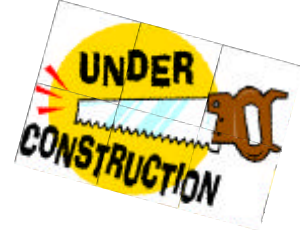




VANGUARD APPRAISALS, INC.

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Excellence achieved through people, products and service.™



CAMA-X Status

By: Nick Klein

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News for friends of Vanguard

First I would like to extend a big thank-you to everyone who provided CAMA-X feedback following the demos at the October-November 2003 User Group Meetings. Suggestions from the meetings may find their way in the initial release. Others may appear later. Keep the ideas coming!

Now that CAMAvision 7.75 is in the hands of some clients for testing, we return our focus to CAMA-X. Minus the myriad of parcel creates and web sites, of course.

Andy has been hard at work getting Sketch integrated into CAMA-X. Since he did such a wonderful job on the calculation code (which may change since I’m still testing it), I figured he would like another challenge. I was trying to “pass the torch,” but when I first told him this, he laughed at me.

Since December, my time has been focused on updating the Query Wizard, with plans to have it debut in Missouri Personal Property. Tara started getting her feet wet with CAMA-X by working on the Data Dictionary for both systems; an integral part of making the Query Wizard easier to use.

Just like with the rest of the rewrite, the Query Wizard will sport a similar, albeit more updated user interface. All your existing skills will carry over. Users of Microsoft’s Access should feel particularly at home. Sadly though, queries written in the existing Query Wizard will not be readable. The databases and tables are just too different. If you’ve got any custom “must have” queries, please make a note of them and we’ll see to it that they are converted.

So what’s next? More parcel maintenance. This is a critical section of the program that must be done before we can begin beta testing. Some parts of parcel maintenance, which you have already seen, are done. Tara and Dave have been testing these, and buildings are next. It’s a bit hazy through all the snow, but I’m beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Successful November User Group Meetings

By: Terri Scheuermann

The 1st Annual Minnesota / North Dakota CAMAvision User Group Meeting held October 15 - 16, 2003 in St. Cloud, Minnesota was a huge success. Day 1 attendance of 32 and day 2 attendance of 30 people represented 9 jurisdictions. Word has it that Dave lived up to his usual chatty self and once the concurrent sessions started all went very well. User evaluations ranged from: A bathroom break would have been great, to Nick really knows his stuff, same w/queries.

The 1st Annual Missouri CAMAvision User Group Meeting held October 21 - 22, 2003 in Chillicothe, Missouri, was also a huge success. Day 1 attendance of 48 and day 2 attendance of 40 people represented 12 jurisdictions registered plus the Missouri State Tax Commission. User evaluations included: We like Brad, he should get a raise, Nick has the same voice as Charlie Sheen, Scott doesn't over-present or under-present-very good speaker, Terri's a great speaker-easy to listen to-need to get her a new computer with F1 and I really got a lot out of the CMS-VCS transfer.

The Iowa/Illinois/Wisconsin Annual User Group Meeting held in Des Moines, Iowa was the largest turn out ever. Day 1 attendance 135 and day 2 attendance 120 people representing 70 jurisdictions registered plus the Iowa Department of Revenue. User evaluations included: Need name tags for everyone, Dave was ok but maybe Lori should lead next time- she's better looking, Great idea of having CMS and Solutions here also, Great lunch-Thanks and The room was freezing cold but I'm not falling asleep.

Many door prizes ranging from coolers filled with goodies to decorative snowmen to weather band/AM-FM walkmen were given away.

THANKS to all who attended these Annual User Group Meetings and PLEASE forward to the Cedar Rapids office topics that you would like to see covered next year at YOUR User Group Meeting.



**Kim Reitinger
of
Dubuque County, Iowa
won the
Vanguard Appraisals, Inc.
door prize at the
Iowa State Assessor's
Association Fall School
held in October 2003.
THANKS to all who stopped
by our booth to see us.**

Colorado Bound

By: Robert L. Kocer

Vanguard Appraisals, Inc. would like to announce to our loyal customers the future retirement of Dave Siefkas, Vice President and Chief Information Officer. Dave will be making a personal move to Denver, Colorado. He will continue to serve Vanguard through a period of transition to retirement. Because of the many years that you, our clients, have worked with Dave, we wanted you to be aware of this transition and to assure you that the qualified people we have in place will continue to serve your every appraisal, assessment and software need.



