

Installing Design Builder

By:

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Installing Design Builder

- *Background/skills required: Basic understanding about buildings and computers*
- *Resources required: P-IV or above computer with at least 256MB RAM, internet connection (not for entire duration of use)*
- *Expected duration of tutorial: Half hour*
- *Outcome of tutorial: installation of DB, understanding its working*

Step-1: Go to Design Builder website

Design Builder evaluation is Free available for one month. It can be downloaded from www.designbuilder.co.uk



The screenshot shows the Design Builder website homepage. The browser window title is "DesignBuilder - Building design, simulation and visualisation - Building Simulation... Made Easy - Windows Internet Explorer". The address bar shows "http://www.designbuilder.co.uk/content/view/43/64/". The website features a navigation menu with links for Home, Products, Downloads, Training, Support, Partners, and About Us. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area includes a "Latest News" section with several articles, a large banner for "Building Simulation... Made Easy" with "Free Trial" and "Purchase" buttons, and three featured articles: "UK EPCs and Part-L", "DesignBuilder v.1.6", and "CFD Development".

Illustration-0.1: opening Screen of Design Builder website

Step-2: Register yourself and download Design Builder:

To download Design Builder first one has to get registered online:

The screenshot shows the DesignBuilder website interface. The browser title is "DesignBuilder - Building design, simulation and visualisation - Building Simulation... Made Eas - Windows Internet Explorer". The address bar shows "http://www.designbuilder.co.uk/content/view/43/64/". The page content includes:

- EnergyPlus Training:** Arlington Heights, IL, USA. DesignBuilder has been used to certify over 2.8 million m² of buildings in Italy in 2008. "DesignBuilder is the most comprehensive user interface for EnergyPlus". Buttons: Free 30 Day Trial, Get Started Tutorials, Buy DesignBuilder.
- UK EPCs and Part-L:** DesignBuilder SBEM is a high productivity replacement for the SBEM program. It can be used for producing EPCs and Building Regulations compliance reports. Become an Energy Assessor through our Accredited Training. More on DesignBuilder SBEM.
- DesignBuilder v.1.6:** New DesignBuilder v.1.6 is released and can be downloaded now! The new version includes many minor fixes and improvements and uses the latest SBEM 3.2.b and provides BERs for Republic of Ireland. The full revision history lists all the changes. Download v.1.6. Version 1 license holders can upgrade free to v.1.6.
- CFD Development:** DesignBuilder CFD is a new easy-to-use tool for predicting airflow and temperature distribution in and around buildings. It uses the same methods as the general purpose pure CFD packages, but at a fraction of the cost and without the need for any specialist knowledge. The CFD module will be first released in beta test form soon. A full implementation, including links to EnergyPlus will be available with the release of v.2.0. More on DesignBuilder CFD.

A callout box points to the "Register" link in the footer with the text: "Click here to register as new user".

Illustration-0.2: Registration of user

Basic information input about the user is required while registering as user:

