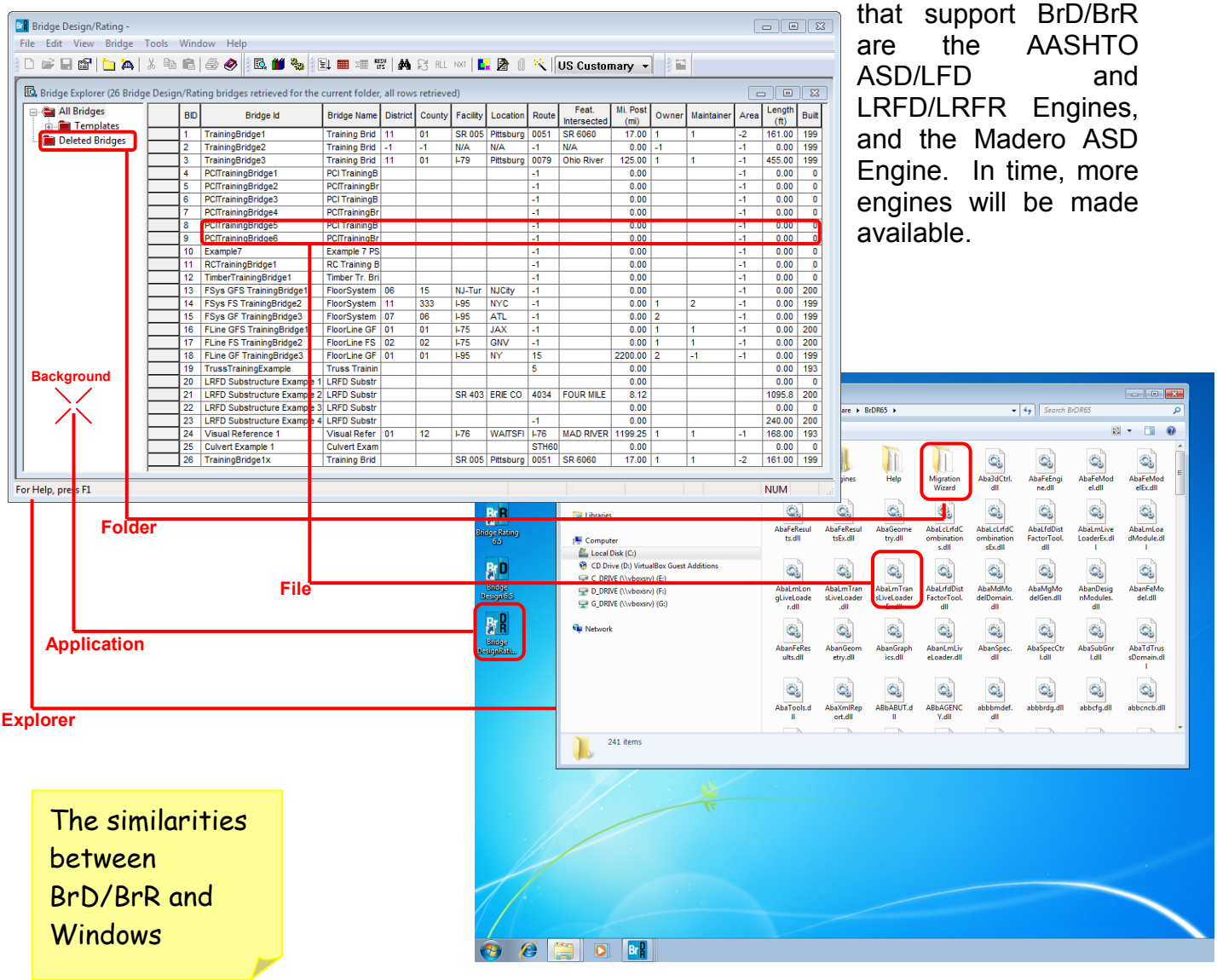
Getting Started

AASHTOWare Bridge Design and Rating Overview

What is AASHTOWare Bridge Design and Rating?

AASHTOWare Bridge Design and Rating may be considered as an operating environment with applications that aid in the design and load rating of bridges. This is similar to the role Microsoft Windows plays in that it is an environment where we run applications to conduct our day to day business.

AASHTOWare Bridge Design and Rating currently houses a few applications such as BrD and BrR for Design and Load rating. This is somewhat similar to applications that run in Windows, such as Excel or Word. The two applications still take the role of an environment, but their respective duties are more specific to their purpose. The underlying engines that support BrD/BrR are the AASHTO ASD/LFD and LRFD/LRFR Engines, and the Madero ASD Engine. In time, more engines will be made available.



The similarities between BrD/BrR and Windows

BrR

BrR is used for bridge superstructure load rating, featuring graphical tools to speed preparation of the data and application of the results. Using the AASHTO LFR/LRFR as its analytical engine for load factor rating, BrR provides an integrated database where rating inputs and outputs can readily be stored, reviewed, and reused.

