

# GOOD CONNECTIONS<sup>®</sup>

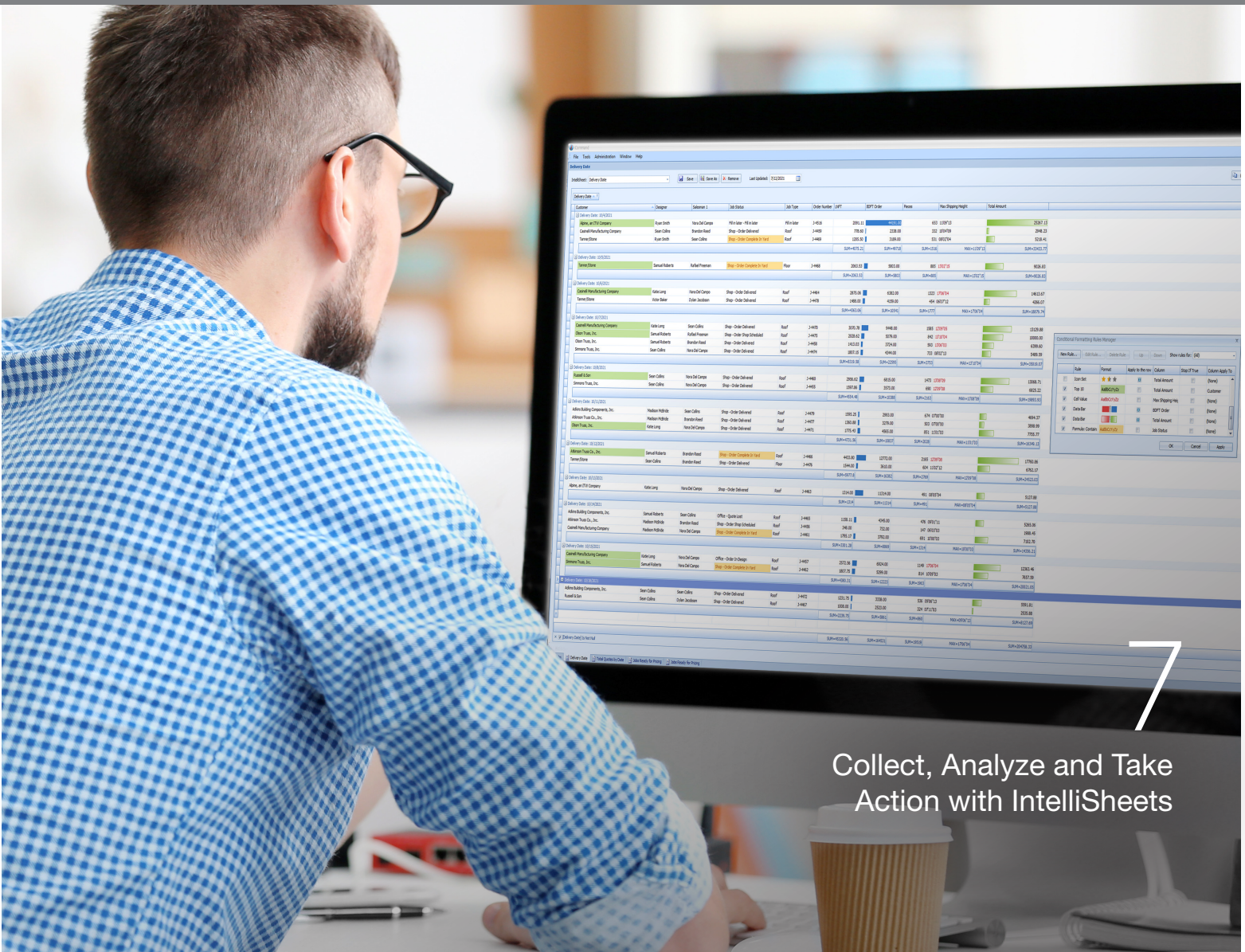


 SPRING 2023

9 Six Steps for Troubleshooting Equipment

11 Simplify Wall Panel Production Process with the Panel Stacker

13 Basic Wind Questions Part 4



Collect, Analyze and Take Action with IntelliSheets



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

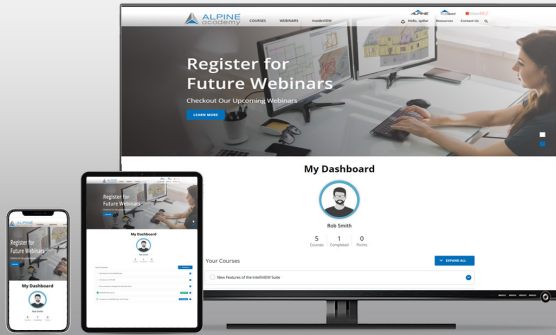
