

The Essential Guide to
**Electrical
Takeoff and
Estimating**





Improve accuracy. Collaborate better. Minimize IT burdens.

As an electrical estimator, the accuracy of your work directly affects your company's ability to stay on schedule and on budget. If you can go faster while still being accurate, your projects become more profitable.

Despite advances in technology, many estimators are still using manual methods or standalone software programs for their takeoff and estimating. Traditional takeoff methods are inefficient, time-consuming and difficult to maintain as the business grows.

With graphical takeoff software that connects to other technologies in your workflows, you can generate takeoff straight from digital plan files, while translating measurements and item properties from the graphical takeoff application directly into the estimate. This provides the confidence that your estimate is up-to-date and reflects current plans and becomes even more beneficial when multiple people contribute to an estimate, facilitating collaboration and allowing you to track each version of the estimate.

Bottom line:

Using a connected cloud-hosted electrical estimating and takeoff solution to produce estimates and perform takeoffs makes it easier and faster to do the work, without losing accuracy.

Other benefits include:

- Fewer mistakes and errors
- Improved productivity
- Streamlined collaboration and information sharing
- Reduced IT costs and complexity
- Increased profit margins

Read on to discover how to streamline and improve takeoff and estimating, and overcome the obstacles that could be decreasing accuracy and limiting profitability.





The problem with standalone estimation software

When doing takeoff of an electrical project, you know speed and accuracy are critical, but just as important is the ability to share data with other applications as well as project stakeholders to provide greater visibility and facilitate handoffs.

Electrical contractors often use standalone estimating software to get the job done. Standalone estimating tools are usually designed to solve a single problem, and they don't connect to other parts of your workflow and, as a result, can restrict collaboration, reduce accuracy and hamper productivity.

Let's look into a few of the problems of standalone estimating software:

“ Unplanned downtime costs industrial manufacturers as much as \$50 billion a year, according to Forbes.¹ ”

01

Greater potential for mistakes

When there isn't an easy or convenient way to share or move data from one software to another, estimators must toggle between multiple platforms or copy and paste formulas and other critical data from one system to another.

02

Inaccurate content

The absence of a centralized and always-current content library compounds the risk of making mistakes.

03

Disconnect between teams

Without true multi-user and multi-branch support, estimators across locations may not have access to the same items, assemblies, and projects when they need them.

04

Increased burden on IT

Having multiple standalone software programs increases the burden on resource-strapped IT teams, requiring them to stay on top of updates to multiple systems, work with several vendors, and address more support issues.



Connected, cloud-hosted software facilitates collaboration and enables faster, more accurate electrical estimates.

A connected, cloud-hosted electrical estimating and takeoff solution provides a single source for documents, estimating, graphical takeoff, and pricing data that can be accessed by multiple team members.

This helps drive standardization and consistency that can be leveraged to streamline workflows beyond the initial estimating process.

With a connected solution for electrical takeoff and estimating, you don't need to manually update your estimates to reflect changes to the takeoff. Everyone's changes are tracked in real time and automatically re-calculated and reflected in the estimate ensuring your bid remains accurate.

With convenient access to powerful features like specification-driven takeoff tools and customizable takeoff pads, you can produce estimates faster, with greater accuracy and with more confidence. This capability doesn't just make electrical estimating easier and faster, it allows your team to explore how changes in materials, measurements, or counts impact overall cost. This ability to value engineer estimates can help you deliver projects more profitably-and be more competitive.



“ Having everyone on the team using the same takeoff platform makes our takeoffs two to three times faster and far more accurate than before. Plus, using consistent takeoff styles not only keeps the team organized but also helps our internal customers, such as the BIM department, purchasing department, field electricians and project management. ”

Estimator at Jamerson & Bauwens



7 reasons to move to a cloud-hosted electrical takeoff and estimating solution

01

More accurate estimates

Access to everything with one subscription, plus powerful integrated features help produce estimates faster, without sacrificing precision, for more accurate bids.

02

Live, bi-directional link between takeoff and estimates

Real-time sync between takeoff and estimating eliminates the need for manual updates and ensures estimates are always current.

03

Real-time collaboration

A shared centralized database ensures everyone is working with the same information, items, and projects.

04

Access to managed content and up-to-date prices

A library of standard content, such as manufacturing-specific product details, and streaming price updates ensures consistency and accuracy.

05

Easier reviews and changes

A consolidated view of all takeoffs included in the estimate simplifies reviews and changes.

06

Automatic software and content library updates

Access the latest version of the tools and features, plus the most current material lists and pricing, from anywhere, at any time.

07

Reduced IT risk and expense

Avoid the upfront costs, ongoing maintenance, and cybersecurity risk posed by on-premises software.