BrD

BrD is currently a bridge superstructure and substructure design-review software product using the AASHTO Load and Resistance Factor Design (LRFD) Bridge Specifications. BrD employs the same database and graphical user interface as BrR, and shares much of the same source code. Development of both products began in 1997. The AASHTO LRFD Engine provides the system's structural analysis and specification checking engine.

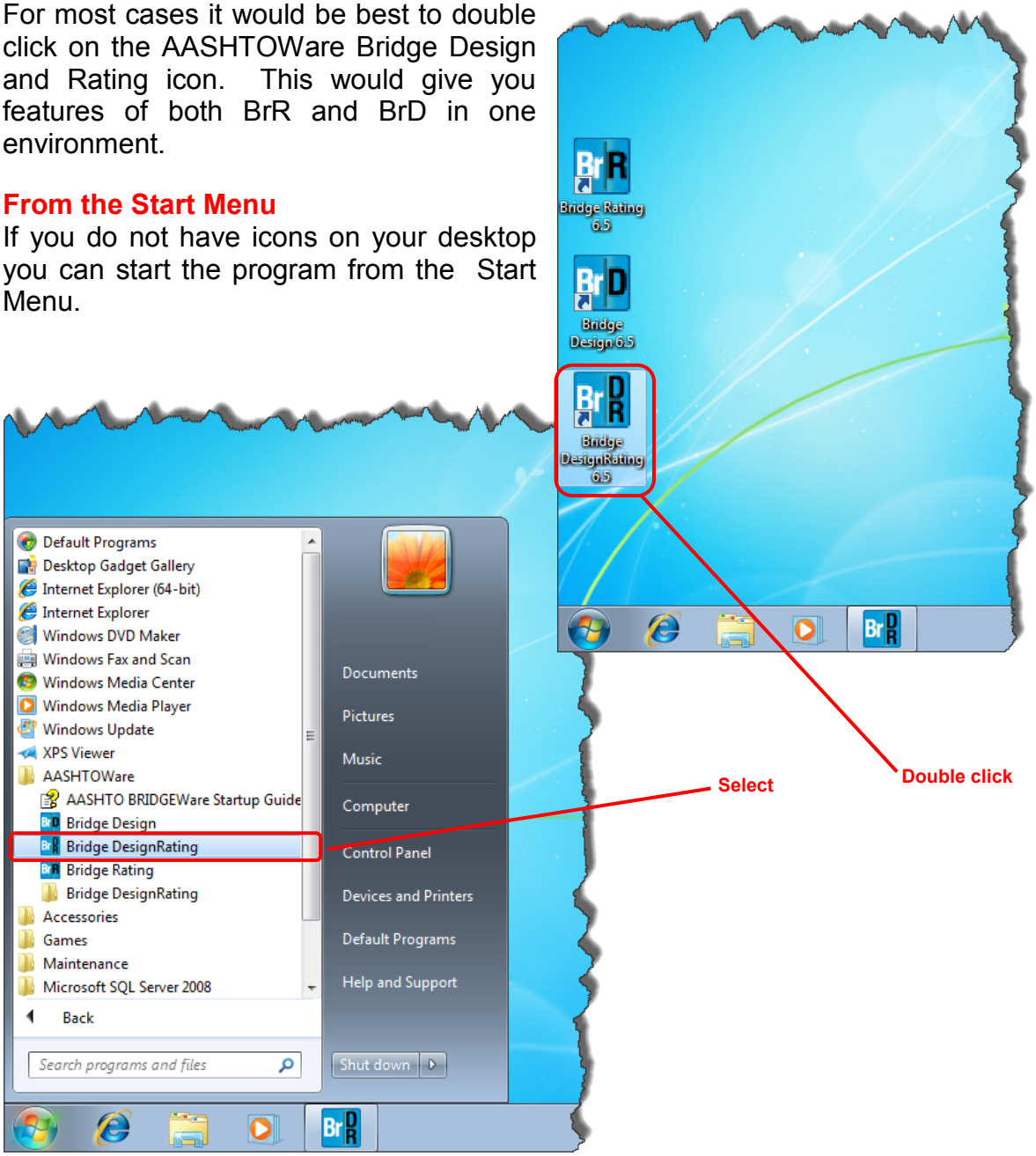
Starting AASHTOWare Bridge Design and Rating

From the Desktop

For most cases it would be best to double click on the AASHTOWare Bridge Design and Rating icon. This would give you features of both BrR and BrD in one environment.

