

Questions and Answers from the 3-28-17 EFT Webinar

1. Are there plans in the near future to make EFT compatible with Windows versions 8 & 10? EFT is currently only compatible with Windows 7

* Yes, a version of EFT compatible with Windows 10 is in the final stages of testing and will be deployed very soon.

2. Is there a process to get the NOAA 14 in the program for different states?

* We have a Hydrology Tool in progress that will replace the existing internal hydrology calculations. The Hydrology Tool will include all the current rainfall and distribution data.

3. What about EFH-2 compatibility with Office 365?

* I will look into that with the test lab here in Fort Collins. I was not aware that was an issue. Thank you for bringing it to my attention.

4. During Eric's presentation several components in a design must be obtained outside the Engineering software, how come all components are not included in the software. This mandates a planner to go back and forth instead of getting all information from one program.

* The Hydrology Tool now in-progress will address all needs for hydrology information. The other data such as soils, vegetation, etc. will be addressed when EFT is integrated to the Conservation Desktop.

5. When will NOAA be used in the WW calculations?

* As soon as we have the resources to complete the Hydrology Tool that will then provide all hydrology needs to the EFT tools.

6. Do you have any idea when those tools will be available?

* I wish I could provide an estimate, but we are at the mercy of very limited budget and human resources. Our new Deputy Chief is advocating strongly for EFT, but it will likely be another couple of years.

7. In waterways. If you hit the enter button or push the finish button it will close the waterway sizing wizard and you start over.

* The finish button on the WW sizing wizard is really more like a Close button rather than a Finish button. Using the Back button is the better way to go I think. The only way to get output from the Utilities is to use the Print button and generate a report. Use the Tab key to move between fields.

8. When will the program be able to install on Windows 10?

* We are completing final testing of a Windows 10 compatible version. It should be deployed very soon.

9. Will LiDAR be utilized for Pipelines or Waterways, etc.?

* LiDAR can be used for any of the 3D type of designs. The responsible state engineer will need to determine whether it should be used for planning only vs for final design. Do not use the raw LiDAR data, but use the processed GeoTIFF and supporting contour shapefile to input into SET.

10. Will the Farm pond tool include liner design?

* We have not yet developed the requirements for the Farm Pond tool.

11. I never have used this program. Do I need to download it?

* If you are a NRCS employee, your IT staff will need to install it on your computer. Then you will need to use the Update from the Help menu. If not, you will need to download it from eft.nrcs.usda.gov

12. Is there a plan to have profiles output on 11x17 like the map sheets?

*Not at the present time.

13. What format does LiDAR information have to be in in order to be used as a surface or DEM

*See the answer to number 10

14. Are there any plans to integrate a wetland design tool into EFT?

*A specific tool for wetland design is not on the list, but features of other tools such as the water and sediment control basin in TDT might be applicable. Features of the planned Farm Pond tool might also be applicable.

15. Is there a possibility to have the grade breaks on profiles, station/elevation

*This is not currently on the list of enhancements, but it can be considered.

16. How can you transfer points from a terrace design that you have done in EFT back into the R-10 surveyor? I had designed a set of terraces on EFT, but was unable to flag them due to the weather here in NW Iowa.

*There is a guidance document for uploading the alignment into Trimble GPS units on the Iowa NRCS website.

17. When I enter a number and press enter on the keyboard, why does it also close the window? This happens at least one time per waterway. If this could be fixed it would save me at least a day a year in frustration and time.

*Use the TAB key on the keyboard to move between data entry fields. A fix or change will be investigated.

18. Currently my state does not utilize Tractive Stress... how will that be handled in CDSI?

*The EFT software will be the engineering design tool set for CDSI, and the tractive stress design methodology is already used in EFT.

19. How will EFT be linked to AutoCAD?

There is not a direct link. Currently surfaces can be exported from EFT and imported into AutoCAD.

20. How about Water Control and Sediment Basins (WASCBS)?

*That is an option available in the Terrace Design Tool.

21. Could someone explain limiting slope on parabolic waterway shape?

*The purpose of the Limiting Slope value for a parabolic waterway is to ensure that the waterway is crossable with farming equipment. If the cross sectional slope at the outer edge of the parabolic waterway shape would be steeper than the specified value then the waterway design will be flatten out until it meets the limiting slope value.

22. In the Waterway tool, are there options to evaluate stone center waterways or check dam scenarios?

*Not at this time.

23. Does it make sense to use EFT for complete design packages for those who have and know how to use AutoCAD Civil 3D?

*That really is an individual preference issue.

24. Which tools are going to take a couple of years? Hydrology Tools?

*Hydrology Tools is one of the top priorities and funding is expected in FY18.

25. The hydrology issue of not using NOAA 14 is not as much of a problem for waterways since you can override the cfs from an outside tool, but the WASCob relies on it.

*Completion of the Hydrology Tool will solve this issue.