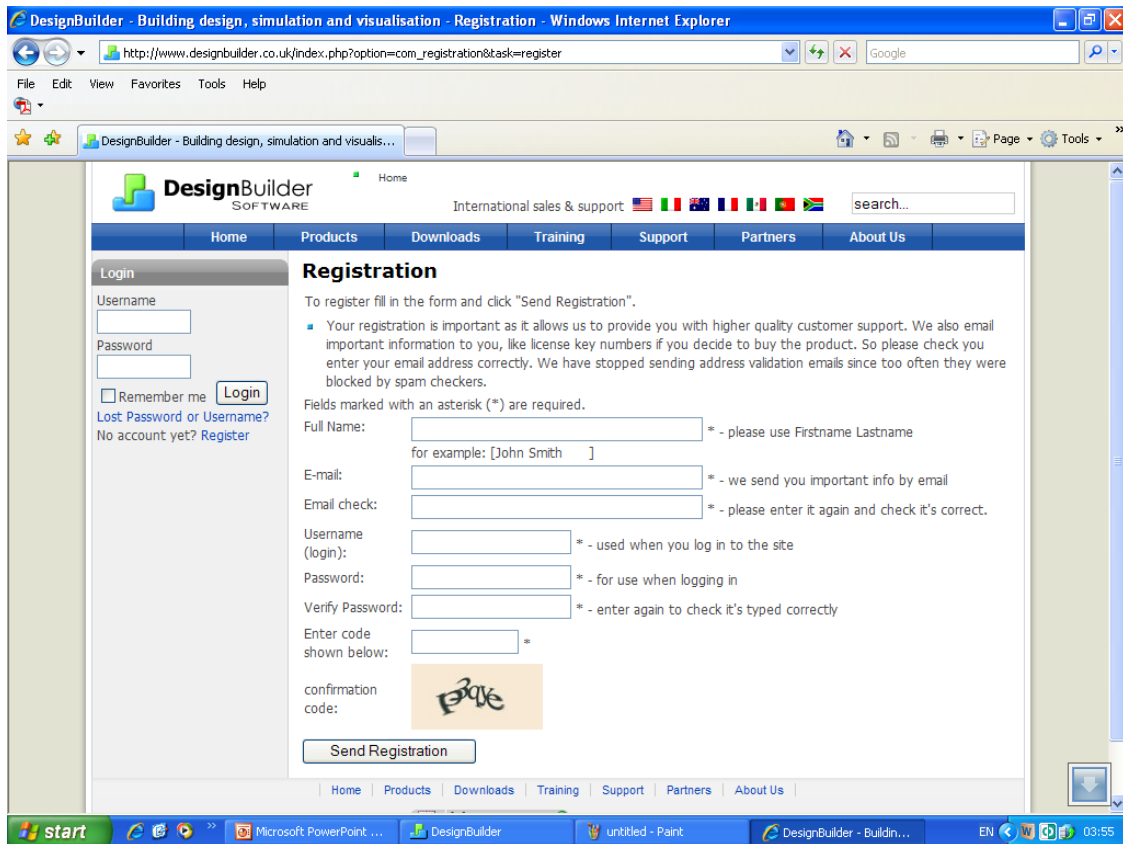
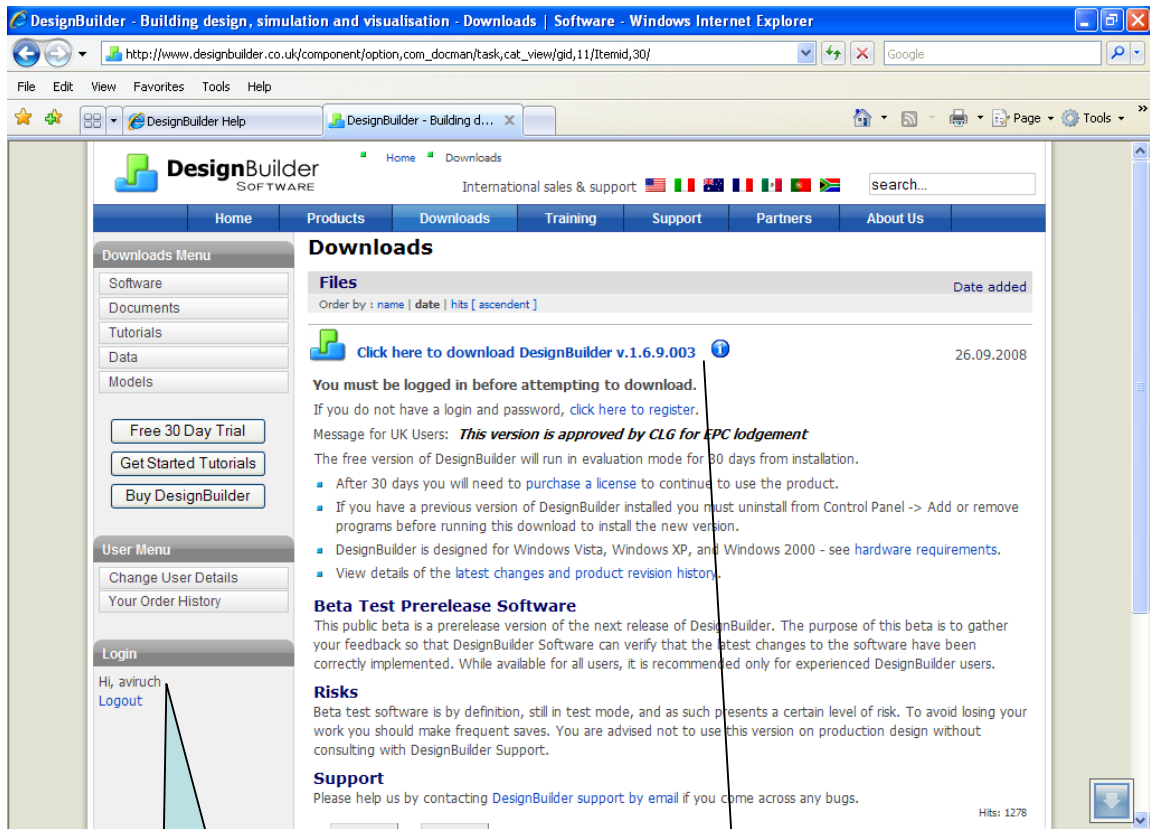