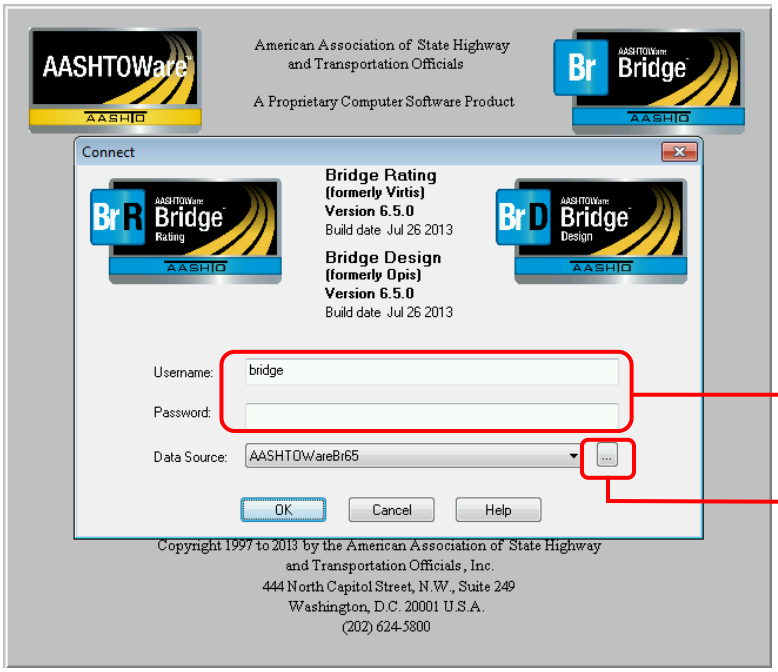
From the Start Menu

If you do not have icons on your desktop you can start the program from the Start Menu.



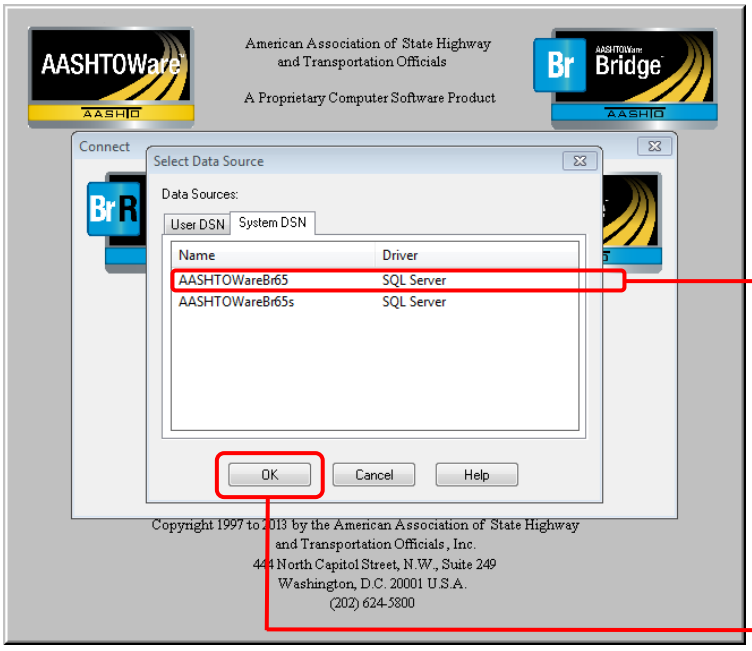
Entering User Name and Password

The AASHTOWare Bridge Design and Rating Logo Window will pop up. Here you will need to enter your user name and password in the provided fields.



