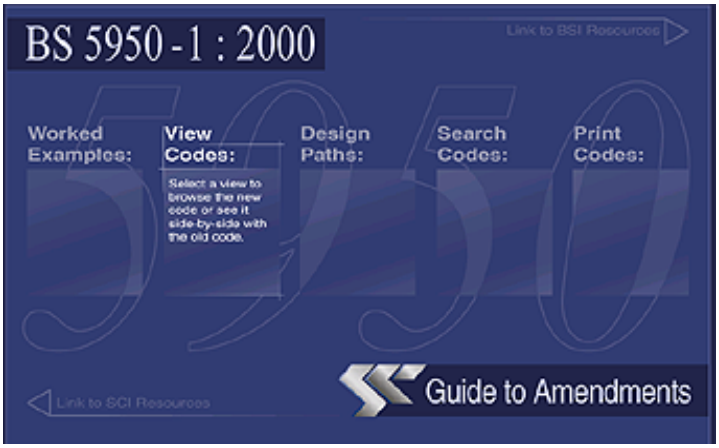
Project: **BS5950: Part 1: 2000**
Client: **The British Standards Institute and SCI**
Date: **2000 - Present** Status: **Live**
Link: http://sci-bs5950.steel-sci.org/bs5950web/ Contact: **j.moran@steel-sci.com**



Background

The key code of practice for steel designers in the U.K. is BS5950: Part 1. This was last revised in 1990 and was long overdue the major re-evaluation in 2000. The SCI approached the BSI with a view to exploring the means by which the transition between increasingly complex codes could be assisted using electronic media. An agreement evolved whereby the SCI took on the task of re-engineering the basic Word documents supplied by the BSI.

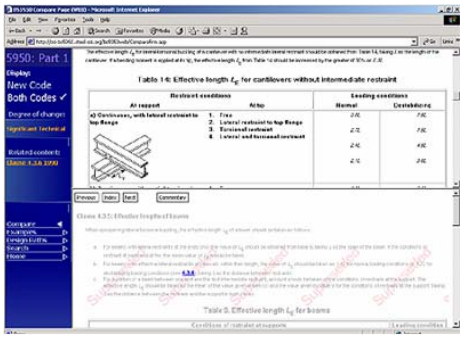
Objective

The aim was to evolve a new product that would make both the transition between code versions and the basic use of the code of practice more user-friendly. Full user workshops suggested that the following features were required of the electronic version of BS5950 (e-5950). The key elements were:

- Comparison on a clause to clause basis of old code (1990) and new code (2000), with old to new and new to old mapping and browsing synchronisation;
- Technical explanation of the changes made between clauses;
- Worked examples of application linked to the appropriate clauses;
- For the novice designers, dynamic flow paths through typical design sequences;
- All of the above within an easy-to use interface.

Features

This is a pure XML implementation. The code information was redefined as an advanced XML DTD. This included the rendering of the equations (in MathML) and of the figures (in VML). Content is strictly separated from style, which is implemented through XSL layers.



The relationships between a sub-clause element of either code and corresponding sub-clause(s) of the other documents are implemented through a relational database. In the standalone version this is carried by the MS MSDE component, which is an installable version of the full SQL-Server engine used to power the companion network product.

Outcomes

Over 300 licences for the software have been purchased. Many of these are networked licences permitting multiple users within organisations. The product works on standalone MS 9x, 2000 and XP platforms, MS NT level servers and as a pure web-based product. The product is being steadily expanded through the addition of more worked examples. The product is designed to enable the addition of the next code transition (to EN 1993-3) as the construction industry begins to use the Eurocodes. See also: http://shop.steelbiz.org/Category.pasp?txtCatalog=SCI%20CD-ROMs&txtCategory=Electronic%20Codes.