



Notes from the Editor

Scott L. Melnick

Personally, I think that Luddites and others who complain about the imperfections of modern technology are missing a great opportunity.

For example, without modern technology we would have no excuse for the inane errors that occurred in the August's issue article titled "Performance-Based Earthquake Engineering: The First in St. Louis." If you carefully read the article, you'll discover sentences where words and phrases repeat.

In the old days, we would either have had to blame Sam Adams (the beer, not the president) or my children (small children often result in a lack of sleep, which leads to...). Nowadays, however, we can chalk it up to glitches in our technology.

Specifically, the errors came about because of Microsoft Word's (ain't Bill Gates a wonderful scapegoat?) *Track Changes* feature. This actually very useful feature allows you to edit someone's document and then send the changed document back to the original author with both the original text intact and the changes highlighted.

Typically, we do our editing in Word and then import the text into a layout program. We don't use the otherwise excellent track changes feature because we've discovered that it often causes trouble when we import the text into our quirky layout program. On Jim Miller's August article, we sent the edited text back to him for approval and he made additional changes. Unfortunately, he utilized the track changes feature to so that we could easily see his modifications. On our com-

puters, we've turned off that feature so instead of seeing crossed out text, all we saw was the corrected text. Then, when we imported the text, not only did we get the new text, but we also got the old text—hence the bizarre sentence structure throughout the article.

Fortunately, technology also provides a solution. If anyone would like to read the article the way it was meant to appear, you can visit *Modern Steel Construction's* website at www.modernsteel.com or www.aisc.org.

We apologize for the errors in article. And rest assured, we have changed our workflow procedures to ensure that this type of error won't happen again.

P.S. - Even if you're not interested in viewing the corrected article, I still recommend visiting AISC's website. While its organization is a bit stilted, the content is really first rate—especially the large amount of free downloads of technical information. And if you can't find what you need on AISC's website, please email AISC's new Steel Solutions Center at solutions@aiscmail.com. The Solution's Center provides information on anything ranging from the Code of Standard Practice to connections to cost data. You can also reach the Solutions Center by calling 312.670.2400. Another useful source of information is to sign-up for AISC's e-newsletter at www.aisc.org/news.html.

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