



# File Compatibility

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# File Backwards Compatibility

*"I want to use some of the cool new features of PLS-CADD, such as the improved Merge Projects feature. However, I also need to share the model with a client who is using an older version. Will using the new version break file compatibility with an older version?"*

TLDR; Sometimes, but less often than you might expect.

PLS Applications always save the model in the most compatible file format.

Only a few select features/settings will require a newer file format that older versions cannot read.

Also, as a reminder, the latest version will always be able to read older versions.



Frequently Asked Question

# What Breaks Backward Compatibility?

**Projects saved in version 19.16 are readable in versions 18.01 and newer unless:**

- Structure wind/ice model of EN50341-2-18:2016N or EN50341-2-18:2016E (Swedish NNA) selected.
- More than 200 automatic sagging criteria defined.
- When using Notes or Keywords in Attachment Manager.
- When using EN50341-2-15:2019 (Netherlands NNA) or User Defined Feature Code Groups.
- When using Line Specific Alignments.
- When using Grid View specific structure labels.
- When using hatch filled annotations.
- When using structures with lambda, double pin, or double suspension insulators.
- When using more than 200 cable tensions for "Criteria/Cable Tensions..."

Only the 9 features above will break file compatibility. If you are not using any of these settings, then you can use the latest PLS application, save your model and share it with an older version (as far back as 18.01) and vice versa.

To answer the previous question about using the Merge Projects feature, since it is **not** listed in the above list, then it will **not** break file compatibility. However, if for example, you did use more than 200 auto sagging criteria or cable tensions or one of the NNAs listed above, then the model cannot be opened by an older version.

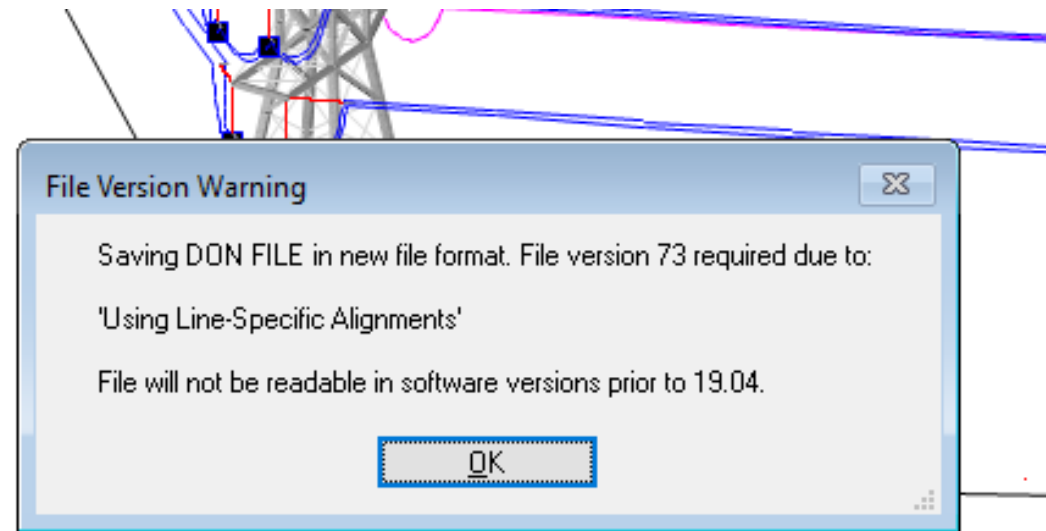
# How Would I Know What Breaks Backward Compatibility?

When saving a model, if you used a feature that requires a newer file format, then a warning dialog is shown. This warning will notify you which file requires the newer format, which feature/setting that breaks backward compatibility, and which software version is required to read the newer format.

In the warning to the right, you see that the DON file requires a newer format due to the 'Line-Specific Alignments' feature and only software versions 19.04 and later can read the model.

If you need to send the model to someone who is using a version older than 19.04, you can disable use of Line-Specific Alignments and resave and now it can be opened in 18.01.

Putting **you** in full control over file compatibility!