Illustration-0.3: User information required

One can check the version of Design Builder that is going to be downloaded, as shown in Illustration 0.4.



Login with
user name
and
password

Current version
available for download

Illustration 0.4: Checking the version being downloaded

Pricing for different types of licences as shown in Illustration 0.5, can be seen by clicking the 'purchase a license' on the screen shown in Illustration 0.4.

User Menu

Change User Details

Your Order History

Login

Hi, aviruch

[Logout](#)

DesignBuilder Pricing

Prices for DesignBuilder Software V1

DesignBuilder Software Ltd reserves the right to adjust prices without notice.

Educational users may apply for a discount voucher - [find out more](#)

Perpetual Single User		Buy Now		
	GBP	EUR	USD	
Single user	£799	€ 1,199	\$1,449	

Annual Single User		Buy Now		
	GBP	EUR	USD	
Single user	£499	€ 749	\$899	

Perpetual Site + Seats		Buy Now		
	GBP	EUR	USD	
Site	£3,199	€ 4,699	\$5,699	
Each seat	£159	€ 239	\$289	

Annual Site + Seats		Buy Now		
	GBP	EUR	USD	
Site	£1,999	€ 2,949	\$3,599	
Each seat	£99	€ 149	\$179	

[Download](#) a price list.

[\[Back \]](#)

Illustration 0.5: Pricing screen

Besides this getting started guide, there are several other options of getting support for using the software as shown in Illustration 0.6.

The screenshot shows the DesignBuilder Support page. The navigation menu includes Home, Products, Downloads, Training, Support, Partners, and About Us. The main content area is titled 'DesignBuilder Support' and provides an overview of support options. The left sidebar contains a 'Support Menu' with links to Tutorials, FAQ's, Knowledgebase, Support Forum, Support Desk, Mailing List Subscription, Hardware Requirements, and Training. The main content area lists the following support options:

- Tutorials:** To get started using DesignBuilder please view our [Tutorials](#). These will take you through the basic steps in creating a model and running simulations.
- Program Help:** The web version of the [DesignBuilder Program Help](#) has detailed information about program use. The same information is also available as a printable pdf document from the [Downloads > Documents](#) web page.
- Knowledgebase:** Please check the [Knowledgebase](#) for answers to common questions such as modelling capabilities, hardware requirements, graphics cards and installation issues.
- Support Forums:** The [Support Forums](#) are open for anyone to read. Registered users may post questions and responses. DesignBuilder support staff check the forums regularly and respond to issues raised there.
- Email Support:** We provide priority support by email for licensed users through the [Support Desk](#) where you can also view the [DesignBuilder Knowledgebase](#). If you are running an evaluation version of DesignBuilder and have issues that need to be resolved before you purchase the product try asking a question in the [Support Forum](#) or send an e-mail using the [Support Desk](#).
- Training:** The [Training](#) webpage lists all DesignBuilder training events.
- Consultancy:** The [Consultancy](#) webpage provides further information on services offered.

Illustration 0.6: Design Builder Support Options

Step-3: Installing Design Builder

Once the Design Builder setup file is downloaded, on double clicking it, the software gets installed. The user should let it get installed in default manner. On installation, there would be an icon of the desktop as short cut.

Double click on the icon or initiate the software by locating it through the start menu.

Every time the Design Builder is started, it shows the screen shown in Illustration 0.6 containing information about version, and expiry date.