# 2023 UPCOMING U.S. & CANADA HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES

## U.S.

- Memorial Day**  
Monday, May 29
- Independence Day**  
Tuesday, July 4
- Labor Day (U.S. & Canada)**  
Monday, September 4

## CANADA

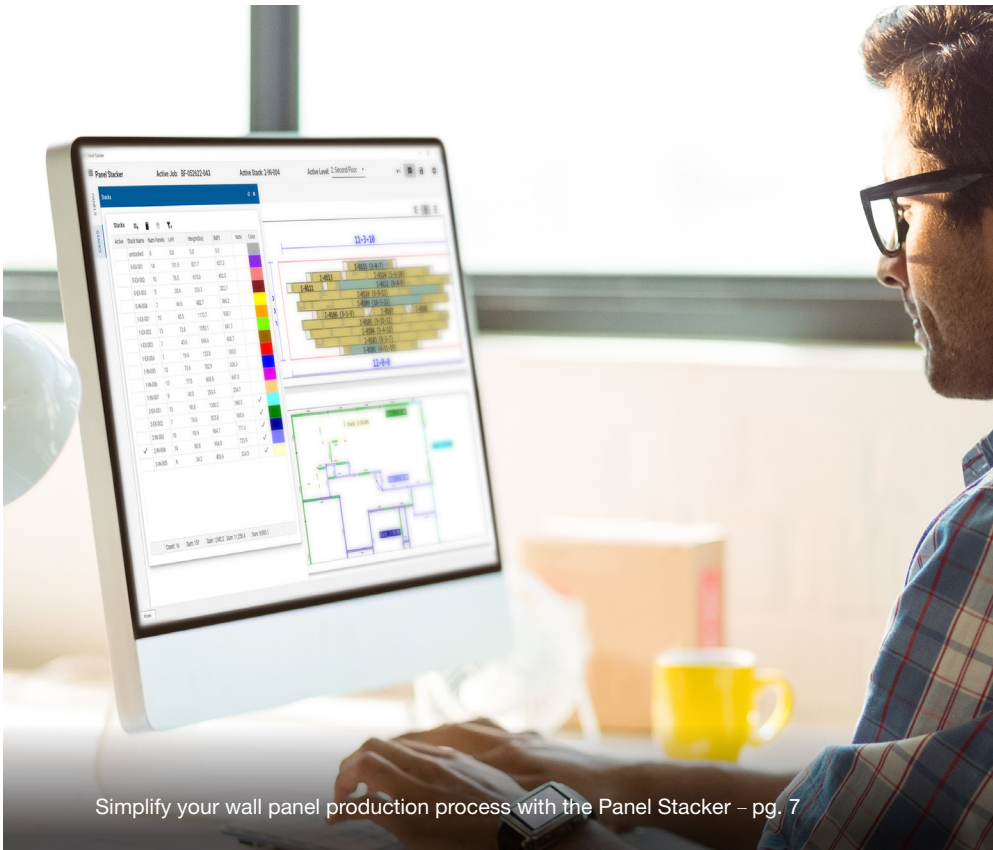
- Victoria Day**  
Monday, May 22
- Canada Day**  
Monday, July 3
- Civic Holiday**  
Monday, August 7



## SIGN UP NOW!

Alpine® Academy website.  
Learn at your convenience.

