OpenStudio Version 1.0.0 Build 12393

Release Notes – 06/28/2013

These release notes describe a particular version of the OpenStudio software suite developed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), Electricity, Resources, and Building Systems Integration Center (ERBSIC), Commercial Buildings Research Group, Tools Development Section, and associated collaborators. The notes are organized into the following sections:

* Where to Find OpenStudio Documentation
* Installation Notes
* Overview
* New Features
* Known Issues

# Where to Find OpenStudio Documentation

* OpenStudio release documentation, including these release notes, tutorials, and other user documentation is available at <http://openstudio.nrel.gov/documentation>.
* C++ API documentation is available at <http://openstudio.nrel.gov/sdk-documentation>.
* Measure writing documentation is available at <http://openstudio.nrel.gov/openstudio-measure-writing-guide>
* OpenStudio Life Cycle Costing Examples document is available at <http://openstudio.nrel.gov/openstudio-life-cycle-examples>

# Installation Notes

OpenStudio is supported on Windows XP – 7, OS X 10.7 – 10.8, and Ubuntu 12.04.

## Installation Steps

* Download and install EnergyPlus 7.2. The main EnergyPlus page takes you to EnergyPlus 8. Follow the steps below to download EnergyPlus 7.2
  + [Create an EnergyPlus account if you don't have one and then login.](http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/energyplus/register.cfm?goto=manage)
  + After you log in you can click the link to access the page to "[Download Older Versions of Energy Plus](http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/energyplus/energyPlus_download.cfm?previous)".
  + Choose the appropriate version of EnergyPlus 7.2 for your computer. Download and follow the instructions. OpenStudio will work with 32 or 64bit EnergyPlus installers.
* The OpenStudio SketchUp Plug-in requires [Sketchup 8.0](http://help.sketchup.com/en/article/60107) or [SketchUp 2013](http://www.sketchup.com/download)  (not available for Linux).
* Create an OpenStudio account. Then download and install [OpenStudio](http://openstudio.nrel.gov/downloads).
* Setup a Building Component Library (BCL) account to access online building components and measures. [View instructions on how to setup your account and configure the key in OpenStudio.](https://openstudio.nrel.gov/using-building-component-library-bcl-key-openstudio)

## Optional Installation Steps

* For Radiance integration, download and install [Radiance](https://openstudio.nrel.gov/getting-started-developer/getting-started-radiance).
* If you plan to use the OpenStudio SDK Ruby bindings via command prompt on Windows, download and extract [ruby.zip](http://openstudio.nrel.gov/sites/openstudio.nrel.gov/files/ruby.zip) to C:\Ruby (or other desired location), and add C:\Ruby\bin to the PATH environment variable.
* Install the DAKOTA algorithm library as described on the [developer pages](http://openstudio.nrel.gov/getting-started-developer) if you plan to run large-scale analyses with the Ruby bindings.
* Download and install the [32-bit OpenSSL libraries](http://slproweb.com/products/Win32OpenSSL.html) if you will be running simulations remotely through an SSH connection on Windows.

Overview  
  
The OpenStudio Version 1.0.0 release focuses on adding life cycle cost analysis to OpenStudio models and to measures in the Parametric Analysis Tool (PAT). In addition to being able to evaluate energy conservation measures based on energy use, users can now look at total life cycle costs, first year capital costs, annual utility savings, and simple payback. Energy conservation measures are now available on the Building Component Library (BCL) instead of being installed with OpenStudio. You can add new measures from the online BCL as they are added without having to install a new version of OpenStudio. If a measure is updated on the BCL you can get that update from within PAT. When you install an update to OpenStudio you will retain energy conservation measures downloaded from the BCL. In addition to being applied as part of a measure group, measures can now be setup as “Always Run Measures”. These measures will run on the baseline model as well as all design alternatives. The “Mesures” tab in the OpenStudio application, formerly the “Scripts” tab, is another place in addition to PAT where “Always Run Measures” can be applied. A lot of effort was also put into HVAC controls and objects in the OpenStudio application. When viewing an air loop on the “HVAC Systems” tab you can now switch between a “Layout” and “Control” view. In the new control view you can set the operation time, night cycle operation, supply air temperature, economizer, and demand controlled ventilation for the air loop. A number of new HVAC system components were added to OpenStudio. A full list of these is available under the new features for OpenStudio application section.

