FDOT Rebar Tools Q&A

Q: I was under the impression that this would be automated in OBM/OBD in conjunction with ProStructures. Or am I misunderstanding? Please clarify when and why to use this tool.

A: ProStructures/3D rebar modeling is not an FDOT requirement at this time. If the user chooses to model the rebar in 3D, there are tools to help automate the bar list. This topic is a quick tutorial on the classic FDOT Rebar Tool program within Connect Edition Software.

Q: Can't access to the Rebar Tool inside ProjectWise.

A: Many of the FDOT tools were not initially developed to work within ProjectWise. However, there are some workarounds to accommodate it. Contact your Bentley representative for more information on coordinating FDOT Tools with ProjectWise. FDOT is currently working with Bentley to accommodate an FDOT PW-managed workspace and is revising the FDOT tools for limited compatibility with ProjectWise in the FDOTConnect2023 release expected in late July or early August.

Q: What does the Varied Set of 10 mean?

A: That means that there are 10 sets of 8 varies bars, so 80 bars total. The 8 bars are unique and there are 10 sets of them.

Q: Can I copy all rows from subunit 1 to subunit 2?

A: Yes, you can select all the rows in subunit 1, right click and select Copy Selected Rows, and then go into an empty subunit 2 and right click and select Paste Selected Rows.

Q: For the Series bar, it appears the default is "1 Set of XX bars" is it possible to do more than 1 Set, e.g. 2 Sets of XX bars?

A: To have multiple sets, you would enter "2" under the "Varied Sets" column and then enter your "XX" under the "No. Bars" column. In the weight calculation tab, the program wasn't handling that correctly, but it has been fixed for the next release. I will mention that toward the end of the webinar.

Q: Can you import old .inp data files?

A: Yes, we discussed how in import legacy .inp data files. You can also import legacy .prn files.

Q: Is this aSa format?

A: On further research, Rebar Data Exchange (RDX) is a special file format developed by aSa that allows various rebar software packages to effectively share data across their various platforms. The FDOT tools were not developed with this in mind but may look into compatibility in the future.

Q: Still doesn’t handle varies bars? Varies x to x for the varying dimensions?

A: Yes, the program handles varies bars as discussed. You enter the minimum and maximum bar lengths for the sets; the variation will be linear.

Q: Can you create a custom rebar type?

A: I don't believe that you can create a custom rebar type within the program, similar to the old bar list program. I believe the workaround we have done is to select a standard bar type that has the same variables as the custom bar. We would then add a custom bar bend directly on the rebar sheet. You'd have to make sure the bar lengths add up and you would override the "Bar Type" in either the spreadsheet or in the CADD file sheet model.

Q: Can this webinar be posted on YouTube (or the like) for future reference?

A: It will be posted to the CADD Webinars page at the same link where you registered.

Q: So, the only way to make it a dynamic link is to place it with the "Place Table" command?

A: We haven't finished developing the table seeds for the "Place Table" tool, but we are hoping to have it developed for FDOTConnect2023. In the meantime, there are a couple of third-party table applications that can accommodate dynamically linking tables.

Q: Can LDM be used to link the Spreadsheet to the Rebar Sheet model, so it is a dynamic link?

A: Once the Excel file is generated, it could be linked with LDM, though it might require significant additional editing and formatting to get it to fit within the sheets and display correctly.