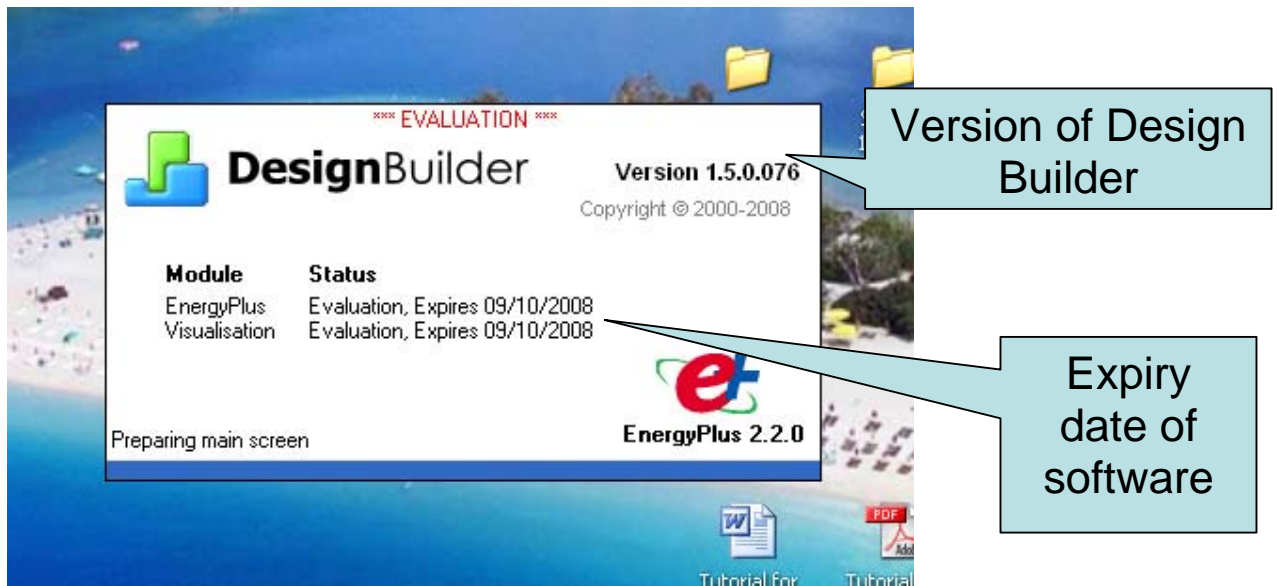


Illustration 0.6: Initialising screen

While installing Design Builder an evaluation license key is generated for each module. These evaluation licences are to be entered in the screen shown in Illustration 0.7.

Evaluation key is valid for 30 days from the date of installation.

If Design Builder needs to be purchased, an e-mail containing a serial number, license keys and information on when the licences expire would be received, which has to be entered in screen for license.

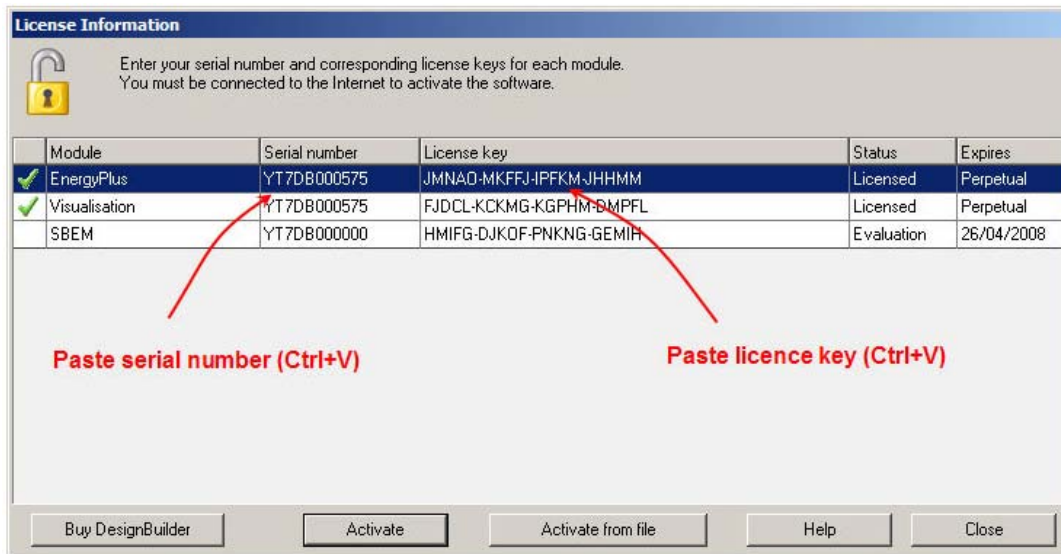


Illustration 0.7: Entering license information

Step-4: Checking proper working of Design Builder

Once the license keys are provided, on opening the Design Builder software, the starting screen of Design Builder comes as shown in Illustration 0.8, which contains available files and templates. On subsequent running, it also includes the listing of recently used files.