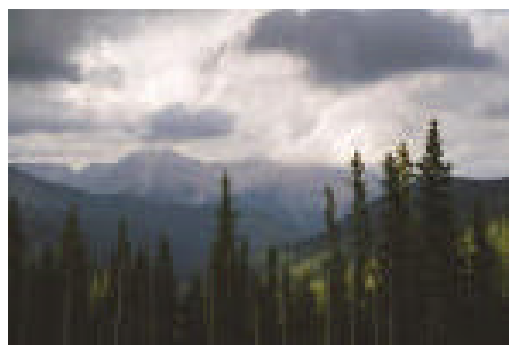
As Vanguard has grown over the past 36 years, our transitions have been seamless and unnoticeable. That is because of the training and experience of the Vanguard staff that we have kept in place. Brad, Scott, Nick, Lori, Terri, Jenny, Kara, all the programming staff and the remaining support staff will continue to service your requests. This is Vanguard's legacy.

Technology, that has been Dave's legacy, will help us achieve Vanguard's goals through this transition period.

For almost 20 years Dave has embraced technology and propelled Vanguard to the forefront of the assessment software industry.

Dave will be relocating to Colorado about May 1, 2004. He will be employed full-time during the transition and will promote Vanguard, our people, products and service. He will continue to consult on programming directions, planning and testing new products; reviewing new contract proposals; and continue to be a viable part of the appraisal/VCS team.

You can continue to contact Dave at his current e-mail address, dave@camavision.com for any of your Vanguard needs.



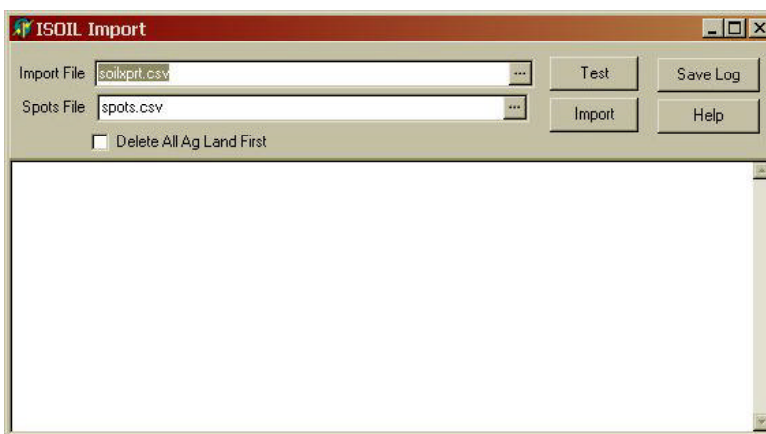
Importing Ag Soils/Land from Sidwell into VCS

By: Jennifer Shanahan

Wouldn't it be nice to be able to maintain your ag land on one system but have another system show the same thing without the extra work? How about having Forest Reserve land in two different systems but only have to maintain all the information on one system? Well folks, I'm here to tell ya today **that you can!** Through some diligent work, phone calls, emails & lengthy explanations of what exactly ag land is, we have come up with a program that will do just that. We can get the information from your Sidwell system & import it into VCS so all your CSRs, acres, soil types and adjustments are there. Ooooh aaaaaah! Yeah I was pretty impressed too!

The beauty of the program is that it will allow you to maintain all the ag land information on your Sidwell system such as splits and combines. You run the import program with the option to delete all ag land records and it will import the ag land information into the CAMAvision program for you.

There is a **small amount of** setup before actually running this program. You need to make sure that the ag land table and the CSR adjustment table is setup correctly. When the program runs we do a compare of the CSR adjustments and the ag land soils to be sure they match. If there is a record (parcel) that has one that doesn't exist then it will get error logged. That way you can verify that the parcel information is correct.



Screen capture of the Ag Soils Import program.

Call Jenny today to get your copy of the program installed on your system.

VCS Dynamic Data Exchanger Module or DDE

By: Brad Miller

What in the world is DDE? Well, a DDE connector (Dynamic Data Exchange) is a way to link different programs like mainframe and GIS Information applications to VCS via the parcel number. For example, while viewing a parcel on the Edit/Browse screen in CAMAvision, you can broadcast its PIN to any application that may be listening. Right now, you may be say, "So what. What is so cool about that?" Well, the cool part comes in when the listening GIS and mainframe applications automatically look up the parcel and take you directly to it; therefore you only have to type in the PIN one time. The communication also works both ways by telling the GIS or mainframe applications to look up a parcel in CAMAvision. Only typing a PIN in once and having other applications automatically load that PIN, now that's cool.

