

LinkMan-E:

BSD LinkMan-E is a linking software product that allows you to easily create, monitor and modify relationships between various representations of a building design project -- as drawn using Autodesk Revit and as specified using BSD SpecLink-E. This linking software is referred to as LinkMan-E or LME. The LME user interface is a set of "Dashboards", together constituting a monitoring station that allows you to identify, control and coordinate relevant discrepancies between the two software applications. In short, LME is a tool for coordinating the Revit building model (the BIM) and its specifications.

LME uses master lists of Assemblies and Products to connect the Revit objects (essentially assemblies) to the SpecLink-E product specs. These master lists are shown on the Assemblies and Products Dashboards and are the key views for coordination. The dashboards are organized by UniFormat (Assemblies) and MasterFormat (Products). The "Show Discrepancies" buttons in each dashboard quickly collapses the view to show only those items that are different in the Revit and SpecLink-E projects -- the user makes the diagnosis, not the software.

Because of the nature of Revit, we anticipate that a large number of Revit objects used in the building model will be non-standard, custom objects. Because of the way a Revit object is uniquely identified in the model, it becomes custom the moment it is copied, because Revit forces a name change. LinkMan-E is built to minimize this drawback, by making identification of un-linked objects very easy, making linking of them to LME assemblies a simple matter of drag-and-drop, and making building new assemblies to link them to also as easy as drag-and-drop. On the other hand, the more a firm can standardize the Revit object set that they commonly use, the less work is required in LME -- once a link from a Revit object is made to LME, that link is active in every subsequent project, provided the Revit object is not renamed.

The LinkMan-E Start Page (what you see upon opening the software) contains hyperlinks to further descriptions of how to use LME -- including material not contained in Help.

Data in LinkMan-E

The data is a work in progress. Many of the most commonly used products are included -- as specified in SpecLink-E. There is one LME Assembly for each Autodesk Revit Architectural Library object, plus a few more as examples. Some of LME Assemblies for Revit objects have not been linked to LME Products because they are not specific enough to deduce what they should be linked to.

What we have included in this release is:

- The Products Dashboard linked to all SpecLink-E sections whose products relate to the types of objects in the Revit Architectural Library 2009 as well as other architectural products specified in SpecLink-E that could reasonably be shown in the Revit model.
- The Assemblies Dashboard populated with appropriate assemblies related to the Products on the Products Dashboard.
- The Revit Architectural Library 2009 objects linked to the LME Assemblies to the extent deducible (some Revit objects are not specific enough).

Changes since Version 1.0.1.10:

- Added icons to the LinkMan-E menu in Revit 2010
- Added Back and Forward buttons to the My Start Page group on the Home tab to allow you to navigate more easily while using our web page on the My Start Page tab.
- Enabled Auto Select Specs from the Assembly Dashboard. It does the same thing from either the Products Dashboard or the Assembly Dashboard.
- The status of the Auto Select Specs button is now specific to the Group you are using, so if you turn it on in one group, it will not be turned on for other groups.
- Fixed an issue where the Revit project sometimes did not display in the Summary Info dialog Box in LME
- Fixed an issue where the LinkMan-E menu did not always get added to Revit

Comments:

We welcome all comments about the software and data, both major and minor.

Installation:

- Read the installation document on our [Download Center](#) before installing LinkMan-E. **A SpecLink-E Server or standalone installation must be performed before the LinkMan-E software can be installed.**

Hardware and Software Requirements

Recommended server configuration – LME shares the SpecLink-E Data Server. Requirements for that server are unchanged by the installation of LME. Please see the description of SpecLink-E requirements (SpecLink-E Installation instructions) for details.

Recommended client configuration

- Intel-compatible processor, 2 GHz or better
- Windows™ 7, Vista or XP
- 2 GB of RAM minimum.
- 1 GB of available disk space
- XGA or higher resolution monitor
- Laser printer
- Internet Explorer 6.0 SP1 or higher

Recommended laptop or standalone configuration (which will run both server and client applications) - In this configuration, the computer will likely be running Revit Architecture, SpecLink-E (client and server), and the LinkMan-E installation simultaneously, not to mention an email program and other tools as well. Be sure to review the Revit requirements. In addition to the Revit requirements, recommended configuration for SLE and LME includes the following:

- Intel-compatible processor, 2 GHz or better
- Windows™ 7, Vista or XP
- 4 GB or more RAM
- 10 GB of available disk space
- XGA or higher resolution monitor
- Internet Explorer 6.0 SP1 or higher

Setup Configurations: Each user runs its own application locally (e.g. SpecLink-E, Revit), with or without a local instance of LinkMan-E. The computer housing Revit must have the LME Revit plug-in installed. SpecLink-E and LinkMan-E are designed to work over VPNs and wide area networks. This means, for example, that larger firms with multiple offices, or any combination of connected servers whether within one firm or not, can install the SLE server and LME databases at one site, install the Revit plug-in to gather Revit data at a second location, use the SLE client software to prepare specifications in a third office, and review coordination between model and specifications using LME client software at a fourth site.

Ways to get started:

1. Review the Help file, available from within the software (press F1). See topic called Basic Steps for step by step instructions.
2. Review the LME FAQs available from our web page.
3. The above files, as well as the most current information about LME, are available on-line at our [LinkMan-E web page](#).

Errors, problems, miscellaneous:

- If you are having trouble of any kind, please call BSD Tech Support at 800-266-7732.