



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

Engineer Research and
Development Center

Design Review and Checking System (DrChecks)

Technology

DrChecks is a Web-based data system designed to facilitate the review and feedback of construction project related documents (plans and specifications), and to collect and share “lessons learned.” DrChecks provides an integrated Web-based business process that allows all project stakeholders to participate in the design-review process using free Web browser software and low-speed Internet access. DrChecks allows local personnel to change pick lists, offices, and other program features to reflect the evolving nature of work at individual offices.

Problem

While the design phase of a construction project represents only a fraction of the life-cycle cost of owning and operating public infrastructure, decisions made during the design phase ultimately determine the majority of operations and maintenance costs. Builders, operators, facility users, and others often have suggestions that can improve the constructability, operability, and long-term usefulness of a given facility. Program and project managers typically rely on the physical exchange of paper design review comment documents. The geographically dispersed nature of project teams makes coordination of such review activities a challenging task. Repetitive or critical items cannot be tracked from one project to the next. Consequently, valuable lessons learned—that might otherwise avert expensive construction change orders and future maintenance headaches—are lost.

Expected Cost To Implement

DrChecks is available to Corps of Engineers on a fee-for-service basis. DrChecks is also being used by the Department of State, the Navy Facility Engineering Command (NAVFAC), and the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA). All using agencies share in the cost of the system and provide guidance.

Benefits/Savings

DrChecks assists review comment authors and designers to reach agreement on the resolution of each improvement suggestion. Reports allow users to see others’ work, review progress, and identify issues that impact scope, time, or cost. The goal of DrChecks is to support the successful resolution of problem issues before project milestones are reached.

Status

The use of DrChecks is mandatory for Corps of Engineers users. This policy is effective at startup of the next logical design phase for military projects, regardless of program year, and for all new civil projects starts originating in FY02.

In 1997, DrChecks and its integrated companion program, [Corporate Lessons Learned](#), were recognized as the “best of breed” by Corps of Engineer management in a review of systems developed to capture organizational knowledge. In 1999, DrChecks was recognized as a Quality Management “Best Practice” by the Office of the Secretary of Defense.



ERDC POC(s) E. William East, Principal Investigator, CERL, PO Box 9005, Champaign, IL, 61826-9005; phone: 217-373-6710 (ext. 6710); fax: 217-373-6724; e-mail: Bill.W.East@erdc.usace.army.mil

Jeffrey G. Kirby, General Engineer, CERL, PO Box 9005, Champaign, IL, 61826-9005; phone: 217-373-6730; fax: 217-373-7222; e-mail: Jeffrey.G.Kirby@erdc.usace.army.mil

Distribution Sources Public distribution of DrChecks has been transferred through a cooperative agreement to Resource Center Enterprises (RCE), Inc. Private and public agencies can acquire the system from RCE through URL: <http://www.drchecks.com>

RCE supplies Government users through the Builder's Net, phone: 1-800-428-4357; URL: <http://www.buildersnet.org/DrChecks>

Available Documentation User Manual Hypertext User Documentation (and Help menus) for DrChecks are available through the Builder's Net at URL: <http://www.buildersnet.org/DrChecks/>

Available Training Online support materials, and online support technical contacts are available through the Builder's Net at URL: <http://www.buildersnet.org/drchecks/>

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