



Insight online

A Newsletter Of The Construction Update
Online Plan Room Powered By iSqFt

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What's So Great About IsqFt?

If you're a subscribing member of iSqFt (an AGC partner), or even if you're a subcontractor who uses their service to receive invitations to bid, you already know about iSqFt 10. But in case you've missed out on all the hoopla, "10" is the designation iSqFt has given its next generation of role-specific applications. First to get the redesigned site has been their subcontractor users, but iSqFt tells us that was a necessary step toward updating the application its general contractors use.

Recently, iSqFt announced that their most recent release was one of their largest and most significant to date, and that they were close to removing the "Beta" designation from iSqFt 10 Beta.

We sat down with Henry Purdy, iSqFt's Vice President of Product Management, to find out exactly what was new about this latest release, and what shaped the decisions.

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Construction Update Plan Room Network Locations

Master Builders of Iowa – Cedar Rapids

645 32nd Avenue SW, Suite C
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404
Phone: 319.369.4848
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E-Mail: mbiplanroom-cr@mbionline.com

Master Builders of Iowa/ Construction Update Plan Room

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Dubuque Builders Exchange

801 Cedar Cross Road
Dubuque, IA 52003
Phone: 563.583.8459
Fax: 563.582.6113
E-Mail: dubbxplanroom@mbionline.com

Master Builders of Iowa – Omaha Builders Exchange

4255 S. 94th Street
Omaha, NE 68127
Phone: 402.593.6908
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Master Builders of Iowa – Rock Island Office

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Master Builders of Iowa – Sioux City Office

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Master Builders of Iowa – Waterloo Office

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Phone: 319.232.3621
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Planning News:

cuplanning@mbionline.com

For questions regarding project

information: Please contact Cindy Adams at 515.288.8904 or one of the plan rooms listed above.

For Technical Issues: Contact iSqFt at 888.768.4569. iSqFt also provides online help and support through the **iSqFt Online Help site**. Support Hours are Monday – Friday, 7:30am – 8pm ET (6:30am – 7pm CST)

Click on the Support link in the left-hand navigation pane. See the "FAQ's" and "How To's" for guidance with the commonly requested support topics. In addition, be sure to view the Customer Training schedule of web-based seminars conducted throughout the week for the best chance to learn what our site has to offer.



Electronic Plans vs. Paper Plans *continued from page 1*

How do you know what to change about an application that people already use and like?

“You’ve put your finger on one of our toughest challenges, and we knew that going in. People weren’t complaining about iSqFt, they really liked it. But it’s truer in the software business than in nearly any other that if you’re not moving forward you’re falling behind.”

So what about the previous subcontractor application made you think it was time for iSqFt 10?

“Our subcontractor application was and is still a great piece of software. It’s easy to use and gives people easy access to the information they need.”

But?

“But the world keeps on spinning and people wanted files to be in PDF; they wanted the application to work in Firefox, Safari; and they wanted compatibility with Mac computers. They wanted navigation like they were seeing in other applications. Time in the world of software runs way faster than anywhere else and improvements in usability and navigation come along daily. iSqFt is a growing company with some pretty ambitious plans and the previous application just wouldn’t—or couldn’t—get our customers there.”

So, I know you’ve recently had a big release for iSqFt 10. What’s new this time around?

“Lots and lots of upgrades, and the ideas for nearly all of them came from our users.”

I’ve heard you say that before. Is customer feedback important to you?

“We’re extremely focused on what our customers have to say about how they want to use our application. Not only how they *do* use it, but how they *want* to use it. Hearing from the people who will use the application is vital to any good design, and we take that very seriously.”

If there were one thing that you wanted people to know about this new application, iSqFt 10, what would it be?

“I think it would be that although it’s new, iSqFt 10 was created for our customers and, to a large extent, by them. Thanks to their feedback, I think we’ve managed to create something that people will recognize as a pretty significant step forward.”

iSqFt 10 Upgrades

- **Greater platform and browser compatibility:** Good news! iSqFt 10 is compatible with both PC and Mac, and supports Internet Explorer, Firefox, and Safari.
- **Supports PDF and CPC (for plans):** iSqFt 10 still offers the option to view and download documents in CPC file format, but now it also offers the option to use PDF.
- **Advanced Search:** Search multiple states, counties, cities, plan rooms, class, and categories—all in a single search that you can save and use anytime with the click of a button.
- **Customizable project filters:** We’ve made it quick and easy for our subscribers to find just the right jobs with easy-to-use filter options and a keyword search that quickly scans through specifications, addenda, and even project titles.

