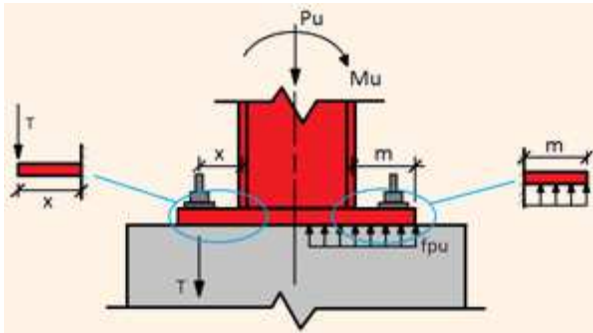


Understanding Design Guide #1

Base Plate Design in VAConnect follows AISC's guide

To help you make better use of [VAConnect](#) for your base plate designs, Adam has put together [a short white paper discussing limitations in the AISC guide](#). It is important that you understand the limitations of the design guide when using VAConnect so that you don't try to go beyond what has been tested.



Adam's paper discusses the one-dimensional assumptions made in the design guide, and demonstrates with an example that might give you pause before you apply it. The paper also demonstrates at how you might make an FEA model of a plate (in VisualAnalysis) to investigate the behavior yourself.

Associated with [this paper](#) are a couple of VisualAnalysis and VAConnect projects for you to investigate further. These are contained in [DG1AndPlateBending.zip](#).

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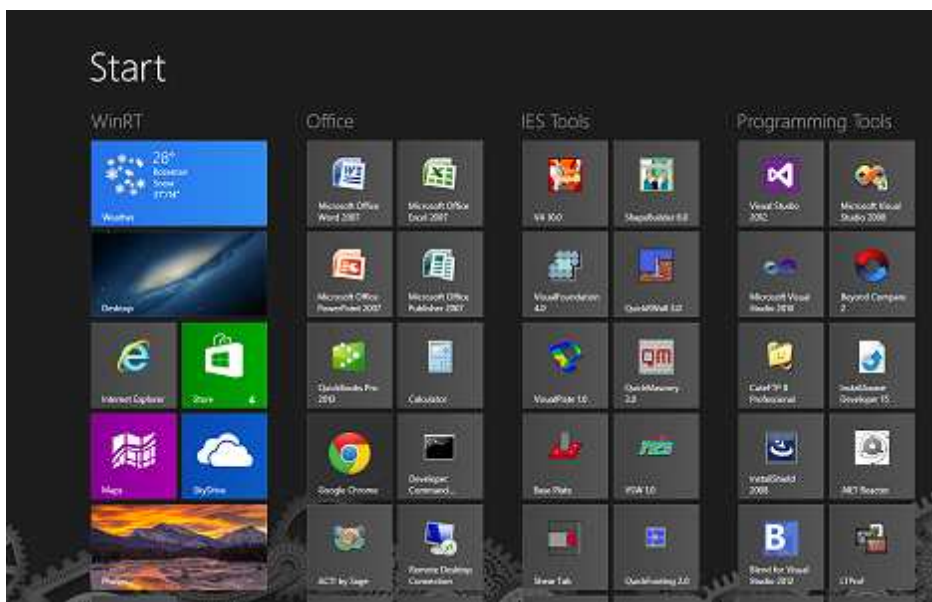
Windows 8: Start-less

A look at Microsoft's latest, for Engineers

Microsoft released [Windows 8.0](#) a few months back and many of you may be wondering about this new system. I'm here to tell you that it's just the same-old Windows. OK there are a few changes, but nothing to fear.

No Fear

The biggest change is that the traditional Start menu was completely replaced with a whole new "phone/tablet" style screen that you can either embrace or ignore! The start screen provides icons to programs but new full-screen style apps can have 'live' tiles that update to show information in their 'icon' mode. You can organize and arrange these in multiple ways. You can start typing in this screen to search for apps or settings in Windows. The tile you will most likely seek is the one called **Desktop**. Clicking that tile takes you into a world that looks just like Windows XP or Windows 7!



IES Runs on Windows 8

All IES products work great on Windows 8.0 in the "Desktop" mode, which is what you have been using with XP, Vista, or Windows 7.0 for many years. There is virtually no learning curve at all, once you learn how to get to the desktop view and how to find programs that you used to find in your Start menu.

Eight Nice Windows 8 Features

- System is Faster (Boot, Shutdown, Wake, File Copy...)
- Better Task Manager
- Better Lock Screen (shows photo, date, and time)
- Sync Data with Windows Live (Sky Drive) to Multiple Machines
- Wallpapers on Multiple Monitors
- Ribbon Interface on File Explorer is Easier
- Same Old Windows (Control Panel, Networking, Taskbar...)
- Something to Laugh At (the full-screen applets & store!)

Need another good reason to get Windows 8? It is a good excuse to get a brand new Intel Core i7 CPU with a 64-bit operating system to take advantage of software coming down the pipeline in the next year from IES...

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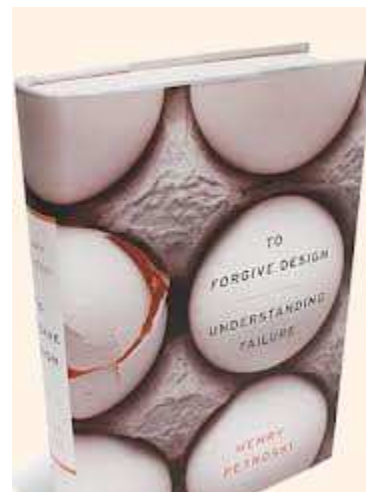
Failure in Design

Book Review: To Forgive Design, by Petroski

As software developers at IES we are intimate with failure. The software world is notorious for "bugs". Have you ever used a program that did not seem to have bugs or crashes or failures? Fortunately the world of Civil Engineering is not as plagued with failure in our day-to-day lives. Hopefully as a structural engineer (or related) professional, you are not so personally familiar with failure.

There are plenty of failures in structural engineering, though, as Henry Petroski's latest book "[To Forgive Design](#)" informs us. The book is well-worth your time as it will help you to get a better handle on the role failure plays in your profession--something that is not generally learned in school and something you do not wish to learn from experience!

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Get IES Updates



Please Get Them!

We are regularly updating our products to fix problems that have been reported or discovered. We publish these updates to help you avoid major problems and headaches. They do not cost anything but a couple minutes of download time. That time might save you from getting **wrong answers** or wasting two hours trying to get your job done on time.

Please also read the **RELEASE NOTES** that are available on the downloads page or in the IES Updater utility to understand what is changing. This will help you avoid frustration and cut down on the mind-numbing work of the technical support team.

Updated Updater Tool

There is a new build of the IES Updater (version 1.02) that will install with your next update or you can go get it now on the [Supplementary downloads](#) page.

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