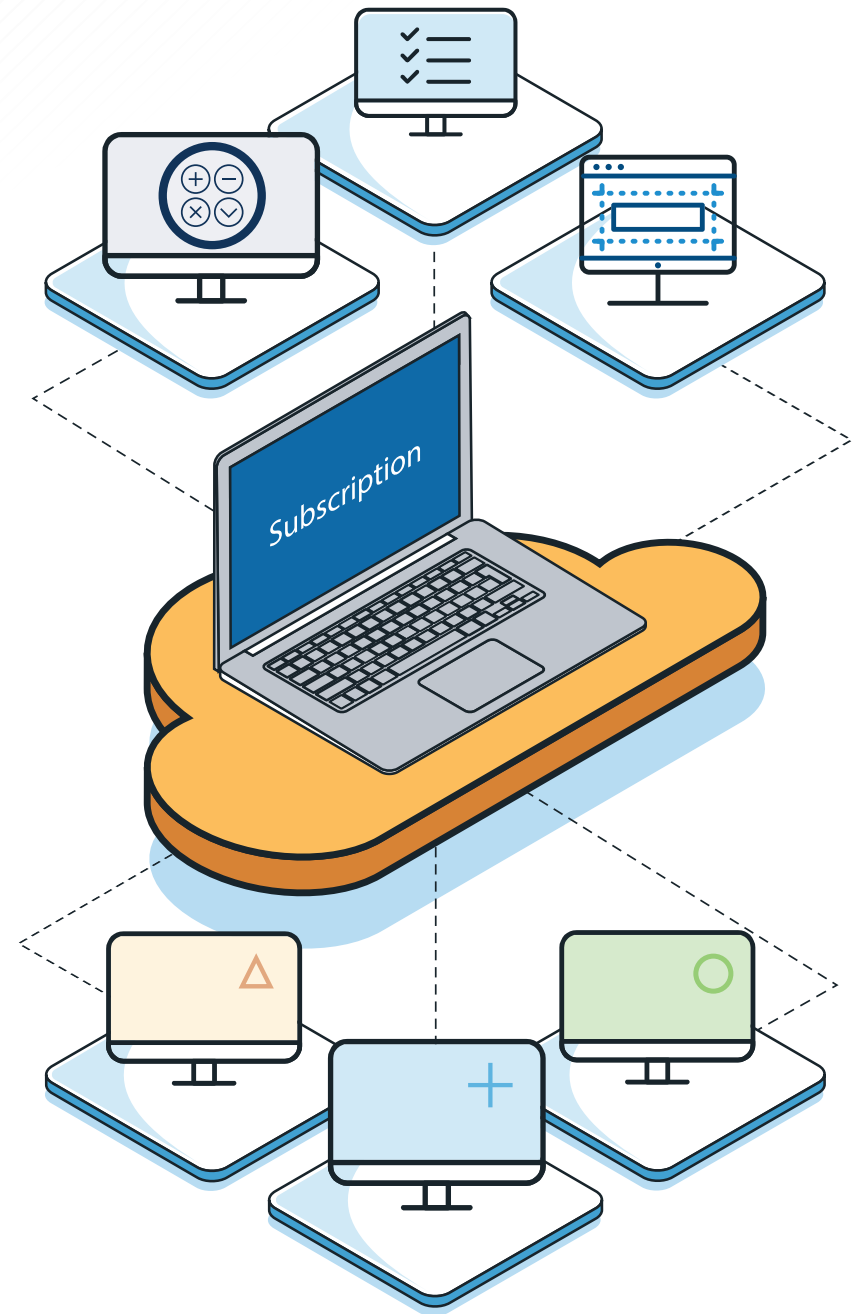
Why you should combine solutions

One convenient subscription for electrical takeoff and estimating provides everything your team needs to generate estimates quickly and accurately.

Many solutions, like Trimble Accubid Anywhere, are offered as a single annual subscription and come complete with connected takeoff and estimating tools, up-to-date manufacturer product and pricing data, plus additional tools to streamline the estimating process.

A cloud-hosted solution eliminates the large upfront costs of purchasing individual on-premise software programs and ongoing expenses of managing and maintaining them.

- Connected takeoff and estimating tools in a single subscription
- Always-current content library
- Updates and regular maintenance are included



Create a competitive advantage

To keep winning bids and keep estimates on-point, you need to modernize. The time for outdated, single-purpose software for electrical takeoff and estimating is long past.

The good news is cloud-hosted solutions can bring your estimating process up to date and help you remain competitive.

To learn more, visit

[TRIMBLE.COM](https://www.trimble.com)



© 2023–2025, Trimble Inc. All rights reserved. Trimble and the Globe & Triangle logo are trademarks of Trimble Inc., registered in the United States and in other countries. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. PN 022590-239

