

## BT CALL ON GTX FOR HELP WITH DRAWINGS

***British Telecommunications plc (BT) is one of the UK's largest companies, with an annual revenue in excess of £18.7 Billion (\$27.5 Billion) in 2000. However, in recent years it has been subject to significantly increased competition. This is as a direct result of British Government policies which have encouraged alternative providers to challenge BT's previous monopoly position in the UK.***



In order to expand in this fiercely competitive market, BT has looked at all aspects of its business to see where economies might be achieved and efficiencies made. Considerable attention has been given to the way in which BT looks after its vast property portfolio, including the drawings and technical records that describe these buildings.

Of the 8500 buildings that BT owns, approximately 5000 are telephone exchanges, with the rest being offices, workshops and laboratories.

One of the biggest challenges faced at the outset of the project was the wide variety of CAD systems and products being used by BT, throughout the UK and Northern Ireland. Drawing files had been created by a wide variety of systems, including different versions of AutoCAD®, CADAM®, Intergraph® and Microstation®. This made the transfer and re-use of drawing data very inefficient and difficult.

Over the past 2 years, the Building Services Division of BT has implemented a comprehensive drawing management archive and updating system which has solved many of these problems.

With approximately 85,000 drawing files already online, the system offers users at 50 different locations throughout the UK a 5-second access time to the drawing they require.

This outstanding performance and retrieval time was the result of a detailed specification coordinated by Paul Bagnall, BT's Building Construction and Maintenance CAD Systems Manager and the Integration, Development and Consultancy (IDC) Division of Excitech Computers Ltd, one of the UK's leading and largest CAD Solution providers.

The system is based around a central file server located at BT Tinsley Park in Sheffield, running an Altris/Wintrack® Drawing Management System. Communication to the users' PCs at the 50 locations throughout the UK is over BT's MPRN (multi protocol routed network). An Océ Inkjet plotter is provided at each location and a number of Océ large format combined scanners and laser plotters are available at a site in BT Coventry, where most of the scanning is undertaken.

All drawing files can be viewed, red-lined, edited and plotted at any of the locations, provided the user has the correct access permission.

The BT system includes 30 GTXRaster CAD® and 30 GTXRaster CAD® PLUS licences, all running inside AutoCAD and all controlled via a floating network license manager on their central file server.

The GTXRaster CAD units are used for raster and hybrid (raster and vector) editing work, .....

whereas the GTXRaster CAD PLUS units are available for those users who wish to convert their scanned drawing files from the scanned (raster) format into the AutoCAD DWG format.

Paul Bagnall commented that, "Apart from giving us enormous flexibility in how we work with our scanned drawing files, the GTX products have been essential to the success of the system in a number of ways. The technology behind the 5 second retrieval time relies on the ability of the GTX products to generate a raster (TIF) file, from which a 5 Kbytes `thumbnail` sketch file is transferred over the network".

This raster file is produced immediately any new AutoCAD drawing file is generated or updated. It is this file that is used to view, red-line and print the final drawing. Only when the user wishes to edit or change the file does the system actually transfer the AutoCAD drawing file over the network. Using the raster files in this way minimises the network traffic and has been central to the success and speed of the BT system.

The GTXRaster CAD and PLUS products have also been used on a number of projects and have, for example, helped BT achieve their ISO14001 (Environmental Management Systems) compliance. Part of this International Standard requires the accurate recording of environmental wastage and discharge routes to be made on appropriate site plans. BT accomplished this task by using GTXRaster CAD PLUS to add the necessary drainage gullies and run-outs to the scanned site plans.

BT's Paul Bagnall went on to add, "We are very pleased with the system supplied by Excitech in general and the GTX software in particular. The system has met all the important criteria that we specified, particularly the speed of retrieval, and the GTX software has been central in helping us to achieve this.

We are continuing to load data onto the system including scanned drawings at the rate of 2000 to 3000 scans per month.

Future plans may include making all this drawing information available via the web to BT employees who need to access it, perhaps remotely while out in the field."

So, BT has responded to the competitive challenges in a vigorous way and is using the GTX products to help it remain ahead and be even more efficient and effective in the future.

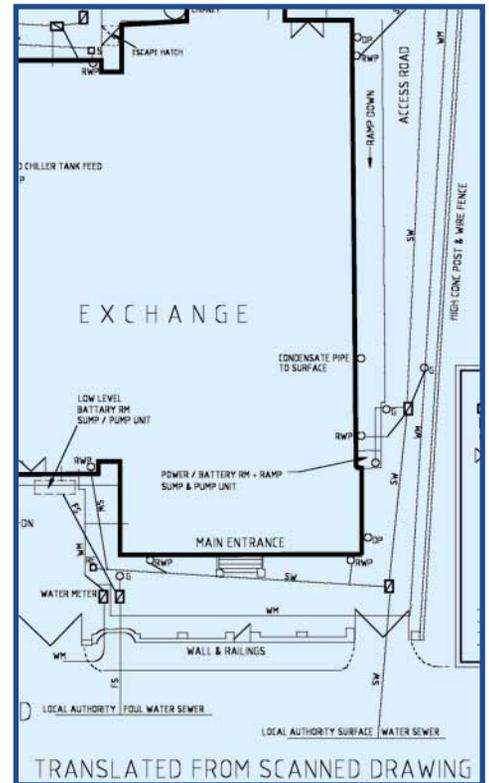
If you would like to find out more about the companies involved in this Case Study visit:

[www.bt.com](http://www.bt.com)

[www.excitech.co.uk](http://www.excitech.co.uk)

[www.gtx.com](http://www.gtx.com)

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#### GTX Corporation Company Profile:

*GTX Corporation is the leading supplier of scan-conversion and editing products that provide complete integration and interfacing between scanned drawing archives and Computer Aided Design/Drafting CAD systems.*

*GTX was founded in 1984 by Dr. Marvin T. Ling, to bridge the gap between paper engineering drawings and electronic format (CAD) and to solve the time-consuming problems of storing, retrieving and editing paper drawings.*

*GTX is a privately held corporation headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona with offices in Basingstoke, England and Taipei, Taiwan. GTX sells its products through a network of authorized distributors and resellers throughout the Americas, Europe, Asia, the Pacific Rim, the Middle East and Africa. The Company also licenses its technology to third-party CAD vendors for integration and sale under their own private label.*

*GTX technology brings intelligence to manually created drawings and allows companies to gain productivity and lower costs to effectively maintain, revise and store their engineering documents.*

*Major users of GTX products include public utilities, aerospace / defence, telecommunications, automotive, and heavy manufacturing industries.*

## Intelligent Paper to CAD Solutions®

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