



# Mobile Adjusting

## SIMSOL's Turbulent Times

### Mobile Adjusting - Being Truly "Mobile" is Key by Jennifer Daly

Any "Field Adjuster" knows that he is never working in a field nor a vacuum.

In reality, he could spend all day in his car or truck, all day in a hotel room in the middle of nowhere or sitting in a restaurant at 2AM with a pot of coffee. He could also be at a site scoping damages... and once in a blue moon, he will be in his office at home or at the contracting carrier.

At SIMSOL, we prefer the term "Mobile Adjuster" for these scoping road warriors.

But to truly be a "Mobile Adjuster", what tools are required?

**Here are few...**

- a car or truck (preferably four-wheel drive)
- a cell phone
- a GPS
- a laptop with estimating software: The laptop should have a wireless card, an Ethernet connection, or a modem.
- two printers and a mobile desktop and power to run your computer off the cigarette lighter
- a PDA
- a digital camera

- feet/inch calculator
- A tape measure
- Measuring wheels for distance — Measure markers
- Rubber Boots
- Face Masks (dust and mold)
- a clipboard and pens, pencils, and chalk
- a ladder
- a flashlight
- a toolbox (hammer, screwdriver, wrenches, drills)
- Tons of batteries; various sizes
- water, and perhaps coffee
- portable food
- knife
- shingle gauge
- magnifying glass
- magnet
- pitch gauge
- putty knife
- policies
- business cards

....and lots of patience!

### SIMSOL is On The Road!

**April 2-5, 2006 -  
PLRB  
Nashville, TN Gaylord Opryland  
Resort and Convention Center -  
Booth #1123**

**May 7-10, 2006  
WYO  
Wyndham Philadelphia  
at Franklin Plaza, Philadelphia, PA**

**May 10-13, 2006  
NAIIA  
Rosen Centre, Orlando, FL**

**September 17-20, 2006  
NAMIC  
Tampa Marriott Waterside &  
Tampa Convention Center**

**Need a Demo? Call Corporate Sales at 800.447.4676, extension 301**



The issue of digital photos and PDF file sizes is one that will always need to be addressed. Cameras are definitely becoming less "adjuster friendly" when it comes to keeping your PDF file sizes manageable. As the megapixel capturing capabilities continue to evolve and improve, the image sizes continue to grow and expand as well.

The problem is compression. Anytime an image is compressed, both image data and detail is lost, therefore there is a very delicate balance between image size and image quality. Too much compression can lead to poor quality images, while not enough compression will result in a larger PDF. Some of you may have compressed digital photos of flood water lines or hail damage only to have a claims examiner ask where the damage is in your photographs. It is the compression that can cause these important details to vanish from your photos.

SIMSOL does have a PDF Rendering module that compresses your photos when you convert your photos to PDF.



## Damage Photos and Image Compression

This utility is set by default to compress your images without diminishing quality enough to make a noticeable difference. The problem however is not usually quality, but quantity. Typically, our PDF rendering component can compress a 1mb image down to roughly 500-600k, however if the adjuster has 30 photos, he/she will still end up with a 15mb PDF file. This is usually where the problems begin. To help remedy this, (at the suggestion of a SIMSOL user), the next update of SIMSOL will contain a new feature where all imported photos using our digital imaging module will be converted to 640x480. Adjusters can keep their

megapixel versions of their photos stored in another location on their computer but our system will use the smaller version for our standard printed photo sheets and PDF's. The quality of these photos is fine for insurance claim documentation. Thanks for the great suggestion and keep them coming. At our shop we are always listening....

Until then, if an adjuster has a Kodak camera, the best fix is to use the Kodak EasyShare Photo Editing software that came with it. It should allow editing of the image sizes before or after transferring them from the computer. There are also third party image editing applications you can download that will compress photos for you as well. You may also want to visit online forums and newsgroups such as [www.cado.org](http://www.cado.org) where you can discuss your kodak camera with other owners to get ideas or important information <http://www.bytephoto.com/forums/f31.html>

If you can not seem to get around this problem, and need to speak to us, please don't hesitate to contact one of our support representatives by phone at 1.800.447.4676



## Did You Know SIMSOL for Adjusters...

### Has a Contents deferred Payment reporting Tool

The Schedule of Deferred Depreciation Payments Screen (or, Payments for short) is accessible through the Contents Inventory Summary Screen by clicking on the Payments speed button. The Payments screen allows the adjuster to track depreciation payments for Contents items from a single screen. Double click on an item listing or click the Edit Receipt Payment button to display the Cost Holdback Payment Screen, and enter payment information. Print a schedule of payments listing each affected line item.

