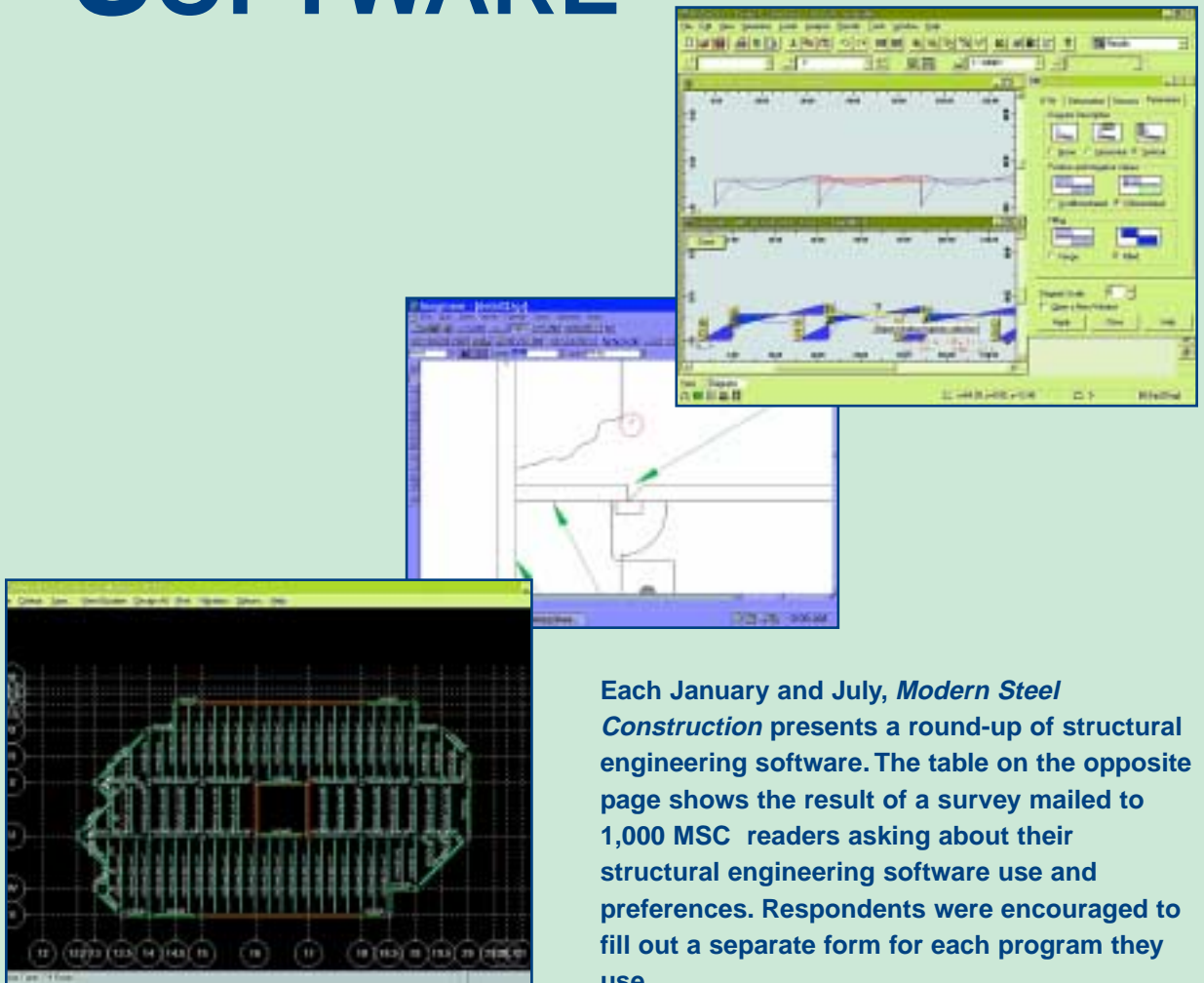


STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING SOFTWARE



Each January and July, *Modern Steel Construction* presents a round-up of structural engineering software. The table on the opposite page shows the result of a survey mailed to 1,000 MSC readers asking about their structural engineering software use and preferences. Respondents were encouraged to fill out a separate form for each program they use.

Following the survey results are reviews of four software packages. The reviewers did not examine the programs for accuracy; rather, they assumed the program performs as indicated by the vendor and instead looked at usability.

The software section concludes with a brief description of most of the available structural engineering packages on the market today, including address and phone numbers for more information.