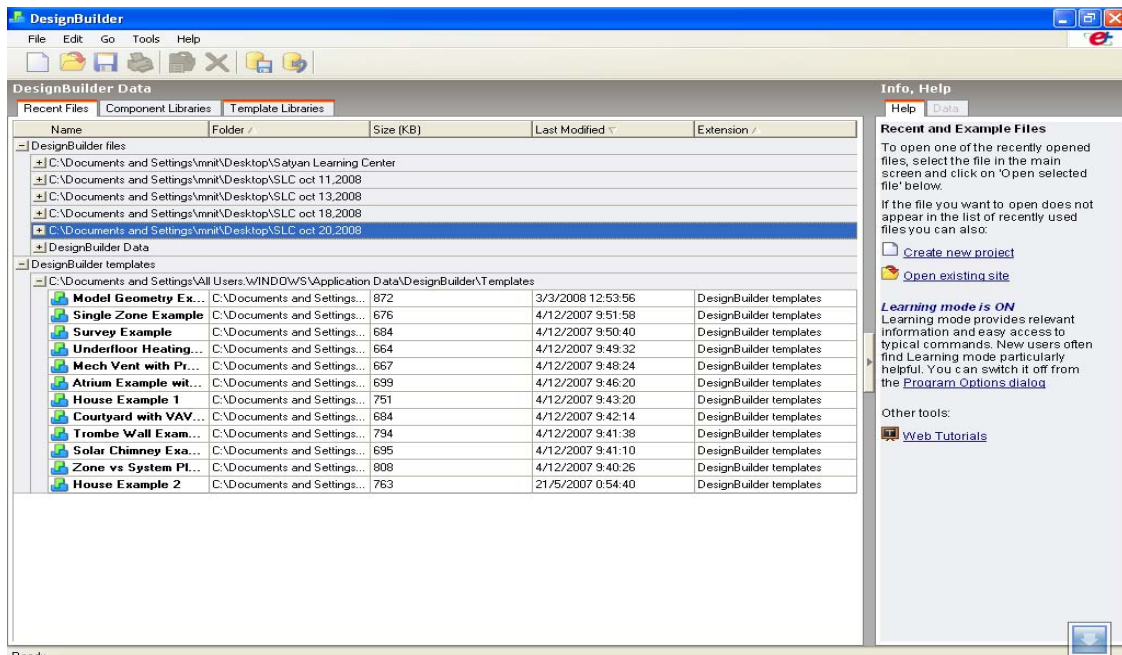


Illustration 0.8: Opening screen of Design Builder

Double click any file out of the list of existing files (lets say: "single zone example"). After this another screen would pop up as shown in Illustration 0.9.

In this default weather file would be London/UK. For the purpose of checking proper installation of software, it is advised not to change the weather file. Now select 'OK', at the bottom of this screen.

Availability of internet at this point is essential since the weather file is downloaded automatically from DB server.