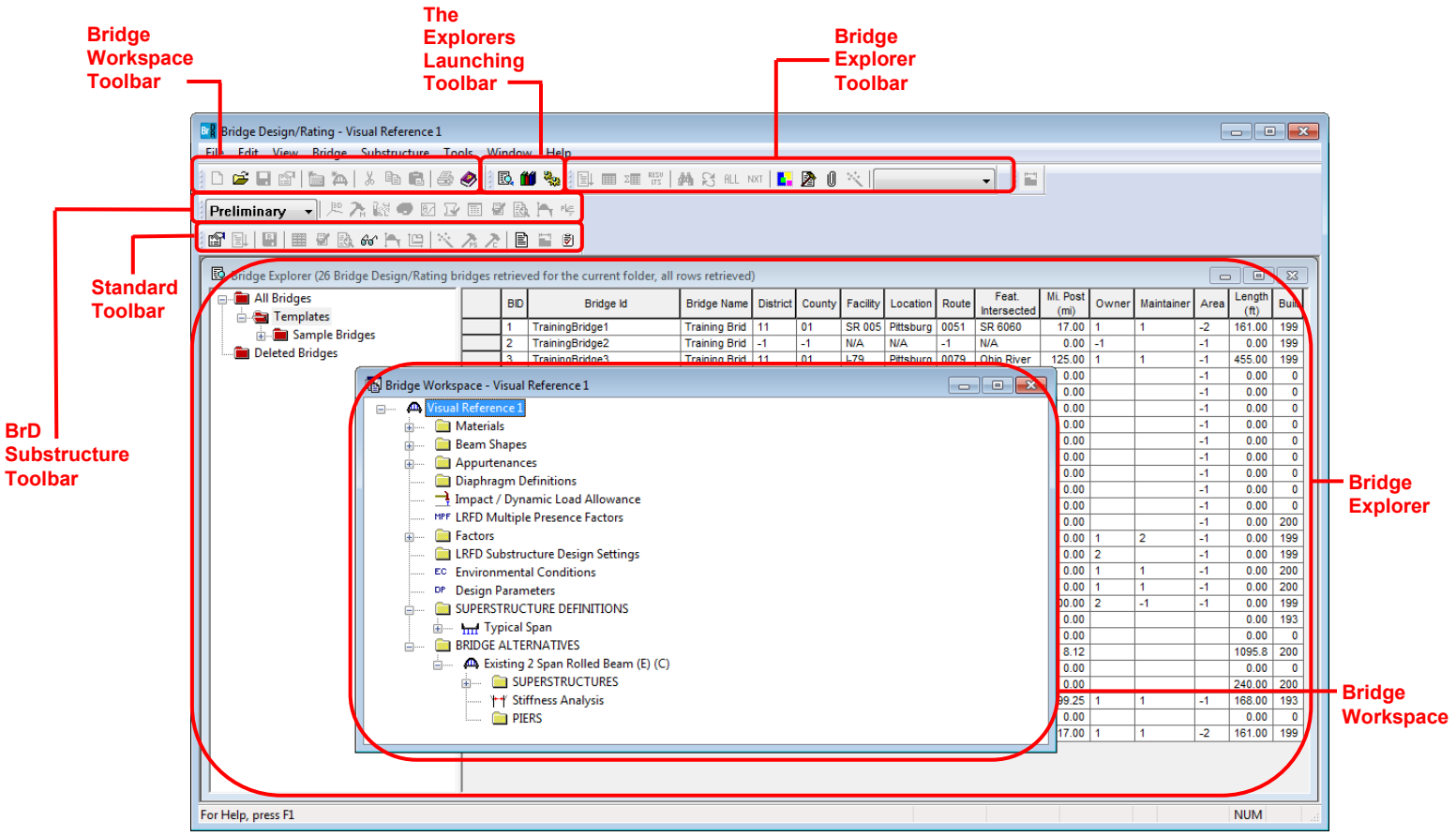
Connecting to the database

At times, the Data Source field will be empty. This means the database is not connected. You will need to connect to the database. To do this, click on the button with the three periods. Then . . .