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING SOFTWARE SURVEY

Results are from 1 to 8, with 8 being the top score

	Ease of learning	Ease of Installation	Documentation	Customer Support	Ease of Data Input	Tabulated GUI	Graphical Results	Expectations	Accuracy-Basic	Accuracy-Complex	Productivity	Recommendation Value	# of respondents		
AISC for AutoCAD	3.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	6.00	7.00	1
Algor SAP	3.80	5.60	3.40	4.80	3.80	4.60	4.40	4.20	5.20	6.00	5.80	4.80	3.80	3.20	5
BRASS (Wyoming DOT)	6.00	4.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	6.00	5.00	6.00	6.00	7.00	5.00	6.00	5.00	5.00	1
SJI (Floor Vibration)	6.00	7.40	4.80	2.40	6.60	3.80	6.80	4.00	6.40	5.60	4.80	6.20	6.40	5.00	5
CONXPRT	5.75	6.75	4.25	5.00	5.75	5.00	7.25	7.25	5.75	7.00	5.75	7.00	5.75	6.00	4
DESCON	5.66	5.66	5.00	5.00	6.00	5.66	6.00	6.00	5.66	5.66	5.66	5.33	4.66	5.33	3
Descon Brace	2.00	2.00	1.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1
DESCUS	6.00	6.00	4.50	6.50	6.00	5.00	6.50	5.00	7.00	7.00	6.50	7.00	6.50	7.50	2
DetailCAD	7.00	7.00	6.00	8.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	1
Eagle Point Software	5.56	6.26	4.86	6.04	5.69	4.56	5.91	5.52	5.69	6.56	5.00	5.43	5.47	5.65	23
Enercalc	6.31	6.50	5.50	5.43	5.87	5.62	6.43	6.06	5.68	5.81	4.50	6.12	5.75	6.00	16
ETABS	4.30	4.00	4.10	6.10	4.60	4.70	5.10	5.00	4.20	5.70	5.60	5.00	4.40	5.60	10
FloorVib	5.00	7.00	3.00	4.00	4.00	0.00	7.00	0.00	5.00	6.00	6.00	4.00	5.00	5.00	1
FrameMAC	7.50	7.50	5.50	2.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.00	1.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	2
FrameWorks Plus	6.00	7.00	5.00	3.00	7.00	6.00	5.00	7.00	7.00	8.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	1
GT STRUDL	5.25	5.31	5.56	5.62	5.81	4.87	6.00	5.81	6.43	7.37	6.75	6.31	5.56	6.37	16
IMAGES-3D	4.00	4.00	4.00	5.00	6.00	4.00	6.00	5.00	5.00	6.00	6.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	1
LARSA for Windows	6.20	7.60	5.20	6.60	6.80	6.80	7.40	7.60	6.20	7.60	7.40	6.20	6.20	6.80	5
MDX Software	5.33	4.33	4.33	4.00	7.00	0.00	5.33	0.00	5.66	3.66	3.00	5.66	4.33	5.66	3
MERLIN DASH	5.12	4.87	4.62	5.50	5.37	5.12	5.25	5.37	5.50	5.50	5.25	6.00	5.25	5.37	8
Multiframe (Macintosh)	7.16	7.66	6.00	5.16	7.33	7.50	7.16	7.33	7.50	7.66	6.33	6.83	7.16	7.66	6
QuickBEAM	7.33	7.66	7.66	5.00	7.66	5.00	7.66	5.00	7.33	7.66	7.66	5.00	8.00	7.66	3
QuickConnect	5.66	5.00	6.00	5.00	6.00	5.66	6.00	5.66	5.00	6.00	5.33	6.00	5.33	5.66	3
RAMFRAME	5.71	6.28	5.35	6.85	6.42	6.07	6.28	6.57	6.42	6.85	5.71	6.57	5.78	6.50	14
RAMSBEAM	6.86	6.47	6.13	6.08	6.73	6.60	6.47	6.60	6.69	6.86	5.82	6.47	6.60	6.65	23
RAMSTEEL	5.85	5.76	5.38	5.23	5.94	5.82	5.82	5.76	5.82	6.32	5.44	6.29	5.55	6.08	34
RISA-2D	6.71	6.56	6.23	5.51	6.35	5.97	6.53	6.51	6.43	6.92	5.17	6.61	6.92	7.00	39
RISA-3D	6.66	6.25	6.05	6.11	6.52	5.88	6.41	6.72	6.58	6.86	6.05	6.69	6.61	6.94	36
RobotV6	6.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	6.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	1
S-FRAME/S-STEEL	8.00	8.00	7.00	8.00	8.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	7.00	8.00	8.00	1
SACS	5.50	6.00	4.50	6.50	7.00	6.00	7.00	6.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	5.00	5.50	2
SAP2000	5.18	6.72	4.90	5.90	5.27	5.81	6.36	6.90	5.09	7.18	5.81	5.00	5.90	5.81	11
SAP90	4.62	5.62	4.50	3.62	4.62	2.50	5.25	4.75	5.00	6.25	6.00	5.00	5.00	4.62	8
SDI Floor	5.00	6.00	6.00	5.00	5.00	6.00	7.00	6.00	6.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	6.00	6.00	1
SIMON Systems	6.33	4.66	6.33	3.66	6.00	2.00	6.00	2.33	4.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	6.66	3
SODA	8.00	8.00	6.00	7.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	6.00	8.00	8.00	7.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	1
STAAD-III	5.15	6.03	4.64	4.55	5.50	5.35	6.05	6.14	5.83	6.45	5.78	5.85	5.20	5.57	110
StruCAD*3D	5.50	6.50	4.75	6.00	5.50	6.00	6.50	6.50	5.25	6.75	5.75	4.75	4.00	5.75	4
Structural Analysis, Inc.	4.00	8.00	4.00	1.00	3.00	1.00	7.00	1.00	5.00	8.00	8.00	7.00	8.00	6.00	1
VisualAnalysis/VisualDesign	7.16	7.00	5.50	6.33	6.50	6.83	6.50	7.00	6.16	6.16	3.83	6.50	6.00	6.16	6
WEBOPEN	6.00	6.66	5.00	4.66	6.33	3.66	6.00	3.66	5.66	6.33	6.00	5.00	6.00	6.00	3
WinSTRUDL	6.00	7.00	3.00	4.00	5.00	2.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	7.00	5.00	7.00	6.00	7.00	1