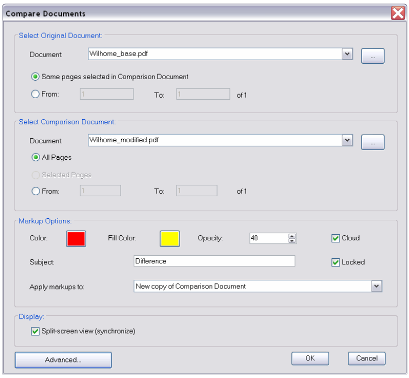
Other Tools – Document Comparison

The Compare Documents feature is used to compare two PDF files and highlight the differences. The differences are indicated with PDF annotations. Once the annotations have been created, the differences can be reviewed using the markup list.

To begin, select *Document/Compare Documents*. The compare documents dialog displays the configuration settings before the comparison is run. There are 3 steps to set before running the document comparison:



Select Original Document:
Document: Wilhome_base.pdf
● Same pages selected in Comparison Document
○ From: 1 To: 1 of 1

Select Comparison Document:
Document: Wilhome_modified.pdf
● All Pages
○ Selected Pages
○ From: 1 To: 1 of 1

Markup Options:
Color: 🟥 Fill Color: 🟨 Opacity: 40 ☑ Cloud
Subject: Difference ☑ Locked
Apply markups to: New copy of Comparison Document

Display:
☑ Split-screen view (synchronize)

Step 1 - Choose the base or original document to compare against. If the document is already loaded within the current Revu session you can chooses it from the document dropdown. If it is not loaded, press the ... button to view a file open dialog and select the appropriate file. The Same Pages selected in Comparison Document and the Page Range options provide more configuration flexibility.

Step 2 - Select the comparison document using the same procedure as described in Step 1.

Step 3 - Define the appearance of the annotations created when differences are noted. **Markup Options** defines the annotation appearance. Options include Color, Fill, Opacity, whether the annotation has a cloud appearance, and if the annotation should be locked when placed in the PDF.

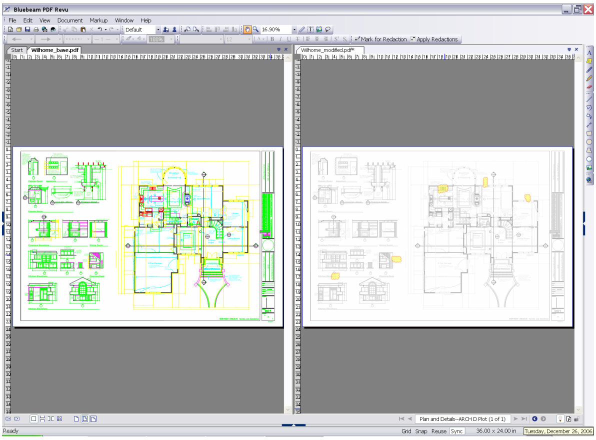
The **Subject** field can be used to name the difference annotations (e.g., “Difference 12-21-2006”). You can then sort the Markup List based on Subject. All difference annotations will be grouped together since each annotation has the same subject. A series of difference comparisons over time can also provide a change history.

The **Apply markups to** dropdown defines which document to add the annotations when the comparison is run. The settings available are the *Original Document*, the *Comparison Document*, both the *Original and Comparison Document* or a *New copy of the Comparison document*.

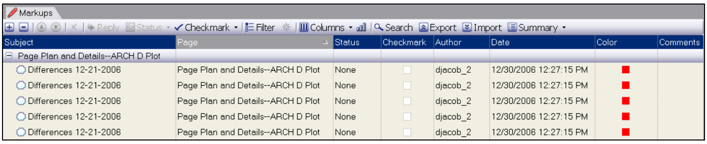
Check the **Split View** to open side-by-side windows in a synchronized fashion for reviewing the differences noted after the comparison process completes.

To run the comparison, press **OK**. Once the comparison completes, any differences will be annotated.