If you have suggestions for a class or questions, please email us at [training@alpineitw.com](mailto:training@alpineitw.com)



Simplify your wall panel production process with the Panel Stacker – pg. 7

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### Publishers Note:

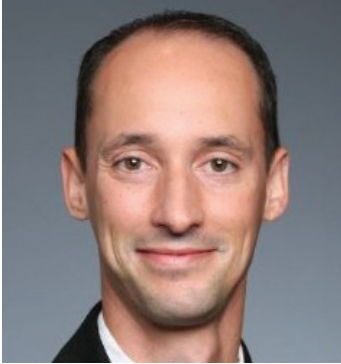
Good Connections® is published by Alpine® for its customers, associates, builders, architects, building officials, and other professionals interested in the building components industry.

At Alpine, "Good Connections" refers to the quality products and services we offer as well as the connections we have with our customers and the components they provide to the building industry.

We appreciate story ideas, project photos, and other suggestions that you have to make this an even better publication. For more information, contact [marketing@alpineitw.com](mailto:marketing@alpineitw.com).

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**Kevin Kraft**

Vice President &  
General Manager

Kevin Kraft, Vice President and General Manager responsible for overseeing Alpine® since 2017, will assume the role of VP/GM of the Body & Fuel Division for North America and Europe within the Automotive segment of ITW in May. Previously he was the Engineering Director for ITW's Residential Construction Design Center in Lake Forest, Illinois. He led the research and development of innovative fastener and connector systems for the wood-to-wood construction market. He has also served as Research & Development Manager at the ITW Innovation Center in Glenview, Illinois.

This is one of the most challenging messages I have had to write in my career. I have been offered a new opportunity within the Automotive Segment of ITW and will be leaving Alpine® in May. Although I'm excited for the new challenges that await me, this is bittersweet for me personally and professionally.

In my relatively short time in the structural component industry, I continue to be in awe and humbled by the people who have dedicated their lives to this industry as well as their business, employees and customers. One of the things that has absolutely amazed me about this group, is the unwavering commitment, passion, and dedication to their craft.

To my Alpine team, thank you fails to capture my gratitude. Thank you for teaching me everything you know about the industry. Thank you for following me (and my sometimes non-traditional methods). But most of all, thank you for trusting me to lead this business and having faith that we'd come out better on the other end. We have accomplished so much over the last seven years, and we could not have done it without the support and trust of every Alpine employee.

To our customers, thank you for welcoming me into this tight knit family and allowing me to have a small impact

on its direction. This industry was built from a group of pioneers who were passionate about their work and that attitude is still very much present today. That passion is what I love about this industry and especially our amazing customers. I have made many great connections and friendships that will continue into the future.

I am leaving Alpine in great hands. This team is the strongest it's ever been, and you can continue to count on the same commitment and dedication to the industry as well as our customers/partners that you have come to expect. I have no doubt great things will continue to evolve within Alpine and the industry.

I will always have an affinity for this industry. As we are looking into 2023, there continues to be cautious optimism in the marketplace. Homes are still in demand, and we all will be there to meet it. This is an incredibly resilient industry, that I have been lucky to be a part of with Alpine. Although I am moving on, this is not goodbye.

With my deepest gratitude, thank you for the lessons, the memories – and, most importantly, the friendship.



### Housing Starts

U.S. single-family homebuilding increased for a second straight month in March, while permits for future construction surged. Single-family housing starts, which account for the bulk of homebuilding, rose 2.7% to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 861,000 units last month. [LEARN MORE](#)

### Housing Market Predictions For 2023

Home sales prices responded by continuing their downward slide. However, many economists remain mixed about how much more home prices will drop this year. [LEARN MORE](#)

### The U.S. Housing Market Is Short 6.5 million Homes

The United States is not building enough homes to account for the number of people setting up their own households. As a result, there is a sizable shortage of new homes after more than a decade of under-building relative to population growth. [LEARN MORE](#)

### BCMC 2023

Building Component Manufacturers Conference 2023 will be held from Monday, September 18th to Friday, September 22nd at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. Visit Alpine® at BCMC to learn about our latest innovations built to make component manufacturers more profitable & competitive. [LEARN MORE](#)



### IN MEMORIAM

## Francis A. Ferrigno

Our deepest condolences go out to the family and friends of longtime Alpine® employee Francis A. Ferrigno, 65, who passed away unexpectedly in his sleep on October 6, 2022. Frank was a valued member of Alpine for over 40 years. He was incredibly dedicated, had tremendous passion for our industry, and was well versed in our software - especially the design and engineering aspects.