For full details, including a video that provides a brief overview of the new application, go [here](#).

Welcome New CUonline

WELCOME

A.F. Johnson Millwork Co – West Des Moines, IA
Advanced Plumbing & Mechanical – Monmouth, IL
All Pro Door Company – Carroll, IA
AVI Systems – Urbandale, IA
B2 Environmental, Inc – Omaha, NE
Cambium Data, Inc – Omaha, NE
Contractor Services of Iowa – West Des Moines, IA
Cyclone Spray Foamers LLC – Fort Dodge, IA
D.A. Davis Co, Inc – South Sioux City, IA
Decarlo Demolition Company – Des Moines, IA
Duray JF Duncan Industries – Littleton, CO
Gruss Construction – Carlisle, IA
Gustave A. Larson Company – Pewaukee, WI
Hausers Water Systems – Manchester, IA
Identity Management – Grapevine, TX
Inline Painting – Indianapolis, IN
Iowa Irrigation Corporation – Cambridge, IA
J-Berd Mechanical Contractors – Saint Cloud, MN
K.C. Pterson Construction – Council Bluffs, IA
Kruck Plumbing and Heating – Boone, IA
Leachman Lumber Company – Des Moines, IA
McCleary Excavating – Blue Grass, IA
Platinum Development Co – Urbandale, IA
Precision Concrete Services, Inc – Atlantic, IA
Randy's Carpet and Interiors – Coralville, IA
Shane Building Group, Inc – Omaha, NE
Siewert Cabinet & Fixture – Minneapolis, MN
Snyder Construction LLC – Le Claire, IA
Stone Concepts – Omaha, NE
Structural Steel Corporation – Des Moines, IA
Summit Technologies LLC – Johnston, IA
TCL Diversified, Inc – Palmetto, FL
Tricon General Construction – Dubuque, IA
Tyson Construction – Indianapolis, IN
Windoor Company Inc – Swansea, IL

Frequently Asked Questions



Do The Plan Rooms Distribute Full Plan Sets?

Full sets of bid documents are typically distributed by the

architectural firm of the project or by a reprographic company. This assists them in the ability to keep track of which companies will be bidding so that addendums can be distributed properly and that a proper bidders list can be compiled.

Many of the architectural firms and reprographic companies will accept MBI cards or “Builders Cards” for full bid documents in lieu of a deposit. Each company is responsible for returning full plan sets to the proper distribution venue in the requested timeframe; otherwise the deposit fee may be charged to your company.

However, several of the plan rooms are equipped to handle printing plan sheets and specifications at a minimal fee. The Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, Omaha, Rock Island, Sioux City, Mason City, and Waterloo plan rooms have printers/copiers that will print 8.5x11, 11x17, 24x36, 30x42, or 36x48 plan pages. If the project is in one of our plan rooms or online, then we can print it for you!

Please stop in or submit your print request using the following form: <http://www.mbionline.com/plan-copy-request-form>.

To Whom Do My Questions Go To When I Do A “Project Information Submission” through iSqft?

These inquiries typically get transmitted to the plan room in which your membership is associated with (typically the nearest plan room to the location of your company). The majority of the questions are handled directly by plan room staff, such as,

- Timeframe in which a project will be online
- Missing plan sheets or specification divisions
- Duplicated plan sheets or specifications
- Out of order plan sheets or specifications

Technical questions on a particular scope of work, however, should be addressed directly to the architect, engineer, or general contractor. They are better equipped to respond to these matters with accuracy.

Plan Room E-Mail Addresses

Des Moines: mbiplanroom-dsm@mbionline.com
Cedar Rapids: mbiplanroom-cr@mbionline.com
Sioux City: mbiplanroom-sc@mbionline.com
Rock Island: illowaplanroom-qc@mbionline.com

Waterloo: mbiplanroom-wat@mbionline.com
Quad Cities: illowaplanroom-qc@mbionline.com
Omaha: omahaplanroom-obe@mbionline.com
Dubuque: dubbxplanroom@mbionline.com