If the **Split View** checkbox was checked, the two compared documents will open in a side-by-side manner. Zooming or panning on one window will update the display in the opposite window. This is useful for visually comparing the before/after, changed, and unchanged parts of the file. The annotations that were added will appear in either the left or right window depending on which PDF was specified (Apply Markups to dropdown).


Bluebeam PDF Revu
File
Edit
View
Document
Markup
Window
Help
Default
16.90%
Mark for Redaction
Apply Redactions
Start
Wilhome_base.pdf
Wilhome_modified.pdf*
Plan and Details--ARCH D Plot (1 of 1)
Ready
Grid
Snap
Reuse
Sync
36.00 x 24.00 in
Tuesday, December 26, 2006

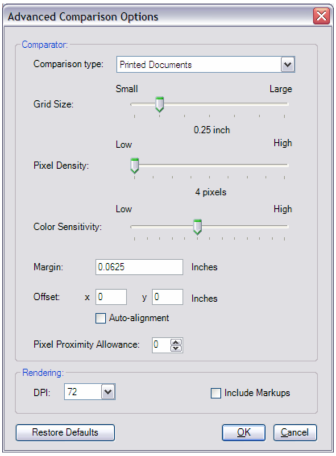
Open the Markup List to see a tabular list of annotations that were automatically added when differences were detected.


Markups
Reply
Status
Checkmark
Filter
Columns
Search
Export
Import
Summary

Subject	Page	Status	Checkmark	Author	Date	Color	Comments
⊟ Page Plan and Details--ARCH D Plot							
Differences 12-21-2006	Page Plan and Details--ARCH D Plot	None	☐	djacob_2	12/30/2006 12:27:15 PM	🟥	
Differences 12-21-2006	Page Plan and Details--ARCH D Plot	None	☐	djacob_2	12/30/2006 12:27:15 PM	🟥	
Differences 12-21-2006	Page Plan and Details--ARCH D Plot	None	☐	djacob_2	12/30/2006 12:27:15 PM	🟥	
Differences 12-21-2006	Page Plan and Details--ARCH D Plot	None	☐	djacob_2	12/30/2006 12:27:15 PM	🟥	
Differences 12-21-2006	Page Plan and Details--ARCH D Plot	None	☐	djacob_2	12/30/2006 12:27:15 PM	🟥	

Advanced Settings

The Advanced settings menu provides a mechanism to adjust parameters to fine tune the document comparison process. It is recommended that you use the default settings provided and change these settings if the document comparison process does not appear to detect differences. Two profiles, *Printed Documents and Scanned Documents*, are provided and selectable in **Comparison Type**.



Comparison type: Printed Documents
Grid Size: 0.25 inch
Pixel Density: 4 pixels
Color Sensitivity:
Margin: 0.0625 Inches
Offset: x 0 y 0 Inches
☐ Auto-alignment
Pixel Proximity Allowance: 0
DPI: 72
☐ Include Markups

The comparison process breaks the document into a region of grids for comparison. The **Grid Size** parameter defines the size of the individual grid segments used for comparison. These regions are then inspected for different pixels to identify as a differing region.

The **Pixel Density** setting controls the threshold amount of differences in a particular area (defined by the **Grid Size**) when detecting differences.

The **Color Sensitivity** setting helps to determine the threshold which pixel differences will be determined.

A lower sensitivity setting will not detect as many differences as a higher sensitivity setting. This setting works in conjunction with the **Pixel Proximity Allowance**. Increase this value to check adjoining areas for similar pixels.

Set the **Margin** value to ignore regions around the borders of the PDFs being compared.

The **DPI** setting determines the resolution used to rasterize the PDFs. The default setting is 72. Set the value higher (144) if finer resolution is needed for the comparison.

Enter values in the **Offset** setting if you know one document is offset from the document that is being compared. Likewise you may check the **Auto-alignment** checkbox to instruct Revu to automatically align the drawings or documents that are being compared.

Press the **Restore Defaults** option to reset the Advanced parameters to their original settings.