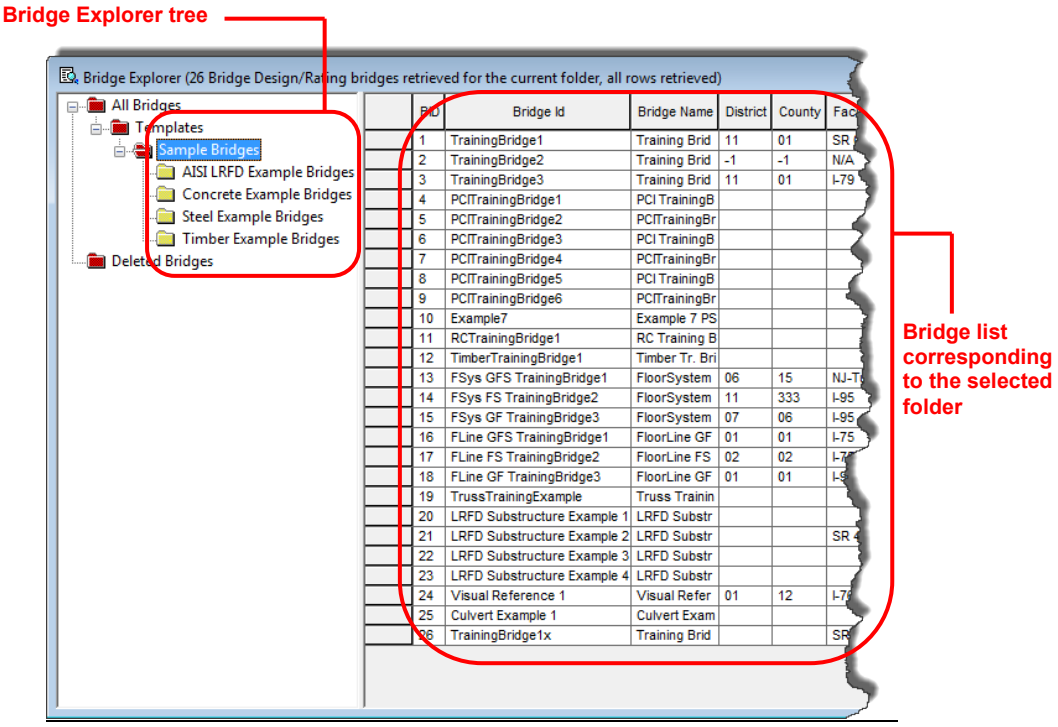


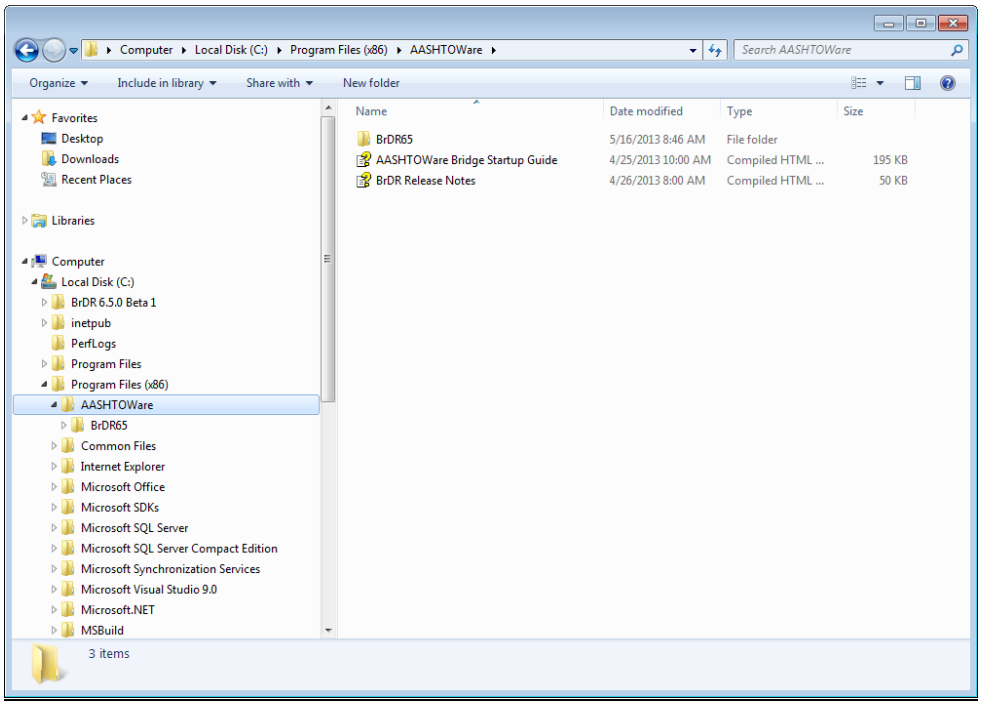
AASHTOWare Bridge Design and Rating Basics

AASHTOWare Bridge Design and Rating Environment Tour



AASHTOWare Bridge Design and Rating Environment





The Bridge Explorer is designed to work like the Windows Explorer

Bridge Explorer Window

Sorting the Bridge List

Once you select a folder to find a bridge, you may sort the corresponding bridge list to make the search easier. Sorting the bridge list requires double clicking on a column heading. The first time you do this, it will sort in an ascending order. Double clicking again, will result in a descending sort. For example, I am looking for bridge 24 on I-76 in Waitsfield.

1 Double click column heading to sort the bridge ID in ascending order

BID	Bridge Id	Bridge Name	Checked	Checked	District	County	Facility	Location	Rou
10	Example7	Example 7 PS (LFD)							-1
17	FLine FS TrainingBridge2	FloorLine FS Training Bridge 2			02	02	I-75	GNV	-1
18	FLine GF TrainingBridge3	FloorLine GF Training Bridge 3			01	01	I-95	NY	15
16	FLine GFS TrainingBridge1	FloorLine GFS Training Bridge 1			01	01	I-75	JAX	-1
14	FSys FS TrainingBridge2	FloorSystem FS Training Bridge 2			11	333	I-95	NYC	-1
15	FSys GF TrainingBridge3	FloorSystem GF Training Bridge 3			07	06	I-95	ATL	-1
13	FSys GFS TrainingBridge1	FloorSystem GFS Training Bridge 1			06	15	NJ-Tu	NJCity	-1
20	LRFD Substructure Example	LRFD Substructure Example 1							
21	LRFD Substructure Example	LRFD Substructure Example 2					SR 40	ERIE COUN	4034
22	LRFD Substructure Example	LRFD Substructure Example 3							
23	LRFD Substructure Example	LRFD Substructure Example 4 (NHI Hammer Head)							-1
11	RCTrainingBridge1	RC Training Bridge1(LFD)							-1
12	TimberTrainingBridge1	Timber Tr. Bridge1 (ASD)							-1
1	TrainingBridge1	Training Bridge 1(LRFD)			11	01	SR 00	Pittsburgh	0051
2	TrainingBridge2	Training Bridge 2(LRFD)			-1	-1	N/A	N/A	-1
3	TrainingBridge3	Training Bridge 3(LRFD)			11	01	I-79	Pittsburgh	0079
19	TrussTrainingExample	Truss Training Example							5
24	Visual Reference 1	Visual Reference 1			01	12	I-76	WAITSFIEL	I-76