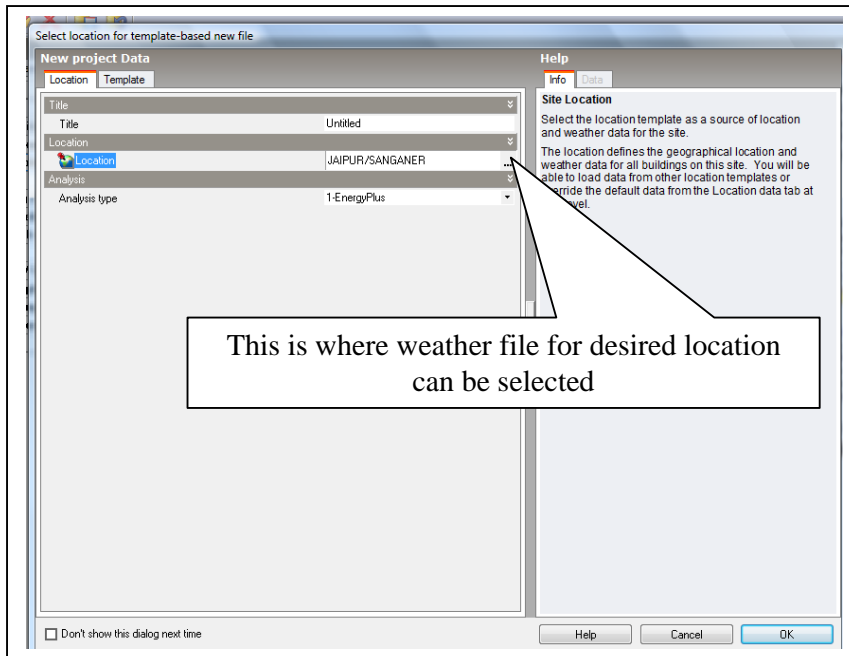


Illustration 0.9: New project Data Screen

If 'single zone example' was selected in previous step, the screen would show geometry of a building as shown in Illustration 0.10.

The key for starting simulation is shown at the bottom of this illustration as shown in Illustration 0.9..

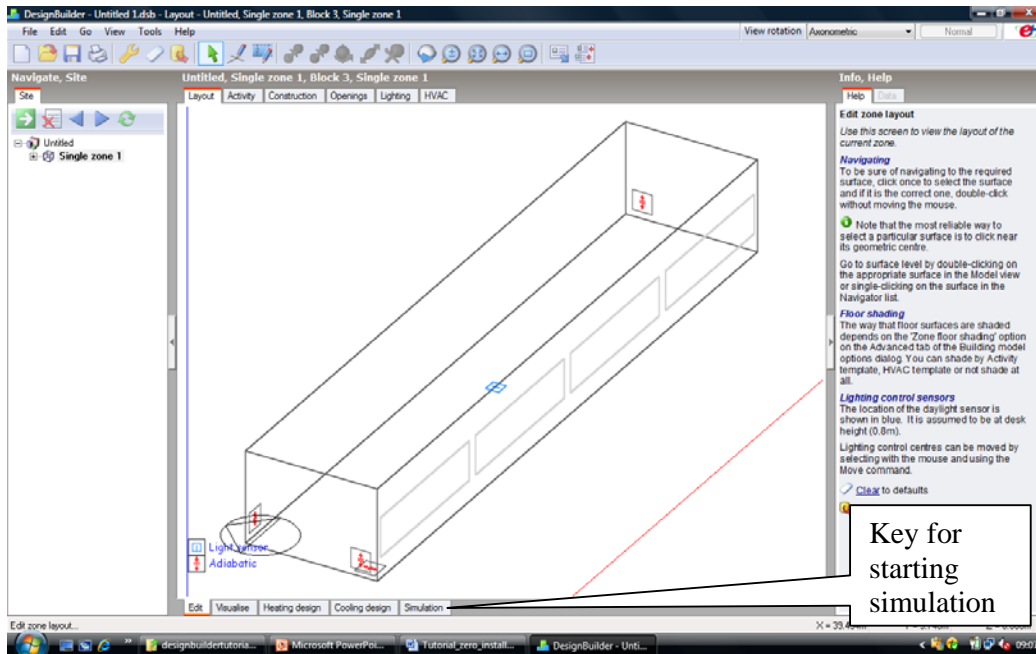


Illustration 0.10: Display of building geometry

On selecting the 'simulation' key, screen shown in Illustration 0.11, a pop up would appear which controls the 'calculation details'. For this time being it is advised to select 'OK' while keeping the default values.

