Palm Estimating

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DOI: 10.5703/1288284315867
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The Need
Estimators need a way to increase efficiency and lessen the chance for error when collecting estimate information in the field. With Palm Estimating from Timberline, users can have access to the same Precision estimating data they use in the office. Cover page information, item numbers and descriptions, assembly numbers and descriptions, WBS codes, variables and variable help can all be stored on a hand-held device. This ensures estimators have the information they need to collect all of the project details necessary to deliver an accurate, complete bid.

The Technology
Designed for hand-held Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) devices, Palm Estimating equips estimators with all the tools needed to perform detailed takeoffs remotely.

Figure 1 Interface

Then when convenient, data can be transferred to Precision desktop software to instantly generate a detailed estimate or change order. With Palm Estimating, there’s a much better chance of collecting all the necessary dimensional information to create a bid the first time. That’s because the software lets users take a subset of the Precision database from the desktop into the field to use as a checklist for takeoff, just like thousands of Precision estimators do in their offices every day.
**Benefits**

Palm Estimating lets users access existing estimate information or create brand new estimates right on the spot. All the project information can be logged in one place, keeping estimators better organized and ready to make additions and changes as needed. Timberline’s Palm Estimating:

- Lets users take off key project information on a hand-held Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) device
- Runs on 3Com® Palm Computing® operating system, version 3.0 or higher
- Stores a subset of the Precision database on the hand-held device to ensure collection of all the dimensional information needed to create an estimate
- Transfers data to Precision desktop software generating full, detailed bids and change orders
- Displays estimate cover page information, item numbers and descriptions, assembly numbers and descriptions, WBS codes, variables and variable help
- Lets users attach notes to an item, assembly or estimate

**Status**

In May 16, 2000, Timberline Software Corporation announced its first release of Palm Estimating. With Palm Estimating, estimators can take off key project information on hand-held PDA devices at the worksite, then transfer the collected data to Precision estimating desktop software to generate complete, detailed estimates and change orders.

**Barriers**

Palm Estimating is part of Timberline's Precision Collection® of construction estimating software—a full line of estimating products designed specifically for the construction industry. Palm Estimating requires the use of Precision Estimating desktop software.

**Points of Contact**

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**Reviewers**

Peer reviewed as an emerging construction technology

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**Publisher**

Emerging Construction Technologies, Division of Construction Engineering and Management, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana