

SEER Solutions: Estimation News from Galorath Incorporated

Included in this issue:

SEER for Software 8.0.14 Release

SEER for Manufacturing 6.1.30 with SEER-Aerostructures 3.1.24 Release

SEER Solutions Showcase in El Segundo, CA

Upcoming Tradeshows and Conferences

Recent Tradeshows and Conference Engagements

Did You Know?

Discover Our Developer's Blog

Dan on Estimating Blog

Previews from the Development Lab

Upcoming SEER Workshops

Consult our Archived SEER Webinars

Upcoming Webinars

SEER for Software 8.0.14 Release

Summary of Changes

SEER for Software, Version 8.0.14 was released on January 28, 2011. There are a number of enhancements and changes contained in this release to SEER-SEM (including some new Data Driven Estimating features), SEER-Metrics, SEER Enterprise Shared Database, Project Monitoring & Control, and the Integration to Microsoft Project. Release notes outlining changes are included in the installation folder, in addition, a PDF version of the user guide and detailed reference are available in the Tools folder.

Once you log on, go to the subscriptions page and click the URL for your SEER for Software product or feature and click the download button. After you have saved the file to your local computer, you may run it to extract the installation files. Once extracted, look in the SEER-SEM folder for setup.exe to install.

This is a maintenance update and will upgrade your existing SEER-SEM 8.0 installation. You may use your existing license file for this new version. Please contact support@galorath.com if you have any questions.

SEER for Manufacturing 6.1.30 with SEER-Aerostructures 3.1.24 Release

Summary of Changes

SEER for Manufacturing, Version 6.1.30 was released on February 25, 2011, containing significant changes in the machining database as well as the addition of new machining operations and other enhancements.

Once you log on, go to the subscriptions page and click the URL for your SEER for Manufacturing / Aerostructures product or feature and click the download button. After you have saved the file to your local computer, you may run it to extract the installation files. Once extracted, look in the SEER-MFG folder for setup.exe to install.

This is a maintenance update and will upgrade your existing SEER-MFG 6.1 installation. You may use your existing license file for this new version. Please contact support@galorath.com if you have any questions.

SEER Solutions Showcase in El Segundo, CA

February 22nd, we had a successful Solutions Showcase seminar, highlighting estimating best practices and the most recent enhancements to the SEER suite of application software. Attendees learned about the latest product and capabilities, met with Galorath representatives, networked and shared best practices with other SEER users. Thank you for joining us this year and we look forward to seeing you at a future -Showcase.

Upcoming Conferences & Tradeshows

ISPA/SCEA Workshop

March 16th - El Segundo, CA

Galorath is pleased to be hosting the next Southern California ISPA/SCEA March workshop. It will be held at the Pacific Corporate Towers in El Segundo, CA. If you would like to register, please contact Kelly Timko at ktimko@galorath.com. Speakers will include a keynote by Dan Galorath, CEO of Galorath Incorporated, Karen McRitchie, Vice President Product Development, Galorath Inc., speaking on "Behind the SEER-SEM 8.0 Updates", Rick Garcia, Director, Space Programs Cost Analysis, MCR LLC, will discuss "Budgeting to the Mean", Mike Ross and Tony Dietl, Tecolote Research, will present "Anatomy of a Software Estimate", Pierre Foussier, President, 3-f (Paris, France), will present "How to Deal with Qualitative Variables", Quentin Redman, Director - Solutions Architect, PRICE Systems LLC, will discuss "Controlling Cost Growth Through Will Cost/Should Cost Management", and Dr. Jairus Hihn, Risk Manager, JPL, will present "How Engineers Really Think About Risk".

IBM Innovate

June 5-9, 2011 - Orlando, FL

Lee Fischman, Sr. Director of Development will be presenting on a panel at this conference on the topic Model Based Systems Engineering, along with Co-presenters Mark Coats, General Dynamics; Marcia Stinson, Ravenflow; Harry Koehnemann, Rocket Gang; Justin Dyer, IBM; Graham Bleakley, IBM; Andrew J. Berner, IBM.

ISPA SCEA Conference

June 6-7, 2011 - Albuquerque, NM

Galorath Incorporated is proud to be a sponsor of this national event. Steven Sultzer, Sr. Consultant at Galorath, will be presenting a paper on "Improving Baseline Execution – A Parametric Approach". Don't forget to visit us at our booth. For more information you can visit their website at <https://www.sceaonline.org/events/conference/conferences.cfm?>

Recent Conference Appearances

Program Management Assistance Group (PMAG) Symposium in Los Angeles, CA

February 16-17, we sponsored the PMAG, and were able to discuss estimating concerns with those who visited our booth. Steven Sultzer, Sr. Consultant at Galorath Incorporated presented a paper entitled, "Improving Baseline Execution – A Parametric Approach". You can download a copy of his presentation here: http://www.galorath.com/pdf/sultzer_galorath_pmag2011.pdf.

NASA's Project Management Challenge Conference in Long Beach, CA

February 9-10, we had a booth and Dan Galorath presented a paper entitled, "What Program Managers Need to Know About Software Estimating and its Impact On Successful Missions." You can download a copy of his presentation here:

<http://www.galorath.com/pdf/NASAPMChallenge2011WhatProgramManagersNeedtoKnowAboutSoftwareCost.pdf>.

GITEC in Orlando, FL

March 6-8th, we had a booth at this premier forum for government leaders, industry and academia to share ideas, challenges and successes surrounding the implementation, management and use of Information Technology. For more information on this conference, you can visit their website at

<https://sites.google.com/site/gitecorg/>.

Did You Know?

SEER for Software (SEER-SEM)

- **Did you know SEER-SEM can use your history of completed projects to calibrate an estimate or to estimate the size of an element?** New to version 8.0, the Analogy Based Estimating and Analogy Based Sizing features allow you to choose exactly which projects in the SEER Historical Database (SEER-HD) you want to use as analogies for calibrating your estimate or estimating size.
- **Did you know SEER-SEM has a feature to guide new or casual users through the process of creating an estimate?** The new Project Assistant is a guided estimating experience for creating all or part of a SEER-SEM project. Once information is entered, the Project Assistant loads the estimate information in SEER-SEM, creating a new project or adding to an existing project. The Project Assistant is a wonderful interface for new or infrequent users of the model.
- **Did you know you can customize the help content?** More Help and Parameter Help topics are now saved as individual *.htm files. If you want to add or edit the content, simply make your changes to the file and then save. The next time the topic is called by SEER-SEM, your edits will be seen.

- **Did you know there is a “Find” feature in SEER-SEM?** Provides a quick way to locate a specific parameter in the Inputs tabs or a specific element in the Project WBS. Open the dialog from the Edit menu or using the Ctrl+F keyboard shortcut.
- **Did you know the MSP Integration issue that resulted in a zero estimate has been resolved in the SEER-SEM 8.0.14 release?** When creating a project, you can now select the ‘No – Run SEER-SEM silently’ option and get the correct results.

SEER for IT

- **Did you know the SEER-IT 2.0.16 maintenance release is now available?** This version includes several enhancements that were introduced in the SEER-SEM 8.0 release. Reports and charts can be opened in a standalone window allowing you to view multiple reports and charts at the same time. There is a new option to include or exclude notes when saving a project. Also when you create an element, you will see that the Create/Modify Work Element dialog has been updated to include a guidance pane with context-sensitive HTML help and links. In addition to the enhancements, the maintenance release includes miscellaneous fixes reported by users. Please read the release notes for complete details.

SEER for Manufacturing (SEER-MFG)

- **Did you know SEER-Aerostructure models are now included** with SEER for Manufacturing by default? If you currently do not license SEER-Aerostructure elements, you still have read only access to them.
- **Did you know that SEER-MFG 6.1 has two new Aero Fitup models;** namely, Cable/Harness, and Tube Assembly installation.
- **Did you know the Detailed Composites Model has a new Additional Plies table?** The detailed composites work element supports up to 50 additional plies. You can now precisely model the insertion of special plies, such as peel plies, or metal inserts. The additional ply data is customizable and stored in the composites.INI file.
- **Did you know that Buildup and Core entries in the Detailed Composites Model support up to 50 entries per work element?**

SEER for Hardware, Electronics & Systems (SEER-H)

- **Did You Know there is an Initial Spares/ Recurring Spares in Detail Operations and Support Report:**

Definitions for Initial Spares:

The number of fully assembled spares required to seed the spares pipeline at the outset of operations. When defining operating site relationships for hardware elements, you may specify initial

spares on

hand at each site, reducing the number of initial spares otherwise required in the spares pipeline.

Definitions for Recurring Spares:

The number of fully assembled spares that will be purchased after operations have commenced. This is the total number of spares purchased for the duration of operations. Spikes in operational activity and

condemned units will drive the number of recurring spares. Initial spares on hand at an operational site may reduce the number of recurring spares if sufficiently high.

When **no** initial spares are specified at an operational site, SEER-H would compute the required Initial Spares and Recurring Spares for the work element.

When an Initial Spares input is added to an operational site, the Initial Spares in Detail Operations and Support report would be reduced in proportion to the parameter input.

When the Initial Spares input exceeds the SEER-H computed Initial Spares, the Recurring Spares output in Detail Operations and Support report would then be reduced.

- **Did You Know the "Evaluate Multiple Maintenance Concepts** feature allows you to evaluate a wide range of knowledge base scenarios namely Operations and Support, Acquisition Category, and Standard. The outcome of this analysis permits you to arrange a uniquely cost-minimizing maintenance arrangement.

Evaluation can be for the selected work element, the selected work element and subordinates, or the entire project. SEER-H will compute an Operations and Support Cost and a Life Cycle Cost (System Level Costs are not included at rollups/ project) for each maintenance concept selected.

- **Did You Know** Many useful tools are shipped with our SEER-H model. These tools are easily accessible from a short cut in the Windows Menu to SEER-H's TOOLS folder.

SEER-IC Score Card.xls:

Use this tool to determine the range for parameter "Developer Capability and Experience" by assessing the overall experience (efficiency) of the team. A highly experienced team working on designs similar to those worked in the past should do them with less effort than those that don't have this type of focused experience base. Ensure that the experience in question is within key technology being used (i.e. 130nm CMOS, 90nm CMOS, etc). Just being in the business for a long time does not automatically mean high experience. Technologies evolve rapidly and require continuous retooling and retraining. What worked great in past technologies may not work well in new ones.

SEER-H Proposal Report Generator.xls:

Use this tool to generate proposal narrative reports for work elements in SEER-H. Development categories can be selected to use in the Basis of Estimate at 50% and 80% Probability.

Discover our Developer's Blog

Want to get the latest information on what is going on with SEER products? Looking for tips and tricks? The blog includes helpful information on recent updates, product announcements, installation issues as

well as ideas and insight on how to best use the SEER estimating models. We have been seeding our developers' blog with all sorts of useful information. Recent posts include:

- SEER-MFG 6.1.30 with SEER-Aero 3.1.24 is officially released
- SEER for Software 8.0.14 is officially released!
- SEER for Hardware 7.1.68 with SEER-EOS 2.1.54 is officially released

Check it out at: <http://www.galorath.com/index.php/services/support/>

Keep your topic suggestions coming!

Dan on Estimating Blog

Visit [Dan Galorath on Estimating \(http://www.galorath.com/wp/\)](http://www.galorath.com/wp/), our other must-read blog with something for everyone. Recent posts include:

- Software Project Monitoring & Control
- Lessons Learned On Major Engineering Program: Viable Cost Estimates Needed
- \$500 Billion IT Debt For Deferred Maintenance

Subscribe to both blogs and receive the latest posts directly via email.

Receive the blogs via an RSS feed. When you subscribe to the feed, it is added to your Common Feed List. Updated information from the feed is automatically downloaded to your computer and can be viewed in Internet Explorer and other programs.

Preview from the Development Lab

SEER for Software (SEER-SEM)

Work Breakdown Structure enhancements including Drag and Drop functionality and multi-element selection actions. Also, the Change Parameters in Multiple Elements feature will have a new user interface, giving the user more control and making it easier to make global changes.

SEER Historical Database (SEER-HD)

Soon you will be able to import SEER-SEM projects directly into the SEER Historical Database (SEER-HD). This will be useful, for example, when you want to save the results of a project estimated using SEER-SEM and then follow through to actual completion. Once saved into the Historical Database, these project actuals are available for use in estimating future projects.

SEER for Manufacturing (SEER-MFG)

We are excited to announce a new maintenance release of SEER-MFG 6.1. This release includes major updates to the machining operations and the introduction of a Labor4-0 machining database. Almost all of the machining operations are based on an updated data set of commonly used feed and speed data. Machining estimates are more transparent than ever, and allow much more configurability so users can model their specific machining requirements very precisely.

In addition to the database updates, there are seven new machining operations: End Mill Slot Rough, Centerless Grind Rough, Cylindrical Grind Rough, Thread Cutting, Thread Milling, Thread Rolling, and Lapping. High Speed Rough and Finish operations now have a new machine details option.

Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) models have been enhanced; each work element now supports up to ten NDT operations.

All Aerostructures work elements have been updated to use the same Mark Part, Package Part, and NDT models as all other standard MFG work elements.

A new Metal Bonding Prep operation has been added to the Aero Sheet Metal element.

SEER Workshops

Private Workshops

The majority of SEER training takes place at private workshops arranged at customer locations. If you would like to bring SEER training to your organization's location, please [contact us](mailto:info@galorath.com?subject=SEER%20Private%20Workshop%20Information) (info@galorath.com?subject=SEER Private Workshop Information) for details.

Public Workshops

SEER for Software (SEER-SEM) - Core

March 28, 2011 - March 30, 2011
El Segundo, CA

May 02, 2011 - May 04, 2011
Washington DC Area

June 06, 2011 - June 08, 2011
El Segundo, CA

September 26, 2011 - September 28, 2011
Washington DC Area

October 31, 2011 - November 02, 2011
El Segundo, CA

SEER for Software (SEER-SEM) - Advanced

March 31, 2011 - April 01, 2011
El Segundo, CA

May 05, 2011
Washington DC Area

June 09, 2011
El Segundo, CA

September 29, 2011
Washington DC

November 03, 2011
El Segundo, CA

SEER for Hardware, Electronics & Systems (SEER-H) - Core

July 11, 2011 - July 13, 2011

Washington DC Area

November 14, 2011 - November 16, 2011

El Segundo, CA

SEER for Hardware, Electronics & Systems (SEER-H) - Advanced

July 14, 2011 - July 15, 2011

Washington DC Area

November 17, 2011 - November 18, 2011

El Segundo, CA

SEER for IT - Core

June 21, 2011 - June 23, 2011

El Segundo, CA

September 20, 2011 - September 22, 2011

Washington DC Area

To register for a SEER public workshop, [click here](http://www.galorath.com/index.php/services/register-workshop/)
(<http://www.galorath.com/index.php/services/register-workshop/>).

Register for an upcoming SEER Webinar

Technology Preview of Integration to Rhapsody

March 29, 2011

IBM Rational's Rhapsody is now connected with SEER for Hardware, permitting costs to be obtained for even basic concepts. By producing SEER projects at very early stages of the development lifecycle, the Rhapsody-SEER integration helps to better integrate the work of systems and cost engineers.

- Learn how basic concept diagrams translate into SEER for Hardware projects.
- See how a direct connection can be made between systems and costs modeling.
- Check out how SEER integrates into UML 2.0

Discover Practical Applications for Historical Data within SEER for Software

April 12, 2011

Discover the role of the Historical Database within the SEER for Software product.

Learn:

- The ability to plot an estimate
- How to quickly generate a size estimate using specific data points
- The ability refine your estimate to actual performance values found in the historical database

Join us to see how your projects can benefit!

See the whole list of webinars & register at

<http://www.galorath.com/index.php/news/webinars/>.

Consult our Archived SEER Webinars

Have you missed a SEER Webinar, our no-cost, web-based briefings hosted by one of our SEER experts? We've added several recent Webinars to our online archives. To access them, you'll need to register for our [Corporate Library](http://www.galorath.com/index.php/library/) (<http://www.galorath.com/index.php/library/>). Here are just a few of the new Webinars you can view:

Cloud Planning and Governance – Business Analysis – Using Best Integrated Practices and Tools

Cloud computing offers tremendous opportunities and return-on-investment, however, you need to approach this carefully, with a focus on goals and objectives.

For organizations to maximize value and mitigate risks, you need a process to prioritize, strategize, analyze and plan for the cloud. This includes managing and demonstrating results quantitatively, rather than subjectively.

Business Analysis, industry frameworks, methods, techniques and tools provide significant complementary information that can be leveraged many ways to simplify data collection and analysis. Many of the tools are easily integrated and can be calibrated and configured to satisfy specific areas of interest and focus.

This presentation provides a useful roadmap when considering cloud computing solutions for planning, prioritizing, managing, and demonstrating return-on-investment and value from IT and business perspectives.

To view, visit: http://www.galorath.com/flash_presentations/cloud_webinar020811/

GAO Cost Estimating and Assessment Guide: Best Practices for Developing and Managing Cost Estimates

The GAO assists Congress in its oversight of the federal government and its stewardship of public funds. Developing reliable cost estimates is critical to the effective use of public funds to avoid cost overruns, schedule slips and performance shortfalls. The GAO Cost Estimating and Assessment Guide was developed in consultation with a community of experts from the federal government and industry to establish a consistent methodology based on best practices, to be used across the federal government for the development and management of its program cost estimates. This presentation by GAO Sr. Cost Analyst Karen Richey will provide:

- An overview of the Guide
- Intended Benefits of the Guide
- Recent GAO Reports based on criteria in the Guide
- Case Studies Showing How GAO Used the Guide as Audit Criteria
- Invitation to participate in future expert meetings at GAO

To view, visit: http://www.galorath.com/flash_presentations/gao_webinar_012511/

A Software Sizing Metric for the Metrics Challenged: Function Based Sizing

SEER's Function Based Sizing (FBS) is a much easier way to scope software. If you have a basic idea of what an application is going to look like, perhaps based on a set of requirements, or story points, you can use FBS to scope your project. It also translates into industry-standard function points. FBS is the best kept secret in the software metrics world; it's been around for over 15 years. You wouldn't leave a ruler out of your toolbox, right? It's time you, too, discovered FBS.

To view, visit: http://www.galorath.com/flash_presentations/fbs_webinar_011111/

Please forward this newsletter to your colleagues!



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