



Beta Test of EP-Quick (Beta Test ends November 15!)

EP-Quick is a simple program that creates an EnergyPlus input file for a building without HVAC. Using simple templates you create the building shape and zone layout. EP-Quick is not a full interface for EnergyPlus but simply a way to generate input files quickly.

The installer may be downloaded from <http://www.glazersoftware.com/download.htm>

To use it, press the "NEW" button and select a template and the types of floors. Once a template is selected, zoning and shape are fixed but the overall dimension of the building can be changed. The buildings are "prismatic" and are the same shape and size on all floors. Windows and doors may be added and constructions and schedules may be modified. zoning and shape are fixed but the overall dimension of the building can be changed. The buildings are "prismatic" and are the same shape and size on all floors. Windows and doors may be added and constructions and schedules may be modified.

Use main "tree" interface to examine and modify the many different details of the building. The main parts of the tree are:

- Overall Geometry - depth, width
- Building - roof, floor, interior constructions
- Defaults - default values used in "Floorplans"
- Internal Gain Types - lighting, people, schedules
- Floorplans - zones, exterior walls, windows, etc
- Corners - locations of the building vertices
- Roof corners - locations of special roof vertices

Please take a look at the software and the resulting IDF files. We need your feedback on:

- Bugs
- User Interface
- Capabilities
- Price
- Templates desired

Several bugs were found in the 0.3 release and fixed for this 0.5 release:

- Both IP and SI units are supported but sometimes the SI default values for meters in the 0.3 release were the same values as the IP default values for feet making them too large to be reasonable. New defaulting for SI has been included in the 0.5 release. Defaulting for IP is unchanged.
- If multiple doors were described in EP-Quick version 0.3 for the same wall, they were created using the same name which caused an EnergyPlus to indicate a warning. In the 0.5 version this has been fixed.
- If multiple windows were described in EP-Quick 0.3, a warning was issued by EnergyPlus due to the FullInteriorAndExterior solar distribution algorithm being specified. Now EP-Quick 0.5 chooses the MinimalShadowing algorithm instead to avoid the warning.
- Not all the building templates would allow tilted roofs in version 0.3. All the templates now support tilted roofs.
- In addition, a problem with roof peak heights that resulted in very shallow roofs (and thus causing a severe error when run in EnergyPlus 1.2) has been fixed.

The beta test will end and the beta version will stop working on November 15 but please send your comments to me (jason@glazersoftware.com) a soon as possible.