**Q: How is the Decision Analyzer similar/different from Manpower Productivity Expert?**

**A:** Manpower Productivity Expert is an expert system developed by Icarus that gives you a productivity for your location based on your responses to their questions. Decision Analyzer is based on a single productivity value and doesn't adjust for political climates, weather during construction, etc.

**NOTE:** Manpower Productivity Expert is only available on 32-bit operating systems.

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**Q: How can you address changes in shop fabrication/site fabrication philosophy?**

**A:** We have a shop fabrication methodology that doesn't change when projects are moved to new locations. You can decide if you want a field shop or a remote shop. Field shops use more local conditions, whereas remote shops require your own indexing values to determine the Shop Fabrication Labor, especially if you believe there are significant changes in how that fabrication is done in a local shop versus what Aspen Capital Cost Estimator (ACCE) calculated for a Country Base Location.

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**Q: Can the P&ID be exported to AutoCAD with a new data set?**

**A:** Aspen Capital Cost Estimator cannot export P&IDs into AutoCAD. ACCE can export information to Microsoft Excel. Our Volumetric P&IDs are drawn in an Intergraph product and that information could potentially be exported.

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**Q: How accurate are your calculations? Have you compared your calculations to real projects?**

**A:** Customers have used ACCE for over 40 years. We expect the accuracy to be based on the quality of the scope put into the estimate. Many of our customers have been able to get a ±10% estimate out of ACCE. When you use Decision Analyzer, it will not be this accurate, resulting in a ±25%, even if the original estimate is ±10%.

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**Q: Are costs and man-hours changed for quoted items when the location is changed?**

**A:** Yes, the quoted items are changed according to the currency exchange rate specified in the system. The man-hours are adjusted based on productivity adjustments.
Q: Is there a mechanism for overriding some of the auto adjustments that the system applies during relocation to address project specific requirements?
A: You cannot directly adjust what Decision Analyzer is doing because the logic is complex. We handle adjustments from any location base in the country you’re going to. By using the report of what we’ve generated, you can view what we’ve changed and then go back into that project and make readjustments. The intention is that Decision Analyzer provides a quick starting point, allowing you to review what Decision Analyzer has done and make your own adjustments. This saves considerable amounts of time by automatically changing a lot of other parameters in your project.

Q: What are your recommendations on how to conduct a survey, such as specific firms?
A: The recommendation is to look at your original project and survey to find the materials that will significantly impact the cost. For example, if you have a lot of 6” schedule 40 pipe, you should survey to find the cost of that component in the new location. You wouldn’t want to do the same for paint, for example, because it’s a small contributor to the overall cost.

Q: Is there a report that can be generated in ACCE for RFP quotes for bid purposes on equipment, construction, materials, etc.?
A: We aren’t entirely certain on this. Reporting in ACCE is fairly open to creating custom reports with Excel or Crystal. Our customers have been able to write the reports they need out of the data in the access database.

Q: Does the rate for equipment rental and small tools change when the location changes?
A: The cost for small tools is built into the local wage rates. The equipment rental is adjusted to local currency.

Q: What is the base location for ACCE out of the box?
A: The US Gulf Coast is the base location for ACCE.

Q: Is Colombia included in the 59 available locations?
A: Yes, Medelin, Columbia, is one of the locations built into the Decision Analyzer.

Q: Do you have multiple locations within a country built into the Decision Analyzer?
A: Yes, for example China has 3 locations and Canada has 6 locations.

Q: Does Aspen Capital Cost Estimator modify the Richardson plant break down based on the actual estimated values for the project being relocated?
A: Richardson’s is only used as one source for relocation and doesn’t use Richardson values directly. As stated for each bulk, we determine what is locally sourced and what is import and use that to adjust the material cost index.
Q: What is the relevant location factor for estimating project costs for a Northern Alberta location compared to the US Gulf coast location?
A: We do not have that information built into the Decision Analyzer. It should be easy to complete a market basket survey for this location factor.

Q: Does the design have to be completed in order to know the exact amount of civil work, cost of construction, installation of equipment, etc. in order to be able to compare the cost of construction and installation on two sites in the same country?
A: Yes, the design has to be completed to know the exact quantities in order to arrive at a final estimate. The Decision Analyzer will help with the comparison of costs using a constant scope, even if this is not the final scope of the project. Following the Decision Analyzer methodology will allow you to compare these costs even if the Decision Analyzer does not have the sites available in its relocation list.

Want to learn more about estimating project locations? 
Discuss this FAQ document with your industry peers!