

PennDOT e-Notification

Bureau of Solutions Management
Highway Applications Division



EngAsst

No. 008

January 7, 2019

Release of Version 2.6.0.0

PennDOT's **Engineering Assistant (EngAsst)** program has been revised as described on the attached "Summary of October 2018 Revisions - Version 2.6.0.0".

Consultants and others, who have a current license for **any version of EngAsst**, are eligible for Version 2.6.0.0 **free** of charge. Updates from **EngAsst v2.5.0.0** can be downloaded from the PennDOT Engineering Software Support website, <http://penndot.egrprograms.com>. Installation instructions are provided at the website. This will require entering your EngAsst v2.5.0.0 license key. If you are unable to locate your license key or are updating from **EngAsst v2.4.0.x or earlier**, please an [Update Request Form](#).

Please direct any questions concerning the above to:

Robert F. Yashinsky, P.E.

PA Office of Administration | Infrastructure and Economic Development

Bureau of Solutions Management | Highway Applications Division

Phone: (717) 787-8407 | Fax: (717) 705-5529

e-mail: ryashinsky@pa.gov

Attachment

Archived copies of all previously distributed e-Notifications can be obtained from the PennDOT LRFD and Engineering Programs website at <http://penndot.egrprograms.com/home> and clicking on "e-Notification" and then "Mailing List Archives."

SUMMARY OF OCTOBER 2018 REVISIONS - VERSION 2.6.0.0

Since the release of EngAsst Version 2.5.0.0 several revision requests and user requested enhancements have been received. This release of EngAsst Version 2.6.0.0 contains the following revisions and enhancements:

Programming Revisions

1. If the user double-clicks on a line in the Index View, the program was selecting the incorrect input tab. The program will now change to the proper input tab (Request 324).
2. The program was not recognizing the REPORT.INI file included with the Sign program because of a formatting issue in the program output file. EngAsst has been modified to look for a different character string in engineering program output to trigger use of the REPORT.INI file (Request 325).
3. An engineering program can now be accessed on a UNC path as well as on a mapped drive path. Previously engineering programs could only be accessed if they were located on a mapped drive (Request 334).
4. When 100 or more records are read into EngAsst and displayed on a tab, the total number of records shown on the tab will now be visible. Previously, the control that displayed the total number of records on the tab was too small to display numbers exceeding 99 (Request 336).
5. A program crash during viewing program output in the EngAsst output viewer has been resolved by changing the casting of a value from a single precision value to an integer (Request 337).
6. EngAsst no longer depends on the presence of a specific key in the computer registry to check for Adobe Acrobat Reader. The program will now open the PDF of the engineering program output even if Adobe Acrobat is not the default PDF reader on the computer (Request 338).
7. EngAsst was updated to be compiled with Visual Studio 2017, Version 15.4.3, and the .NET Framework 4.6.1 (Request 344).
8. EngAsst no longer crashes when a graph with results that are all zero is requested. The program will now set the upper limit to +1.0 and the lower limit to -1.0 for situations like this, and the results will be plotted as a horizontal line at 0.0 (Request 347).
9. If the user scrolls to the bottom of a long description in EXTENDED FIELD HELP, then clicks into a new field, the form will now automatically scroll back to the top. Previously, this form would not scroll back to the top, making it appear that no extended field help was available (Request 350).

Output Revisions

10. For engineering programs that produce the appropriate output (file names that end with _DBR.CSV and .DBT), EngAsst now provides the ability to show a graph of the unfactored analysis results for moments, shears, and deflections for all dead and live loads. At this time graphs can only be created for the PSLRFD v2.12.0.0 program, but this capability will be added to other programs in the future. (Request 318).
11. In the Program Output form, all of the table of contents entries will now appear for programs that have multiple Table of Contents sections or have pagination within the Table of Contents (Request 322).
12. The graphing output has been enhanced to show the limits of each span, allow simple and continuous results for PSLRFD composite dead load output, and to allow the user to choose which spans to show (Request 351).

Input Revisions

13. Numeric input textboxes will now be checked for valid characters (0-9, negative, decimals) when an input file is read in to warn the user of invalid input (Request 327).
14. EngAsst will now read in record sets properly even if they contain some undefined records. Previously, this would result in not all record sets being read properly (specifically, Special Live Load record sets that did not have any SAL records defined would be removed from the input file) (Request 330).
15. Input files created with the old PennDOT Input Data Processor (IDP) program (prior to the existence of EngAsst) will now have the correct commands associated with them without the user having to choose the commands (Request 332).
16. Comboboxes (where the user can type in a value or pick from a list) will now accept values that are not on the list, while dropdown boxes (where the user must pick a value from a list) will now generate an error if a value is in an input file that is not on the list (Request 335).
17. When opening an input file inside EngAsst, the file extension INP has been added to the default list of input file extensions (Request 340).