Currently, this module works with the following companies: Sidwell, Incode and Solutions. Though the list is small, we are willing to work with other vendors to help them utilize this technology and help raise everyone's productivity.

So, how much does a module like this cost: \$2,000 or \$3,000. No way! We believe that every one of our VCS users should have a feature like this. Therefore, the cost is only \$950 – a one time charge plus setup at our normal rate.

The fine print: this is a limited time offer. The price on this module is expected to go up sometime in the year 2004. So, if you are considering purchasing this add-on module, then please give us a call and we can discuss your options.



The “BEST” Website Getting Even “BETTER”

By: Terri Scheuermann

I admit I may be a little partial to our websites but as I have said to many, “We do have the best property assessment website available.” Thanks to Chris and Andy’s long sleepless nights and Dan and Jenny’s help we will *very soon* have a “much improved” website. How can it be better? Below is a partial list of the “new and improved” features:

- * NEW User News on the front page - A “news” box that is completely editable by the assessor’s office. This news may include whatever the office wishes and is changed and/or edited by the assessor’s office only. A great place for announcing when protest forms are available, office closings or when the Board of Review is in session.
 - * NEW ag land sales search - The ag land sales search is included with the current residential and commercial sales search. There are 9 search criteria and the user has the ability to sort the results in ascending or descending order by sale amount, sale date, address, parcel number, total csr points, and total acres.
 - * IMPROVED residential and commercial sales search - The sales search criteria for residential went from 10 to 19 and the user has the ability to sort the results in ascending or descending order by sale amount, sale date, address, parcel number, year built, or total living area. The sales search criteria for commercial went from 9 to 11 and the user may sort the results in ascending or descending order by sale amount, sale date, address, parcel number, year built, and total square footage.
 - * NEW legal description parcel search - User’s may look for a parcel by legal description now which was added to the already name, parcel number, house number and street, deed holder, contract buyer, doing business as, and city search.
 - * The parcel search results are displayed so users may easily jump pages rather than having the only option of going to the next 20 records.
 - * MORE data displayed - User’s may now view ALL commercial, industrial, residential, agricultural building and yard extra data by simply clicking on the occupancy code. This allows for the user to “view” all building structure detail information without printing a property record card. In some cases you may get more information by viewing it rather than printing the property record card. We previously displayed more building information than any other current website provider and now display even MORE!
- Sales data is also viewed by clicking on the sale date within a viewed parcel. This building information will be as of the time of the sale and includes all the information entered by the assessor’s office on the sales screen such as buyer, seller, sale type, sales remarks and recording information and more.
- * Property record card in ADOBE PDF format - User’s now have the option of printing the property record card in Adobe PDF format and/or the ace preview format.
 - * Not new but worth mentioning - Ag land parcels with CSR data are displayed with the soil type or description, acres and CSR points.
 - * All screens are cleaner and more organized with smaller font’s and better contrast.

In a continuous effort to improve our services and products these enhancements are “free” courtesy of service contracts. Go to iowaassessors.com and review our improved websites and then give Kara a call for your website price quote.

New Employee Profile



Donnie Campbell joined Vanguard on March 15th. He was born and raised in Cowgill, Missouri, a small (small being less than 200) farm town southeast of St. Joseph. He and his wife moved to Viborg, South Dakota, in August of 2003 from Olathe, Kansas, where they both attended college. Donnie was a computer programmer and web developer for 6 years with Nazarene Publishing House in Kansas City, Missouri.

Donnie, Computer Specialist, will be doing field work as well as helping us keep your websites up to date.

He is obsessed with anything sports related, his first love being football. Donnie and his wife, Jena, have been married for five years and are expecting their first child in November.



CAMAvision Workshops
On-line registration and
additional information available
at
www.camavision.com

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Amana Holiday Inn

Williamsburg, Iowa

***End of Year Process
and
Queries***

Thursday, May 13, 2004

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Buena Vista University

Storm Lake, Iowa

***End of Year Process
and
Queries***