2 Double click column heading to sort location in ascending order

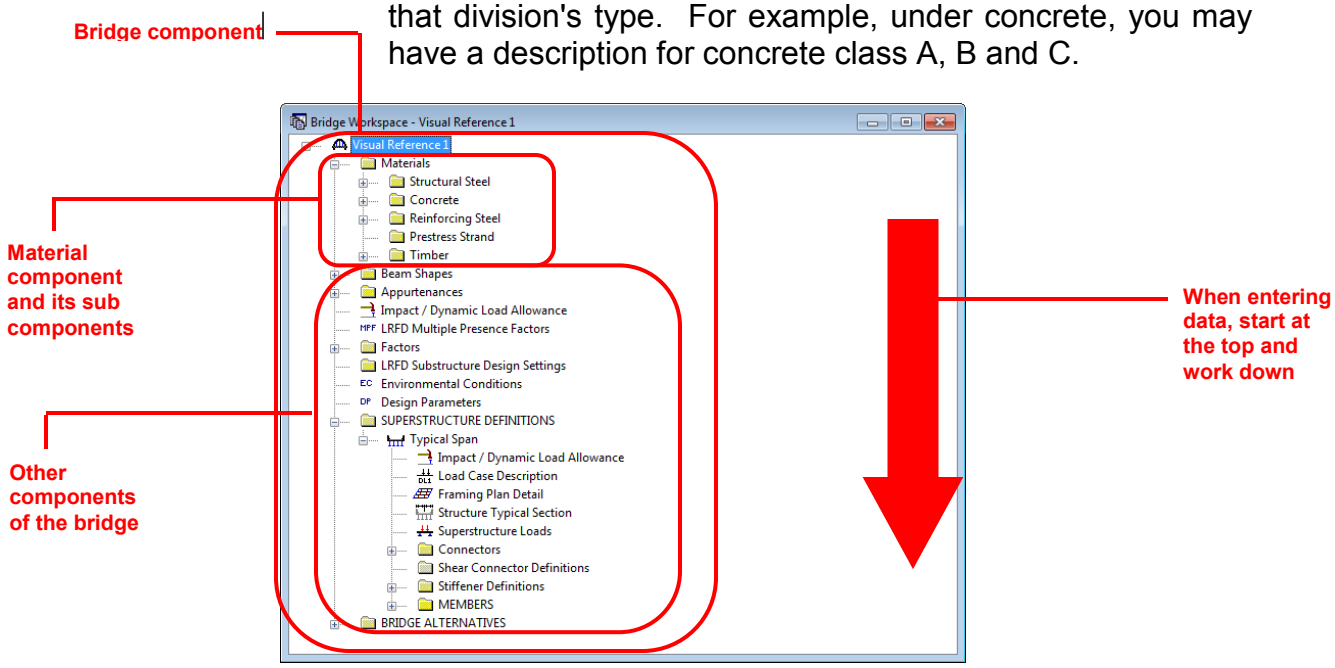
BID	Bridge Id	Bridge Name	Checked	Checked	District	County	Facility	Location	Rou
10	Example7	Example 7 PS (LFD)							-1
20	LRFD Substructure Example	LRFD Substructure Example 1							
22	LRFD Substructure Example	LRFD Substructure Example 3							
23	LRFD Substructure Example	LRFD Substructure Example 4 (NHI Hammer Head)							-1
11	RCTrainingBridge1	RC Training Bridge1(LFD)							-1
12	TimberTrainingBridge1	Timber Tr. Bridge1 (ASD)							-1
19	TrussTrainingExample	Truss Training Example							5
15	FSys GF TrainingBridge3	FloorSystem GF Training Bridge 3			07	06	I-95	ATL	-1
21	LRFD Substructure Example	LRFD Substructure Example 2					SR 40	ERIE COUN	4034
17	FLine FS TrainingBridge2	FloorLine FS Training Bridge 2			02	02	I-75	GNV	-1
16	FLine GFS TrainingBridge1	FloorLine GFS Training Bridge 1			01	01	I-75	JAX	-1
2	TrainingBridge2	Training Bridge 2(LRFD)			-1	-1	N/A	N/A	-1
13	FSys GFS TrainingBridge1	FloorSystem GFS Training Bridge 1			06	15	NJ-Tu	NJCity	-1
18	FLine GF TrainingBridge3	FloorLine GF Training Bridge 3			01	01	I-95	NY	15
14	FSys FS TrainingBridge2	FloorSystem FS Training Bridge 2			11	333	I-95	NYC	-1
1	TrainingBridge1	Training Bridge 1(LRFD)			11	01	SR 00	Pittsburgh	0051
3	TrainingBridge3	Training Bridge 3(LRFD)			11	01	I-79	Pittsburgh	0079
24	Visual Reference 1	Visual Reference 1			01	12	I-76	WAITSFIEL	I-76