### Has VSS Hot Spot Graphics

Toggling the drop down menu provided on the right side of the scope sheet allows you to utilize the many methods of scoping areas. This image shows how to find items within the scope sheet by clicking on the items found in the hotspot graphic displayed on the right side. Select interior or exterior graphic, click the item example; floor, cabinets, framing and the item is instantly highlighted in the scope sheet. Now just click the scope for the highlighted line item and the operation is added.

### Has a Spell Checker

Nothing can diminish the professional quality of your SIMSOL estimate reports than misspelled words. To assist you 2.6 has added a spell-check button to almost every area so that the user can add or edit text. Whether in you cover page, or total page narratives or line item description, you can run the spell check for a more professionally completed report.

### Has a Diagrams Library

Store your drawings categorically and recall them in other estimate files. You can modify any recalled diagram to fit the situation. Another time saving feature from SIMSOL.

### Has Custom Items Database Maintenance

Create categories and organize all your custom items by category. You can even edit or delete individual custom items. From the SFA window tool bar Select "maintain" and click custom database items. You may refer to page 72 5-18 of the Full Tutorial PDF found on our web site.

### Has an Estimate Break Out Feature:

Track items such as mold, remediation, wind, and flood for your building estimates. This feature also allows you to print an Estimate Break Out Items report with your estimate.

### Draw diagrams in seconds with the new Quick Sketch

**Feature:** Draw a diagram in seconds without having to use your mouse! Simply select your starting point and enter dimensions using your number keypad on your keyboard. One you've typed in the dimensions, simply click your arrow keys to select a direction for your lines.

**Multiple Photo printing feature:** Print 2, 4, 8, or 16 photos per page on your professionally formatted photo sheets. You can now delete multiple photos with a single click with the new multi-delete feature.

**Attached Documents feature:** Now you can attach any kind of file to your estimate with just a couple clicks of the mouse.

# Introducing...



## Arlene Blake Software Registration

Arlene is a Senior at the University of

Central Florida where she is majoring in Legal Studies and pursuing a minor in business. Currently she holds a 3.7 GPA and has made both the President's list and Dean's List throughout her time at UCF. Her future plans include attending Graduate School in the Fall to pursue a Masters Degree in Business. On campus she is very active holding several leadership positions in various organizations. On top of that she is the Director of a local scholarship pageant entitled "The Miss Woman of Excellence

Scholarship Pageant" as well as the Director of a Teen Scholarship Program developed to acknowledge high school women who possess the essence of a woman of excellence. Additionally, Arlene was inducted into the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Golden Key International Honor Society, Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law Fraternity, John T. Washington Honor Society, and is proud of to have been placed on the Who's Who List Amongst America's College Students. On top of all this, she started working at SIMSOL in June of 2004.

Justice. She currently holds a 3.5 GPA and has demonstrated several years of academic excellence while pursuing a higher education at UCF. Unfortunately for SIMSOL, after graduation Tiffany has been offered a job with DART Institute as a community organizer, one of her many passions. She also plans to attend law school part-time in the Fall of 2007.

Besides working and going to school full-time, Tiffany has been very active on campus and in the community. Some of the organizations that she has been involved in include College Democrats, Phi Alpha Delta Legal Fraternity, National Council of Negro Women, Women's Prayer Band, Urban League, Volunteer UCF, Covenant House of Orlando, and a proud member of the New Covenant Baptist Church. Tiffany has been with SIMSOL since April of 2005.