# OpenStudio 1.0.0 supports EnergyPlus 7.2.

# New Features

## OpenStudio Platform 0.11.0

* Added infrastructure for OpenStudio measures. Formerly, these were single Ruby scripts containing a class derived from ruleset::UserScript. This notion has been expanded to define a measure as an entire directory containing *measure.xml*, *measure.rb*, a *tests* folder, and an optional *resources* folder. For a full description of how to write measures, see the [Measure Writing Guide](https://openstudio.nrel.gov/openstudio-tutorials/openstudio-measure-writing-guide). Individual features in support of measures include:
  + Added the BCLMeasure class to facilitate creating, loading, updating, and saving of measures. It also allows you to change the default location of your *My Measures* directory, as well as load measures stored in the Local BCL, PAT’s installed measures directory, or from *My Measures*.
  + Updated the RemoteBCL class to download measures from the Online BCL.
  + Added the ruleset::OSResult class and related ruleset::OSRunner methods to return detailed runtime information from OpenStudio measures. These results are available for inspection in the Parametric Analysis Tool, the Sketch-Up Plugin, the OpenStudio Application, and the analysis framework.
  + Refactored ruleset::OSRunner to be less Sketch-Up Plugin-specific, and to provide more assistance to measure writers.
  + An embedded Ruby interpreter is available for use in applications. Helper classes and methods for using this interpreter to extract arguments from openstudio::BCLMeasures are available in the ruleset sub-project. Arguments may be extracted from BCLMeasures using the Ruby bindings via OpenStudio::Ruleset::getArguments(BCLMeasure).
* Enhanced the analysis framework in support of the Parametric Analysis Tool. The framework was originally designed for use in custom Ruby script applications. To make it more suitable for interactive GUI applications and address a few known deficiencies, the following features were added:
  + Extended the analysis framework to provide setting and editing methods, dirty flags propagated by Qt signals, and flags on the Analysis class that indicate when results or data point definitions are out of date.
  + Created the analysisdriver::SimpleProject class to provide standardized access to all of the classes involved in creating, saving, and running a single analysis::Analysis. Includes support for maintaining a project-specific library of BCLMeasures.
  + Generalized analysis::Problem to better support EnergyPlus measures and measures of any type that should be run in every analysis::DataPoint’s workflow. Problems are now defined by a vector of analysis::WorkflowSteps, each of which is either an analysis::InputVariable or a runmanager::WorkItem.
  + Errors, warnings, and other runmanager::Job runtime information are persisted in the RunManager database, and are now available for each analysis::DataPoint on a per-WorkflowStep basis.
* Improved Windows file system integration. Registered the .osm and .osp file extensions on Windows such that they can be double-clicked and automatically launch with OpenStudio or the ParametricAnalysisTool, respectively. File system integration for Linux and OS X will be included in an upcoming iteration release.
* Added support for building OpenStudio with Visual Studio 2010.

## OpenStudio SketchUp Plug-in 1.0.0

* Improved general performance and stability.
* Increased stability of IDF import. Only imports objects that can be properly translated.
* Simplified Interface.
* gbXML import now handles files with malformed surfaces.

## OpenStudio Application 0.11.0

* Improved general performance and stability.

## OpenStudio ParametricAnalysisTool 0.11.0

* A new application has been added to the OpenStudio tool suite. The application provides an easy-to-follow workflow for generating and comparing parametrically-related design alternatives. The specific capabilities of the tool are user-configurable through the development and sharing of OpenStudio measures.
* The application is organized into four tabs:
  + Organize and Edit Measures
    - View and use measures from your OpenStudio installation, the Building Component Library (BCL), and from your personal measures library.
    - Create new measures from scratch or by copying an existing measure.
    - Instance measures by dragging them into your project and assigning specific argument values.
    - Organize measure instances into groups of mutually exclusive design choices appropriate for your particular project(s).
    - Set the baseline model for your analysis.
  + Create Design Alternatives
    - Choose which individual measures, or combinations of measures, you want to apply to the baseline model.
    - Specify any alternate models you want to compare to the baseline model. (Measures cannot be applied to alternate models. The baseline weather file and design days will be used even if the alternate model specifies different weather information.)
  + Run Simulations
    - Create and simulate the baseline model and all design alternatives.
    - Monitor simulation progress and evaluate error, warning, and informational messages on a per-workflow step basis.
  + Create and View Reports
    - Currently contains a single view of high-level results for the baseline and design alternative models. Metrics for the alternative models are presented in absolute and percent savings (over baseline) terms.
* The application partially interoperates with the OpenStudio Application. In particular, models can move back and forth between the two applications, but at this time, they do not carry their measures/scripts or simulation results with them. More uniform handling of measures, simulation workflows, and simulation error reporting is planned for a future release.

## OpenStudio RunManager 0.11.0

* No changes.

## OpenStudio ResultsViewer 0.11.0

* No changes.

## OpenStudio PolicyAnalysisTool

* Deprecated in favor of the ParametricAnalysisTool.

## OpenStudio Ruby Bindings 0.11.0

* New objects and methods are available in the Ruby bindings. In general, functionality available in C++ is also available in Ruby with minimal syntactical changes. The Ruby API documentation is no longer readily accessible from the OpenStudio website because in most situations the C++ documentation is preferred. However, to check particular syntax, advanced users may still consult <http://openstudio.nrel.gov/ruby-sdk-documentation> or <http://openstudio.nrel.gov/latest-ruby-sdk-documentation>.

## OpenStudio C# Bindings 0.11.0

* New objects and methods are available in the C# bindings. Please refer to the developer documentation for details.

# Known Issues

The following are issues known at the time of publication of these release notes.  Please contact [openstudio@nrel.gov](mailto:openstudio@nrel.gov) if you require further assistance.

