WxWare Diagnostics

NEWS RELEASE

WxWare Diagnostics, a division of R.J. Karg Associates
596 Grover Hill Road
Bethel, Maine 04217
Website: www.karg.com/software.htm, E-mail: ZipTest@karg.com
CONTACT: Rick Karg, R.J. Karg Associates, 207-824-0025 or rjkarg@karg.com

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 14, 2009

WxWare Diagnostics announces the release of
ZipTest Pro³™ building and energy diagnostics software

TOPSHAM, ME – WxWare Diagnostics, a division of R.J. Karg Associates, has released a significantly improved version of its popular ZipTest Pro building and energy diagnostics software, ZipTest Pro³. This new version operates on the powerful Texas Instruments TI-89 Titanium graphing calculator. The previous version, ZipTest Pro², operated on the TI-86 calculator.

For years, the Department of Energy's Low-Income Weatherization Program energy auditors across the United States have used the ZipTest Pro software for on-site analysis, including auditors in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Wisconsin, Ohio, Iowa, North Dakota, and Utah. The new ZipTest Pro³ software package will make their work even easier, more accurate, and faster.

WxWare Diagnostics intends to market the new software more heavily in the future to home energy raters, home inspectors, and home performance evaluators. Management at WxWare Diagnostics expects the demand for this unique software to remain strong because of President Obama's stimulus efforts and the ongoing need to curb global climate change.

The combination of the easy-to-use ZipTest Pro³ building and energy diagnostics software and the durable, yet inexpensive, Texas Instruments TI-89 Titanium graphing calculator are hard to beat.

The **new features** of ZipTest Pro³ software package include:
- ✓ **Easy to navigate features** with tab icons, dropdown menus, dialogue boxes, and helpful error messages. All the features are available from these on-screen menu tabs: Programs, Tools, Nuggets, Reports, and Defaults.

- ✓ Unique and powerful **on-the-fly math calculations** allowing you to enter calculations in a dialogue box – such as 26 x 40 x 8 for a house volume – rather than performing your calculations with another calculator or by exiting the ZipTest Pro³ program.
- ✓ An **automatic call-up** feature triggers a related program, tool, or Nugget when you need it.
- ✓ A **reports menu** allows you to save up to eight reports that include your entered values and answers for any of the programs or tools. You can view these reports later or share them with a co-worker, client, or supervisor.
- ✓ An easy to navigate **default values feature** allows you to set many frequently used values quickly and easily.
- ✓ The ability to easily print a screen image or add an important image(s) to a report.
- ✓ An updated **ASHRAE 62.2-2007** ventilation program including all the recent changes to this important indoor air quality and ventilation standard. This ASHRAE Standard, *Ventilation and Acceptable Indoor Air Quality in Low-Rise Residential Buildings*, is quickly being adopted across the country as the method of determining ventilation requirements for new and existing residential buildings. The ZipTest Pro³ program includes the recently approved (2009) alternative compliance method for existing dwellings. A related new feature of the ZipTest Pro³ software package is the Fan run-time Nugget.
- ✓ A unique **ZTP** (ZipTest Pro) **number** calculator that estimates the relationship between the CFM_{50} value of a house and the average CFM value of a house. However, unlike the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory (LBL) number, the ZTP is based on the more robust ASHRAE 136-1993 Standard, *A Method of Determining Air Change Rates in Detached Dwellings*. The ZPT number is expected to be more accurate than the LBL number.

The **updated features** of ZipTest Pro³ include:
- ✓ Weatherization Cost-Effective Guideline program for determining when air sealing is no longer cost effective and informs weatherization crews when to stop. By entering the data for the subject house, including blower door test results, fuel type, fuel cost, and labor cost, weatherization crews will know precisely when to stop air sealing.
- ✓ BTL and BTLa programs for determining ventilation needs. The basic building tightness limit program (BTL) corresponds to the ASHRAE 62-1989 Standard, Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality. The advanced building tightness limit program (BTLa) complies with ASHRAE Standards 62-1989, 119, and 136. Both of these programs express the ASHRAE 62-1989 Standard in terms of CFM50 building tightness limit. If the building is tighter than this BTL, mechanical ventilation should be installed. Both the BTL and the BTLa programs now calculate the necessary ventilation rate.
- ✓ Blower door program for The Energy Conservatory Minneapolis Blower Door™, model 3. This updated program calculates temperature-compensated building leakage CFMAt Test Pressure and CFM50 values. If the house is too leaky to reach 50 Pascals of house-to-outdoor pressure difference, the can't-reach-fifty multipliers are automatically used to extrapolate to CFM50.
- ✓ Duct leakage testing with The Energy Conservatory Duct Blaster™. This program now includes CFMAt Test Pressure, CFM25, and CFM50 results. Duct leakage in square inches is also calculated.
- ✓ Thirty-seven equation Nuggets for building diagnostics and energy related calculations. These equations allow you to find any variable if values are entered for all the other variables. The

Nuggets are now in various categories; including air pressure, heating/cooling, heat transfer, geometry, carbon monoxide, ventilation, psychometrics, thermal comfort, air speed, and finance.

✓ Energy index calculations for determining the BTUs per degree day per square foot of conditioned space in a building. This program includes options for natural gas, propane, oil, electric, kerosene, and wood space heating fuels.

✓ Combustion venting safety calculation Nugget for CFM50 depressurization limit, CFM exhaust limit, and the resulting pressure difference. This Nugget helps the analyst predict the level of building tightness or exhaust fan CFM at which the vented combustion appliances in the building will begin to backdraft.

✓ Basic Zone Pressure Diagnostics (ZPD) with add-a-hole and door methods. With the help of a blower door, this program determines air leakage through pressure boundaries in a dwelling. For example, the analyst can find the square inches of leakage in an attic floor or the square inches of air leakage in a wall between a house and an attached garage.

The new ZipTest Pro³ software is available from WxWare Diagnostics for $139.00. This package includes the software, software instructions, and software support (you purchase the TI-89 Titanium and load the software). The complete ZipTest Pro³ package (TI-89 Titanium calculator, loaded ZipTest Pro³ software, software instructions, and software support) is $324.00, plus shipping.

Please see www.karg.com/software.htm for more information.

The ZipTest Pro³ software is available by e-mail (ZipTest@karg.com), or by calling 207-824-0025. It will be available on the Internet soon.

###