## ...and Tiffany Smith, Software Registration



Tiffany is also a Senior at the University of Central Florida where she is majoring in Legal Studies with a double

minor in Political Science and Criminal

## A Millennium of Scientific Facts

The largest breed of domesticated cat in the world is the Ragdoll, with males weighing between 22-25 pounds.

Maine has no poisonous snakes.

A pregnant goldfish is called a twit.

The name of the dog on the Cracker Jack box is Bingo.

The giant squid has the largest eyes in the world.

Pigs, walruses, and light colored horses can get sunburn.

The only domestic animal not mentioned in the Bible is the cat.

A cat's jaw cannot move sideways.

The longest recorded flight of a chicken is 13 seconds.

There were no squirrels on Nantucket Island, Massachusetts until 1989.

The worlds termites outweigh the world's humans by 10 to 1.

## SIMSOL Software Training in Orlando, FL

All Orlando workshops start at 9 a.m. and finish at 5 p.m. each day. A mid morning and afternoon break are included as well as a one-hour lunch. Dress for the workshop is business casual.

SIMSOL will provide all training materials and software, however please have your software installed prior to arrival the first day.

Should you need a demo copy of the software, please request the demo a few weeks prior to the class. Demos do expire 30 days after being installed so don't install the demo too soon. (You do not have to be a licensed user to attend a workshop). Students must supply their own laptop computers (please no desktop machines). An external mouse is also recommended.

### Pricing

2 Day Beginner Class: \$250 per student / \$200 each additional student from the same company

2 Day Advanced Class: \$250 per student / \$200 each additional student from the same company

1 Day Advanced Class: \$150 per student

3 Day Universal Class: \$350 per student

### Current Training Schedule

Date	Seating	Class Type
April 19th & 20th	Available	Beginner's Class
April 21st	Available	Advanced Tips & Tricks
May 17th & 18th	Available	Beginner's Class
May 19th	Available	Advanced Tips & Tricks
June 21st & 22	Available	Beginner's Class
June 23rd	Available	Advanced Tips & Tricks

**Registration:** To register for a class, you may print/fax the registration form or mail it with your payment, or if you are a current lease customer, you may register over the phone and your account will be billed on the next billing cycle. Students may register up to one day prior to the scheduled training date provided there is still availability.

For more information about our training classes, or to schedule yours today, call Gwen Parisi at 800.447.4676 x322

## More Photos by SIMSOL



**SIMSOL users were on the ground in the 9th Ward in New Orleans.**

**These are just a few of the photos taken.**

**Go to <http://www.simsol.com/html/photos.html> to see more.**



## SIMSOL Tech Tip Export to Mapping Software

SIMSOL for Adjusters comes with a wizard to make exporting addresses to your mapping software easier and faster.

It exports an ASCII text file to a location on your computer. You then use the mapping software's import feature to bring it into the mapping program. The export works with most mapping software such as Microsoft Streets & Trips, DeLorme Street Atlas, and any other that import text files.

At the Claim Grid, where the claims are listed, simply click on the Tools drop down menu and select Export to Mapping. SIMSOL brings up the Mapping Export window. Select the mapping program from the Mapping Application window (use DeLorme as the default if you have Streets & Trips). Select the drawer in which the claims are located by clicking on the + sign next to the drawer title. Select the claims addresses to be exported by checking the box next to each address.

Once all of the claims have been selected, identify the path and file name of the file to export. This can be done by typing the path and file name in the window at the bottom of the Mapping Export window, or you can select the path using the Browse button at the right end of the window. Simply click on the button and use the Look In window at the top of the Browse window. Select the path to send the file, i.e. My Documents, and type in a name such as "mapping" in the File Name field. Click on the Open button and SIMSOL enters the path and file name into the window at the bottom of the Mapping Export window. Click on the Export button and the file is created and sent to the destination that you chose. Click on the Done button to close the Mapping Export window.

The next step is to import the addresses into your mapping program. Each mapping program is slightly different in the import function but each will use the file that you just

created to bring in the addresses. For example, Microsoft Street & Trips uses an Import Wizard accessed by clicking on the Data drop down menu and selecting Import Data Wizard. DeLorme user should click on the Look In drop down menu and select Import Address Book. Consult your software documentation for the complete instructions for importing data.