## Known Issues Common to All Platforms

### OpenStudio SketchUp Plug-in

* If you use copy multiple on group-level OpenStudio objects, you will get one extra copy. The extra group is created by the first copy-and-paste operation and is not removed when the copy multiple occurs. To address this, after you perform a copy multiple procedure on groups or spaces, press delete. The objects you need to delete should already be selected. If you are copying loose surfaces such as windows, there are no problems, as SketchUp will merge equivalent surfaces. [bug 36]
* Using SketchUp’s undo operation on OpenStudio model elements may produce unexpected results. [bugs 438 and 797]
* SKP and OSM link is not maintained when files are relocated. You can manually re-establish that link. When opening a SketchUp file Launch SketchUp and then Open the SketchUp file. If that doesn’t work you can also directly load the OSM file, bypassing the SKP file. [bug 61]
* It is possible for the OpenStudio Plug-in to conflict with other SketchUp plug-ins. If you suspect this is a problem, try testing with other plug-ins disabled, or contact openstudio@nrel.gov for assistance. [bug 24]
* Importing Constructions and Import Schedules from the OpenStudio SketchUp Plug-in are broken, but you can load an OSM file as library in the OpenStudio application and then selectively drag specific objects into your model. [930]
* Using “Intersect” in the surface matching dialog can result in a crash or unexpected resulst. This is more common with models that were imported from other CAD formats at some point in the workflow. It is a good idea to save prior to useing this to avoid any loss of data. This is related to an underlying SketchUp bug. [bug 856 and 1220]
* “Project Loose Geometry” can crash SketchUp. It is a good idea to save prior to using this to avoid any loss of data. [but 1221]
* If your OpenStudio Model Crashes SketchUp or has unexpected behavior please forward it to [OpenStudio@NREL.gov](mailto:OpenStudio@NREL.gov) with a description of the problem. Please also include the directory that has the same name as the OSM file. You can attach it as a zip file. [bug 1231]

### OpenStudio Application

* The Site / Utility Rates subtab the workflow are marked as “coming soon,” and will be completed in upcoming releases of OpenStudio.
* To enable set point schedule drop zones on Thermal Zones tab, you need to first turn on the thermostat.
* Using the mouse scroll wheels while hovering over graphics in the results summary tab will inadvertently zoom them in and out. [bug 574]
* Similar thermostats assigned in the SketchUp Plug-in are shared across thermal zones in the OpenStudio application. Changing or turning off one will do the same to others. [bug 722]
* The view does not always refresh correctly when you delete a material from a construction. If you still see a material after clicking the “x”, switch away from and back to the object to refresh the view. [bug 925]
* Not all of the schedules required to make a valid People object can be assigned in the application. [bug 664]
* The 3-phase daylighting simulation method is currently inoperable, due to a fundamental change in the way the lighting calculation points are passed to Radiance. [bug 943]

### OpenStudio ParametricAnalysisTool

* PAT won’t prevent you from loading OSM files that are from a newer version of OpenStudio than you have installed, but the analysis won’t run. [bug 1240]
* Daylighting control object variables can’t be requested in the output variables tab. [bug 1290]
* The results tab may not be legible on a 1024x768 screen. [bug 1295]
* Adding a design alternative using measure groups will remove any design alternatives made from external files. You can however add a design alternative made from external files without loosing design alternatives made from measure groups. [1236]

### OpenStudio ResultsViewer

* Alias changes do not update in table view until the data are read in again. [bug 7]
* Data sets are expected to start on January 1 or later, and end on December 12 or earlier. Run periods cannot wrap around the end or beginning of the year. [bug 78]
* Table view column rearrangements are not preserved. [bug 34]

### OpenStudio RunManager

* EnergyPlus ForwardTranslator errors do not appear in the RunManager GUI elements (Bug 897)

### OpenStudio Platform, Including SWIG Bindings

* IdfObject::getQuantity and IdfObject::setQuantity functionality is almost, but not completely, comprehensive. The quantity getters and setters for fields whose units are “BasedOnField AX” are not expected to work at the IdfObject level, but are to be handled only for OS: prefixed objects by the specific interfaces of classes derived from ModelObject.
* The default naming scheme of WorkspaceObject (base class for ModelObject, etc.) sometimes results in undesired name clashes when transferring objects between models, including in the EnergyPlus translators. Therefore, some objects may be unexpectedly renamed or copied.
* OpenStudio::Model::ComponentVector objects may be inaccessible from the Ruby bindings. [bug 1005]

## Known Issues Specific to Mac

* To Install OpenStudio 1.0 correctly on Mac you need to first un-install earlier versions of OpenStudio. [bug 1303]
* At this time, we are unable to provide simple installation instructions for DAKOTA on OS X. We are working with the DAKOTA team to be able to provide this sometime in early 2013. [bug 437]

### OpenStudio SketchUp Plug-in

* Toolbar tooltips may not work correctly on a Mac if you have made your toolbars horizontal. The tooltips never show on a Mac in the status bar. The button state may also be incorrect. This is a bug in SketchUp versus the plug-in. [bug 375]