3 Select bridge from list

BID	Bridge Id	Bridge Name	Checked	Checked	District	County	Facility	Location	Rou
10	Example7	Example 7 PS (LFD)							-1
20	LRFD Substructure Example	LRFD Substructure Example 1							
22	LRFD Substructure Example	LRFD Substructure Example 3							
23	LRFD Substructure Example	LRFD Substructure Example 4 (NHI Hammer Head)							-1
11	RCTrainingBridge1	RC Training Bridge1(LFD)							-1
12	TimberTrainingBridge1	Timber Tr. Bridge1 (ASD)							-1
19	TrussTrainingExample	Truss Training Example							5
15	FSys GF TrainingBridge3	FloorSystem GF Training Bridge 3			07	06	I-95	ATL	-1
21	LRFD Substructure Example	LRFD Substructure Example 2					SR 40	ERIE COUN	4034
17	FLine FS TrainingBridge2	FloorLine FS Training Bridge 2			02	02	I-75	GNV	-1
16	FLine GFS TrainingBridge1	FloorLine GFS Training Bridge 1			01	01	I-75	JAX	-1
2	TrainingBridge2	Training Bridge 2(LRFD)			-1	-1	N/A	N/A	-1
13	FSys GFS TrainingBridge1	FloorSystem GFS Training Bridge 1			06	15	NJ-Tu	NJCity	-1
18	FLine GF TrainingBridge3	FloorLine GF Training Bridge 3			01	01	I-95	NY	15
14	FSys FS TrainingBridge2	FloorSystem FS Training Bridge 2			11	333	I-95	NYC	-1
1	TrainingBridge1	Training Bridge 1(LRFD)			11	01	SR 00	Pittsburgh	0051
3	TrainingBridge3	Training Bridge 3(LRFD)			11	01	I-79	Pittsburgh	0079
24	Visual Reference 1	Visual Reference 1			01	12	I-76	WAITSFIEL	I-76

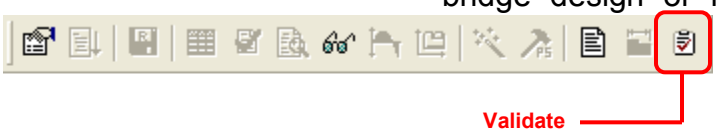
The result is that both the Bridge ID number and the Location are sorted in ascending order. At this point I look down the list in the location column for Waitsfield, then I look over at the Bridge ID until I find bridge 24 (see where the cursor is pointing in the third screen shot above).

Double clicking on a bridge from the bridge list opens the Bridge Workspace. The Bridge Workspace tree works similar to the Windows Explorer file tree, except that instead of sorting files and folders, the Bridge Workspace sorts out the different components of a bridge. These components include the materials the bridge uses, girders or beams, deck and supports to name a few. Each major component has components unto itself. The Materials component, for example, is broken down into structural and reinforcing steel, concrete, prestress strand and timber. These separate divisions are again broken down to the different materials of that division's type. For example, under concrete, you may have a description for concrete class A, B and C.

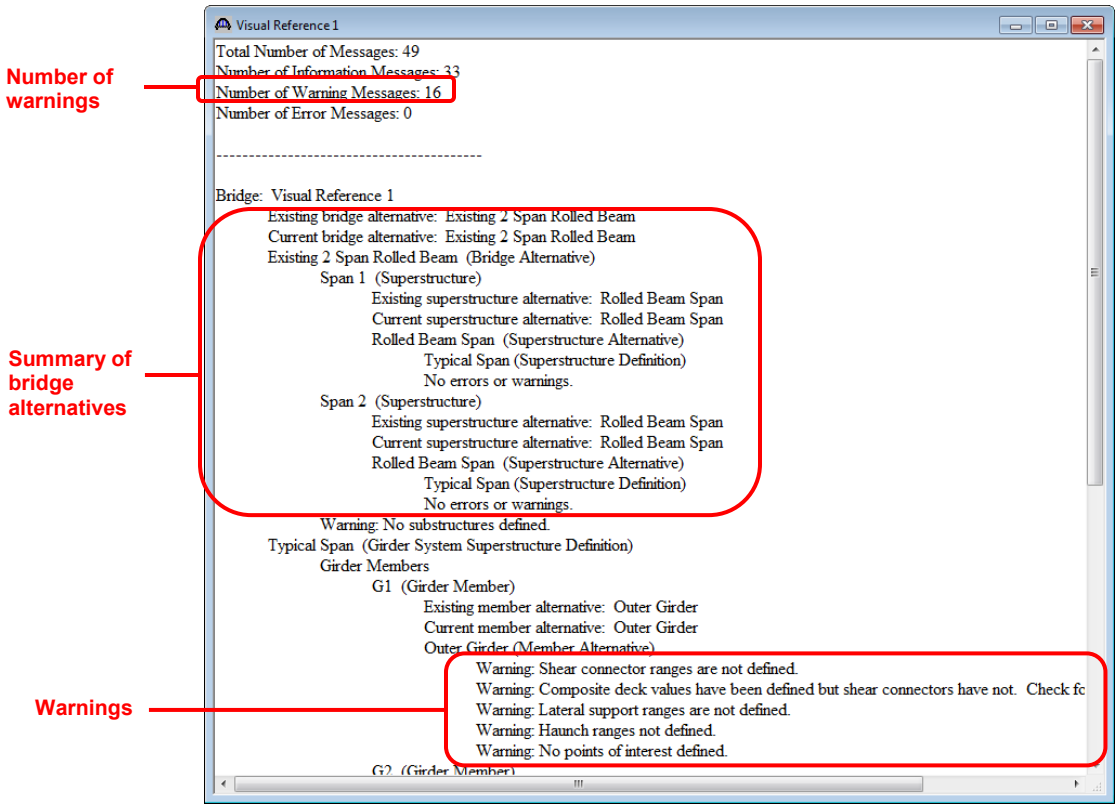


Checking Data Integrity

After completing your data entry for the bridge, the next step is to check your data for missing components. In some cases, this may not be necessary, but in general practice, it is always good to ensure you've entered all the data for your bridge design or rating. To run the check click on the validate button from the Bridge workspace toolbar. The Validation window will appear. This window will give you a summary of the bridge data you've entered. It will also list a series of warnings regarding

