Envision Installation Instructions

LA 494/594 Landscape Planning and Design Studio
Department of Landscape Architecture / University of Oregon
Johnson/Ribe/Mhuireach Fall 2013

The following instructions will allow you to install and run Envision, the simulation software we will use in studio. As stated in the syllabus, each student will need to have access in studio to either a) a 64-bit Windows-based PC, or b) a Macintosh with Bootcamp (comes with OS X)) and Windows 7 ($95 at the Duckstore). This is necessary to run Envision. *(You can run Envision on a Mac using Parallels but our experience is that it will be too slow).* You must have administrative privileges on the computer to install the software. We will have Envision available in one or more UO computing labs, however, student's experience is that not having Envision on their personal computer makes their individual and team work much more challenging. Sometimes, despite the student's best efforts, Envision simply will not run, so you need to set this up as soon as possible over the summer to allow us to try and resolve any problems.

A) You will need to download and install the three files shown below. In Windows, open your web browser (e.g. Firefox) and copy the first link below into the web address line at the top. When the option is presented, save the file. Do the same for the 2nd and 3rd file.

1) The Envision Program:
   http://envision.bioe.orst.edu/Downloads/Setup-x64.msi

2) The Eugene study area files:
   http://envision.bioe.orst.edu/StudyAreas/SouthernWillamette/EugeneInputs.msi

3) The GIS coverage for the Eugene study area:
   http://envision.bioe.orst.edu/StudyAreas/SouthernWillamette/EugeneIDUs.msi

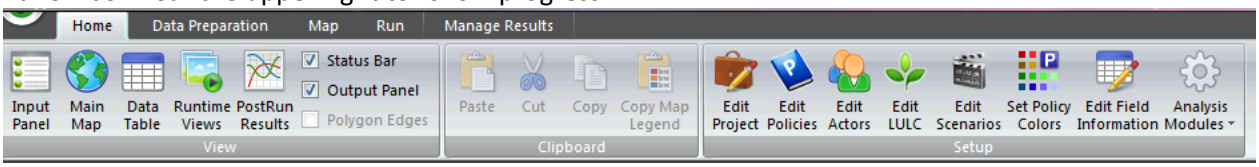
B) Go to the folder where the files have been saved on your computer (by default it's likely to be your "Downloads" folder). Double click the first file, Setup-x64.msi, and follow the instructions to install the software. You'll need to "allow" your computer to install the application when the request comes up on your screen. Use the defaults to install the file in your C: directory (it will create the folder "C:\Envision\")

Then double click the second file, EugeneInputs.msi and again follow the defaults.

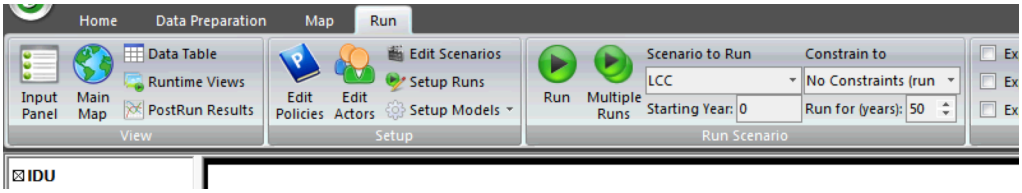
Do the same for the third file, EugeneIDUs.msi. This is a larger file and will take longer to install.

C) You're done with installation. Now open Envision to test it. Envision should be "pinned" to your start menu. Navigate to the button and open Envision. Close the "tip of the day" box. You should see the following dialog box with the "Eugene.envx" file shown in the "Project File to Use" box. If you don't, use "Find Existing Project" to navigate to the file in the directory shown below. Once it's in the "Project File" box, click "Open". It may take a few minutes for Envision to initialize. Don't click any other menus or buttons in Envision while it is initializing or it may crash.

To make sure Envision is working, perform a simulation run. First, in the "Home" menu, click the "Output Panel" box near the upper right to follow progress.



Scroll through the text in the bottom window of the Envision screen to see if there were any error messages during initialization, which are usually shown in red font. Assuming there aren't (and even if there are for this initial post-installation run), try to perform a run. To do this, click the "Run" menu tab and then click the "Run" button to run the "LCC" scenario (low climate impacts, compact development, conventional fuels treatments).



You won't be able to use Envision while it's running a simulation, so don't click any other menus or buttons until it's completed the run. If you try to use Envision, Windows may think Envision isn't responding and give you an error message to this effect. Ignore the error message and let the program continue. You can, however, work in other applications while Envision is running. It may take 30 minutes or more to complete a single run due to the complexity of the processes and computations involved.

When viewing the Envision screen, you can follow progress in two places: in the upper right of the screen you'll see the time step of the run, which is currently set to 50 years. In the lower left corner of the screen, it will show the current process being run. When it either says "run completed" or returns to showing coordinates, the run is done and you can examine maps and outputs. First, return to the Home menu and uncheck the "Output Panel" box. Then click "PostRun results". You can open the menus below the "LCC" scenario name by clicking on the "+" sign and continue opening menus to explore mapped and tabular results. You will be able to view maps and watch them change over time, as well as view and download quantitative output. For instance, under "Maps", you can double click one or more map layer names and press the "Run" button at the bottom left to see them change over simulation time. If you click the "Map" menu tab at the top of the menu bar, you can zoom in to different locations.

A tutorial will be mounted on Blackboard to help you learn how to examine simulation run results. You can learn more about Envision by reviewing materials on John Bolte's website at:
http://envision.bioe.orst.edu/