Frank loved to collect music and was a walking encyclopedia of Rock and Roll bands. He also had a love for, and restored, many classic Ford Mustangs. Frank was an amazing member of our team and will forever remain a part of Alpine's history.

**Francis A. Ferrigno**  
Senior Quality Assurance Engineer

## NEW ORGANIZATIONAL APPOINTMENTS



### Jamila Winston

Based in Portland, Oregon, Jamila has joined Alpine® as a Software Consultant. In her role, Jamila will cover the Pacific Northwest region.



### Hannah Roberts

Hannah Roberts joined as a Help Desk Analyst at Alpine. Based out of North Carolina, she is responsible for providing software support for the Alpine Software Suite.



### Pete Hyde

Pete Hyde joined Alpine as a Software Consultant. Working remotely, Pete will be the Technical Account Manager for his territory located in the Pacific Northwest.



### Asa Parker

Asa Parker has joined Alpine as a Trainer working from the Grand Prairie office. In this role, Asa is responsible for educating designers on how to maximize value of the Alpine software.



### Jesse Van Duffelen

Jesse Van Duffelen has transitioned to the role of a Technical Sales Representative. In his new role, Jesse will be working with customers in the Western Canadian region, covering Alberta and British Columbia.



### Von Burch

Von Burch has transitioned to the role of District Sales Manager and will represent Alpine's sales effort in parts of the Eastern Region. He will be responsible for sales activity in west Florida as well as southern Mississippi and Alabama.



### Retirement | Tim Fernan

After designing trusses for 38 years, Tim Fernan, Alpine's Trainer, retired in November 2022. Tim traveled throughout the United States and Canada during his career with Alpine. He built valuable relationships with hundreds of customers as well as designers, while also having some memorable adventures along the way. He also has a passion for skiing and scuba diving.

Congratulations, Tim. We wish you the very best in retirement. Thank you for your many years of service.

Tim is excited to continue performing as Santa Claus with the U.S. Marines and Toys for Tots.



## ALPINE FIRST AWARD

We are so proud to honor Steve Connelly with the 3rd annual Alpine® First Award. We sincerely appreciate his exceptional support and dedication, while demonstrating an Alpine-first mentality by prioritizing the needs of the business over individual or functional goals. Congratulations, Steve!



IntelliVIEW SOFTWARE 23.01 – Available Now!



### IntelliSheets

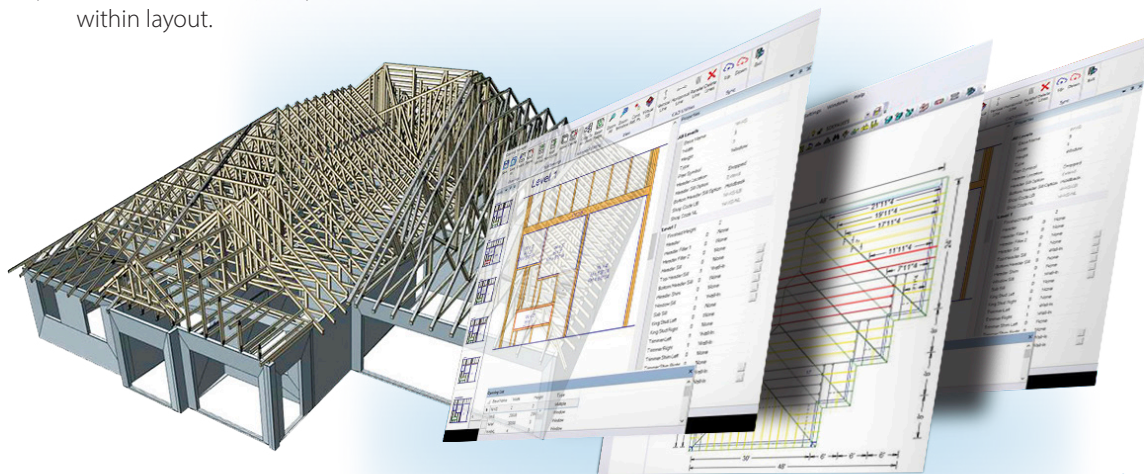
Create custom spreadsheets and job lists. Track progress and share. Introducing new editing capabilities and security features.

