

Here's a question from the Bentley VBA discussion group. The questioner is developing an application using VBA for Microsoft Office™, and wants to test at run-time whether MicroStation is available on a user's computer.

[Q] How to know if the MS is installed in the machine where the application is being executed?

[A] The same way you would detect any other Automation object: attempt to create an instance of the object, and trap the error if it fails.

First, using the VBA Interactive Development Environment (IDE), create a project reference to the Automation library:

- 1.1 Use the Tools|References menu
- 1.2 Browse to locate the Bentley MicroStation DGN 8.0 Object Library
- 1.3 Click OK to accept your selection and add a reference to your VBA project

Next, write a function to create an instance of the Automation object, and return True if successful, False otherwise. The code snippet below assumes that you have a public or global variable `m_oMicroStation`. If the function returns True, then the variable is set to a valid reference to the `MicroStation.Automation` object.

```
' -----  
' MicroStationAvailable  
' Test to find if MicroStation is installed on the computer where  
' this application is running  
' Returns: Boolean True if MicroStation is installed  
' -----  
Public Function MicroStationAvailable() As Boolean  
    MicroStationAvailable = False  
    On Error GoTo err_MicroStationUnavailable  
    Set m_oMicroStation = New MicroStationDGN.Application  
    ' If we reach this line then the object was created successfully  
    MicroStationAvailable = True  
    Exit Function  
  
err_MicroStationUnavailable:  
    Debug.Print "MicroStation not installed on this computer"  
End Function
```

Example source code for a VBA module is available on our web site <http://www.la-solutions.co.uk/publications/>