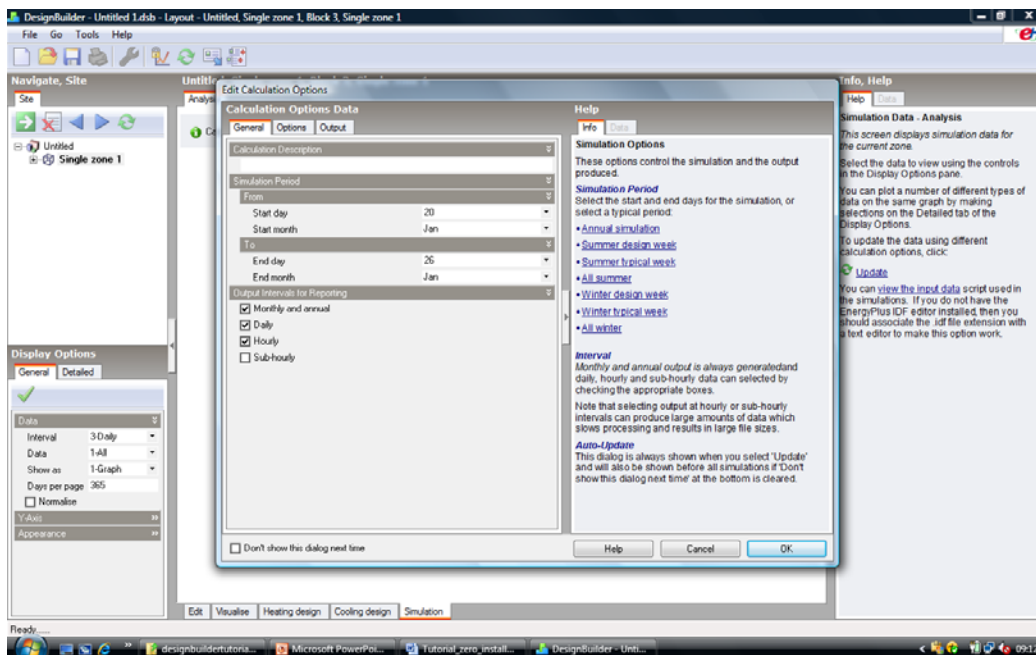


Illustration 0.11: Calculation details screen

On selecting 'OK', another screen similar to the screen shown in Illustration 0.7 containing the license details would come up. On selecting 'continue' in this screen, the screen shows a progress bar indicating that some calculations are going on.

After few seconds, the screen shown in Illustration 0.12 appears on the screen.

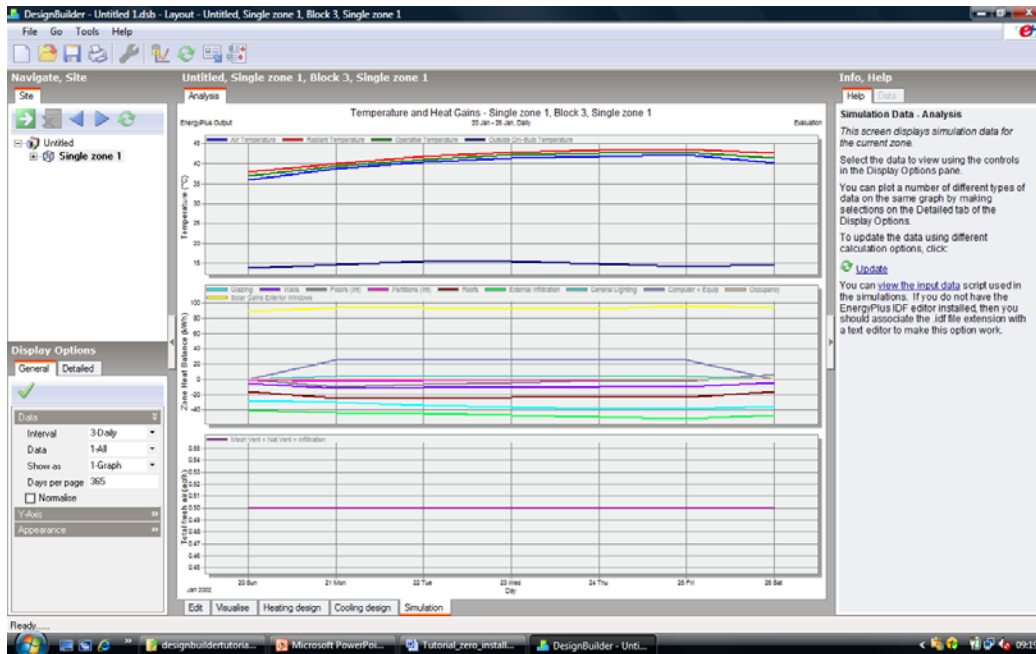


Illustration 0.12: Result screen

By following the above steps, if one has obtained this screen, it can be concluded that the software has been installed correctly and example files are running well.