### STITCHER®

Enhanced auto capture technology for fast and accurate results with version 2.0.82

### Truss Property Manager

Identify and review trusses quickly within layout.



### iSource

New ProWood FRT fire treatment options for accurate engineering.

### iPanel

Enhanced features for increased flexibility, as well as accurate and fast panel design.

### iDesign

Improved analysis, editing capabilities, and plating results to maximize designer efficiency.



**Antoniya Evans**  
Product Owner

## COLLECT, ANALYZE, AND TAKE ACTION WITH INTELLISHEETS— THE LATEST iCOMMAND FEATURE

iCommand® IntelliSheets takes business management to the next level, saving time with tools created for designers and managers.

Originally introduced with IntelliVIEW® 22.02 software release, IntelliSheets creates custom job lists, tracks progress, and shares live reports easily with different users. Select the most relevant fields, set up sophisticated conditional formatting rules, and create filters to view your data in a convenient, actionable format.

### REAL-TIME DATA

Ensure everyone is on the same page—define, create, edit, and share sheets with different views within the team. This ad-hoc reporting tool allows users to separately collect and access job information. The sheet filters by the current user to highlight their assigned jobs.

From job lists, create to-do lists for designers, create revisions, identify jobs scheduled for delivery, or simply balance a design team's workload by assigning a designer a list of jobs. Search by column or find jobs that contain one condition. The enhanced filtering and conditional formatting will highlight jobs that require special processing. The reporting possibilities are endless.

Manipulate data into different views and save to a number of formats (e.g., xlsx, csv, docx, txt, or pdf). Easily export to Microsoft Excel and continue your data analysis. All the filtering, formatting, and summations are exported with the data. This tool provides the ultimate access to data to help you make decisions quickly.

View data in an actionable format with IntelliSheets.

### ACTIONABLE INSIGHT

IntelliSheets organizes data into a compelling visual format. At a glance, you will be able to see a job status, delivery date, pricing, and take action. Users can edit many fields, including dates, designer, job status, custom fields and notes.

### BETTER COLLABORATION

IntelliSheets enables your team to work better with real-time data, ensuring projects stay on-track. Share to-do lists, jobs scheduled for delivery, and a list of jobs with others for better collaboration. Protect your data and information with enhanced administration controls, allowing users to access sheets while preventing accidental alteration of data. Managers, designers and office admins, can perform their tasks with confidence. Contact your local Alpine® Sales Representative to discover how these data-enhanced tools improve your business today.



# Need Help?

Solve a problem, read expert articles, watch online tutorials and access top-notch support when you need it. At Alpine, we provide our customers with the ultimate support experience. Our passionate Help Desk team is ready to assist every step of the way to ensure you always get the most out of our software.



Help Documentation



Solutions Network



Alpine Academy



Contact Support

**BUILD** MORE.

[alpineITW.com](http://alpineITW.com) | 800.521.9790







**Brian Zengel**  
Product Support Manager

## SIX STEPS FOR TROUBLESHOOTING EQUIPMENT

Efficient troubleshooting minimizes downtime and disruption in the production workflow. It is critical to understand best practices for seamlessly troubleshooting equipment. Alpine® Equipment Support utilizes a six-step process for troubleshooting that helps find and fix problems faster, reduces downtime, tracks reoccurring problems, and reduces labor.