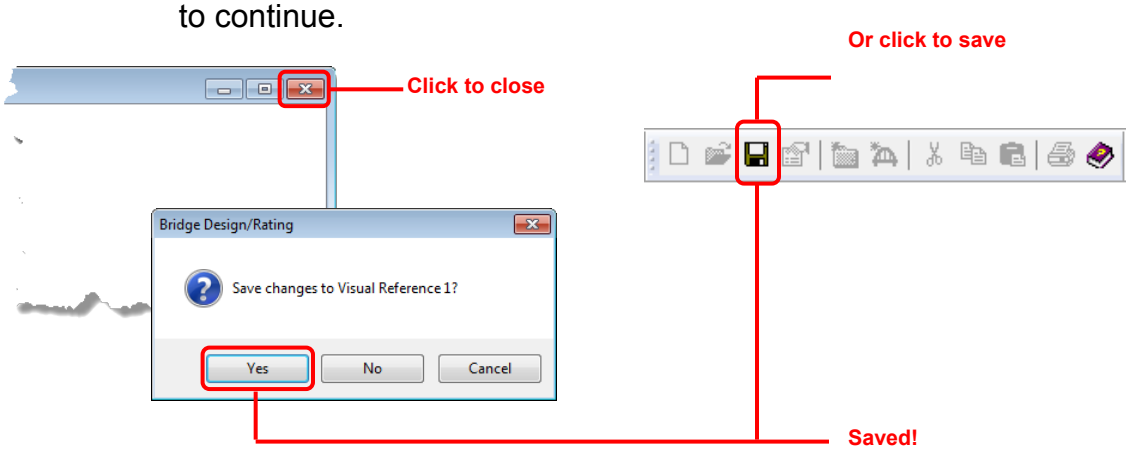


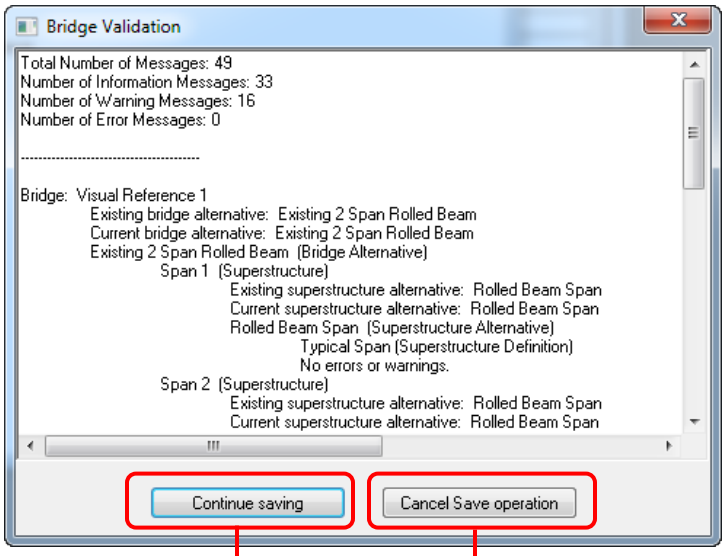
your data. If you've missed something, it will be listed here. Use this as a guide to ensure your data entry is complete.



Saving your Bridge Data

Once your data has been entered and verified, click on the save button from the Standard Toolbar to save your data. If you close the bridge workspace before saving, AASHTOWare Bridge Design and Rating will ask if you want to save your data. Before saving, AASHTOWare Bridge Design and Rating will validate your data and ask if you want to continue.




Bridge Validation
Total Number of Messages: 49
Number of Information Messages: 33
Number of Warning Messages: 16
Number of Error Messages: 0
Bridge: Visual Reference 1
Existing bridge alternative: Existing 2 Span Rolled Beam
Current bridge alternative: Existing 2 Span Rolled Beam
Existing 2 Span Rolled Beam (Bridge Alternative)
Span 1 (Superstructure)
Existing superstructure alternative: Rolled Beam Span
Current superstructure alternative: Rolled Beam Span
Rolled Beam Span (Superstructure Alternative)
Typical Span (Superstructure Definition)
No errors or warnings.
Span 2 (Superstructure)
Existing superstructure alternative: Rolled Beam Span
Current superstructure alternative: Rolled Beam Span
Continue saving
Cancel Save operation
Click to save
Click to go back to workspace