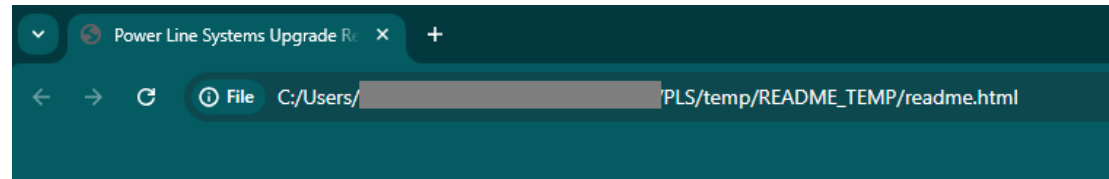
# How Would I Know What Breaks Backward Compatibility?

Another method to view file compatibility information is from the Release Notes.

The release notes provides what's new in the software and at the top, describes the file compatibility information, including which feature requires which new version to be readable.

You can access the release notes from the software:

**Help/Download Upgrade..., select Revision Info**



## Revision history for your upgrade

Summary of changes between PLS-CADD 19.16 release candidate built 07/3/24 and 19.15 release candidate built 06/11/24  
Projects saved in version 19.16 are readable in versions 18.01 and newer unless:  
Version 18.04 and newer when structure wind/ice model of EN50341-2-18:2016N or EN50341-2-18:2016E (Swedish NNA) selected.  
Version 18.08 and newer when more than 200 automatic sagging criteria defined.  
Version 18.11 and newer when using Notes or Keywords in Attachment Manager.  
Version 18.12 and newer when using EN50341-2-15:2019 (Netherlands NNA) or User Defined Feature Code Groups.  
Version 19.04 and newer when using Line Specific Alignments.  
Version 19.11 and newer when using Grid View specific structure labels.  
Version 19.12 and newer when using hatch filled annotations.  
Version 19.13 and newer when using structures with lambda, double pin, or double suspension insulators.  
Version 19.13 and newer when using more than 200 cable tensions for "Criteria/Cable Tensions..."

This version is a release candidate for general release version 20.00. The only changes between it and version 20.00 will be fixes for any bugs found. Please notify us promptly of any problems you may encounter.

- 1) Added "Sections/Electric/Audible Noise Calculator..." command to calculate and report L5 and L50 noise levels.
- 2) Added "Help/Upload File to PLS Technical Support..." and "Help/Upload Diagnostics to PLS Technical Support..." commands to transmit files to PLS support.
- 3) Improvements to Line Specific Alignments functionality and display which is enabled through "Terrain/Alignment/Line-Specific Alignment Configuration."
- 4) UI improvements to "Lines/Merge Projects..." and "Lines/Merge..."
- 5) Updated "File/PLS-GRID/Open Grid View" to better display over large areas up to entire globe without visual tears and gaps.
- 6) When making a copy of line model in "Lines/Edit...", add ' (copy)' post-fix to its label.
- 7) Fixed missing workspace revision info in Project Manager Discovery after executing a query or toggling favorites.
- 8) Improved certain warnings to be less intrusive.
- 9) No longer save files compatible with software versions earlier than v18.00.
- 10) Fixed all reproducible user reported crashes and lockups.

# Should I Upgrade to the Latest Version?

- PLS applications will always save the model in the most compatible file format.
- Few features/settings will affect file backwards compatibility.
  - The vast majority of models can be saved in the latest version and is readable in version 18.01.
  - Only 9 specific settings will require a newer version than 18.01 to read, for most users these settings are not used.
- When saving a project and a feature will modify the file format, a warning is shown.
  - Turn off the listed feature to save to an older version.
- PLS highly recommends being on the latest General Release or latest Insider Release.
  - The Insider Release contains all the latest features and improvements that will be in the next General Release.
  - The Insider Release is the best way to try the newest features and provide feedback on their development to PLS.
  - To get the Insider Release, email [support@powline.com](mailto:support@powline.com) and request the download link. Once installed, you can download the latest version thereafter via **Help/Download Upgrade...**
- You are in full control of file compatibility!



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