### 1. Problem Identification

The initial “problem” detected is likely a symptom of the root cause. Start by asking key questions to identify the cause—did the problem show up during start up? Was there a crash/damage to the equipment before the problem? How did PM or service part replacement work prior to the problem?

Try to focus on one problem at a time, starting with the biggest pain point and working on it until it is resolved. Then, proceed with the next problem. Solving the root cause may resolve all the associated problems/symptoms.

### 2. Establish a Theory of Probably Cause

Document the list of possible causes and categorize it from highest to lowest probability.

### 3. Establish Plan of Action

Based on the list of probable causes, create and document an action plan. Determine if different personnel and/or tools are needed and are available to help troubleshoot. Try to avoid incorporating used parts (or new parts from a new source) into the

equipment while troubleshooting, which may create unexpected results. If possible, it’s always best when replacing parts to use established parts versus new suspect parts (e.g., new manufacturers).

### 4. Implement the Plan

It’s go time! It is critical to make only one change at a time and test the results after each change. Making more than one change at a time may cause unexpected results, more time back tracking, and unnecessarily replacing good, working parts. If an unexpected result occurs, reverse the steps.

Installing untested used or repaired parts may also cause issues. We strongly encourage testing any used or repaired parts (and tagging with test date and results) prior to stocking in spare parts inventory.

### 5. Verify Full Functionality

Once the initial problem is solved, all aspects of the equipment operation need to be tested to validate that no new or different problems were introduced during troubleshooting. The troubleshooting steps might have to be reversed if a new problem is introduced.

The new problem will need to be reviewed first before making the decision to reverse work that was already completed. If everything is operational, review the work performed and clean up or finish installing what was replaced in Step #4.

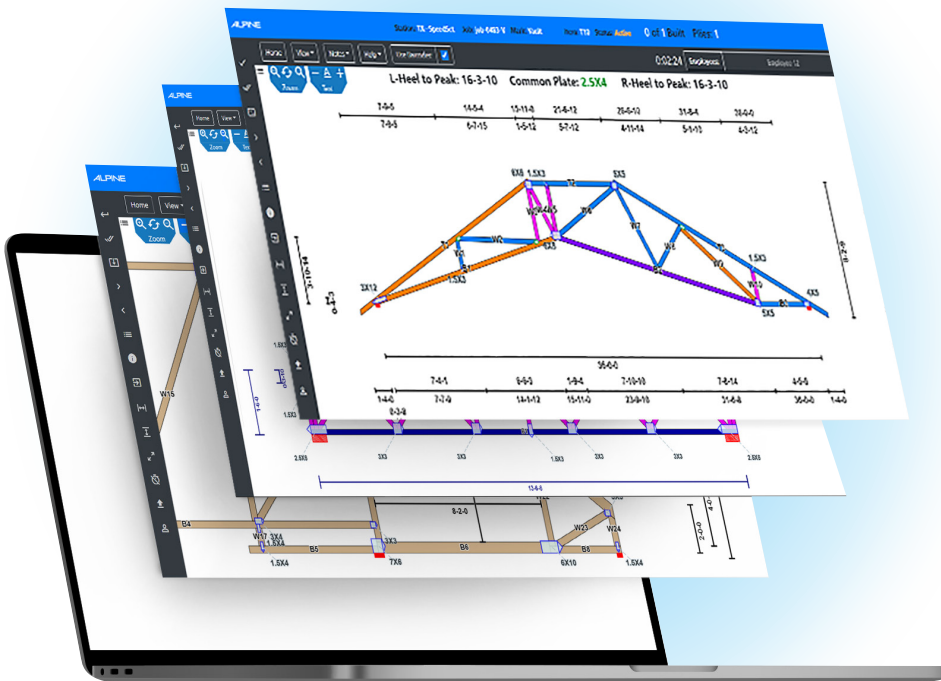
### 6. Document Findings, Actions, and Outcomes

Creating an accessible knowledge base is extremely important. Document the findings, actions, and outcomes to ensure easy access for anyone needing

the information. Documenting significantly reduces any future downtime, resulting in less disruption to the production workflow.

Alpine encourages a proactive strategy for equipment support by utilizing on-line training content (webinars), technical support (phone) and on-site services. Contact Alpine® Support to learn more about our services: [machinerysupport@alpineitw.com](mailto:machinerysupport@alpineitw.com).

## eSHOP | PLANT MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE MADE EASY



### Manage All Production Activity with One Platform

Manage roof truss, floor truss, and wall panel production activity all on one platform.

### Intuitive Web-Based Manual Shop Stations

Access from any device with a browser, without the need to install the software on each station.

### Seamless Automated Equipment Integration

Supports Alpine & multiple third-party equipment. Save time, increase efficiency and accuracy.



**Diego Polanco**  
Product Owner

## SIMPLIFY YOUR WALL PANEL PRODUCTION PROCESS WITH THE PANEL STACKER

Component manufacturers are continually improving production environments to optimize performance in order to maintain market position. Planning and organizational tools are essential for streamlining the production workflow. Wall panel projects in particular require careful planning in order to ensure optimal efficiencies in manufacturing and installing.

When manufacturing a wall panel project, all production panels must be organized into bundles for cutting, assembly, delivery, and installation. Proper panel bundling is as important for manufacturing as it is for installation crews. An error in the bundling results in issues within the production line, materials, shipping, storage, and an overall poor installation experience onsite.

Organizing the wall panels into bundles is a tedious, cumbersome process for panel designers—often taking hours. In a recent IntelliVIEW® Suite (22.01) release, a new tool was introduced in iPanel that improves panel manufacturing and installation—the Panel Stacker.

### THE PANEL STACKER

The Panel Stacker introduces a set of tools and workflows for panel designers to easily organize, bundle, and stack wall panels and beams automatically, semi-automatically, or manually—ultimately allowing designers

to sequence panels and automate bundling in the required order for onsite installation.

### LAYOUT VIEW AND STACKING TOOLS

The new interface effortlessly creates bundles automatically with one simple click per level. Each bundle or group created follows a smart sequence identifying exterior and interior production lines. Designers are afforded the ultimate flexibility with the manual, semi, and automatic aids.

The **Layout View and Stack Grid** utilize colors for bundles and panels to help designers quickly identify elements during pre-production audit. The **Stack Grid** control will also provide the needed information for proper load balancing for shipping.

The **Stack Location Notes** feature marks the ultimate location of the stack for onsite installation.





### STACK VIEW AND PANEL TOOLS

The **Stack Elevation View** will show all the panels within a stack and provide important information for the designer (e.g., panel label, length, openings, sheathing, angle cut, and framing details). Panels will be highlighted with colors to quickly identify problems, variation of the most common height, rotated panels, among others.

The **Stack View** is a visual representation of the stack, allowing designers to move panels with ease to a precise position within a stack, from stack

to stack, top to bottom or bottom to top, left to right, rotate the panels and/or beams, or add forklift blocks—the flexibility is yours. Lastly, designers will be able to apply global modifications to panel labels to improve sequencing.

Panel Stacker simplifies the bundling and stacking process—saving time panel designers spend on creating bundles and stacking while minimizing the potential issues executing the project. Contact your local Alpine® Sales Representative about how to leverage these tools to improve your business today.



[Click here](#) to see how the Panel Stacker can automatically visualize and stack panels for seamless production and shipping.



ASK  
ALPINE

## WHY DOES THE TRUSS LOCATION OR “A” DISTANCE MATTER REGARDING WIND LOADING?

Wind can approach from many different directions when designing roof trusses on a structure. It is important to know where the truss is located in the structure to determine the amount of wind pressure needed to be applied to the truss design.

Main Wind Force Resisting System (MWFRS) has different zones. For example, when the wind direction is normal to the ridge, the trusses on the edge of the structure will have a higher wind pressure as opposed to trusses that are in the middle of the structure.

The “a” distance refers to the width of pressure coefficient zone. It’s the zone of high wind pressure when calculating C&C wind pressures.

When designing trusses in iModel, these zones and distances are considered so the user can take advantage of less wind pressure and therefore smaller uplift reactions and connections to optimize truss designs.

*William H. Krick P.E., Chief Engineer*

### HELP DESK



**Nathan Mangoff**  
Help Desk Analyst

## ACCESSING LOCKED JOBS

Trying to open a job, but nothing happens? This could happen if the job is locked.

Locked jobs help prevent potential errors in the database from multiple users attempting to make changes at the same time. If open and active jobs are unlocked by multiple users, proper precautions are needed to ensure work is not lost.



Image 1. Lock icon in iCommand.

### HOW TO UNLOCK A JOB

- 1 To lock and/or unlock a job in iCommand, simply click the **Lock** icon (Image 1). The job does not have to be active or in use to be locked.
- 2 A job is also locked when it is in use by another user. The primary user must navigate to another job or set a different job as active to unlock it.
- 3 Use the **Job Locks** settings in iCommand’s Administration menu (Image 2) to manually unlock open or active jobs. **Locked iCommand Jobs** lists all the locked jobs, and **Locked Jobs** only lists jobs locked due to being active.

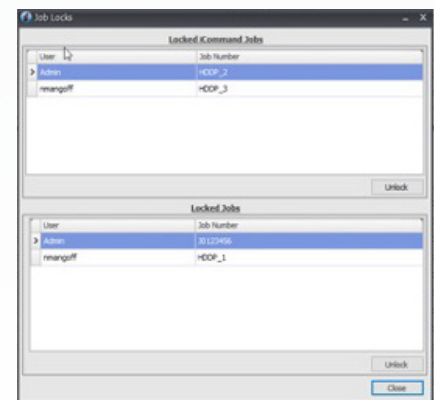


Image 2. Administration menu in iCommand.

# DREAM BIG DREAMS

Article courtesy of SBCA – Structural Building Components Association

With big homes come big challenges and EBD is prepared to meet them.

Making someone's dream home a reality can be a challenging process, especially when it's an 24,000+ square foot house and party barn that includes an underground man cave and a tunnel running between the two structures. Yet, a project like this allowed Engineered Building Design (EBD) and its Washington, Iowa-based team to shine. Through value-engineered component framing solutions, creative problem solving, and effective communication throughout the supply chain, the EBD team played an integral role in the successful construction of this massive house.

## THE DREAM TEAM

"On a project of this complexity, the key to success is having a good team to work with," says Dave Mitchell, owner and general manager of EBD. "Fortunately, we had a solid group of partners we knew we could work closely with based on past projects." EBD works regularly with all the major players who were involved, from the general contractor (Mellinger and Sons Construction), to the framer (Spratt Builders), architect (Prull Custom Designs), EOR (Select Structural Engineering), and lumberyard (Suburban Lumber).

Dave and EBD operations manager, Zach Shepherd, agreed that these prior relationships enabled them to get to work quickly evaluating the initial plans, identifying conflicts and opportunities for optimization, and establishing deadlines. "Not only did it let us hit the ground running, but it allowed us to efficiently provide feedback on how to design and build the most efficient structure," says Zach. "There just isn't a substitute for trust and good communication."



Every individual on the EBD team played an important role. Dave's brother, Mark, has years of framing experience and not only sold the job, but also proposed multiple solutions to load path challenges during plan review. Dave and Jacob Bauer designed all the wall panels, and Zach designed the floor and roof trusses, and worked with the engineer to size all the steel and LVL beams.

## VALUE-ENGINEERED SOLUTIONS

There were many ways in which EBD team harnessed the power and flexibility of the modern-day truss to optimize the structure. For instance, the party barn housed an indoor pool requiring a 60' x 60' clear span area. The design was complicated by the fact that one of the exterior bearing walls was made almost entirely of glass. [CONTINUE READING](#)



Click here to read the full article "Dream Big Dreams" in SBCA Magazine