



# Improv Installation Guide

( using Sql Server 2016 )

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# Welcome

Enclosed are the instructions for installing Improv. Before proceeding, please review the following information:

**IMPROV runs on Microsoft Windows.** Improv is only supported on **64-bit** versions of Microsoft Windows® 8, Windows 8.1, and Windows 10. Improv is not supported on Windows 7 or older versions of Windows, nor is Improv supported on WindowsRT, Linux, MacOS, or iOS. [See the LesterNet Improv page](#) for all the computer requirements.

**Administrator rights are required.** Your User Account on the computer must have administrative rights or the installation will fail. Contact your dealership technical support if you are unsure which type of account you have.

**Windows must be up to date.** Your Windows operating system must be up to date. Even if you have just taken the computer out of the box, Microsoft may have issued updates since it left the factory. Be sure that all updates have been run prior to starting the Improv install. Contact your dealership technical support if you are unsure about how to do this.

**This installation should take about 30-50 minutes to complete.** Make sure you can allocate at least this much time without interruption. You need to stay at the computer as your interaction is needed during the process.

**You need at least 3 GB of free space on your computer.** This requirement is only for the installation of Improv itself. As you use Improv to create projects, drawings, and reports, the space used will increase. We recommend having at least 20 GB of free space available.

**Transferring from another computer?** If you are installing Improv because you are transferring from an old computer to a new one, please note **you cannot simply copy all of the files from the old one to the new one.** Please refer to the [Transferring IMPROV Between Computers](#) guide on Lester Net for instructions on how to move the Improv installation.

**ANTI-VIRUS SOFTWARE.** Prior to installing, **please de-activate any anti-virus real-time scanning.** If you have problems installing or running Improv, you may need to uninstall the anti-virus software, then install Improv, and then re-install the anti-virus software after.

# Obtaining the Improv Installation Wizard

The Improv installation can be downloaded from the LesterNET® website. Log in to the website (using your credentials provided to you from Lester).



- On the HOME page, click the Improv page under the Design & Price menu.
- Find the download link for the IMPROV FULL INSTALLATION.
- The version number will vary as newer downloads are posted.
- Download the “FullInstall###.exe” where ### is the latest version.
- Put the installer program on your DESKTOP or Downloads folder (recommended).



**WARNING:** The download file is around 950 MB. If you have a fast Internet connection, this should take about 10-15 minutes. If you have a slow or wireless connection, this could take several hours.

You may also obtain a USB stick containing the installation from the Improv Helpdesk.

- Call the Improv Helpdesk @ 320-395-5233 or email at [Improv@lesterbuildings.com](mailto:Improv@lesterbuildings.com).
- Ask for an install USB stick for Improv. The USB will be mailed to you via USPS at no charge. If you need faster delivery, you may be billed for the shipping cost.

# Special Step for New Dealers

If you are a NEW Lester dealer, the Improv Helpdesk will email you special first-time instructions. The email will include a special file which the installer will need to complete your configuration.

The file is named: ***dealer.xml***

You must DETACH this file from your email and download/save it to your DESKTOP. By doing this, the install program will complete your configuration without additional intervention from you. Make sure this XML file is on your DESKTOP before you run the install program.

**Do not open this file!** Opening the file will corrupt it and Improv will not install correctly!

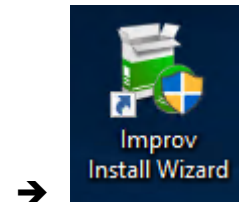
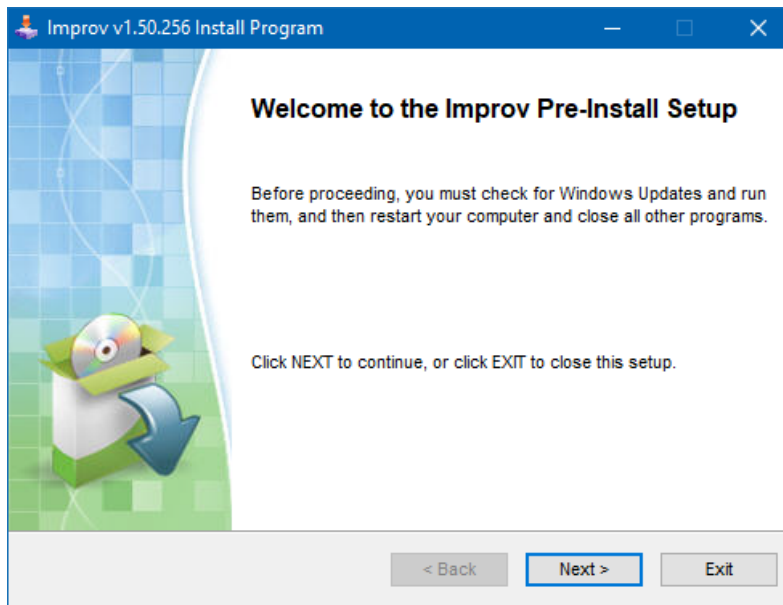
## You Need a Password To Run the Install Program!

To run the install program you will need two pieces of information:

1. **Your Lester Dealer ID:** This is a 3-character ID provided by Lester.
2. **The Installer Password:** Call the Improv Helpdesk @ 320-395-5233. If you are a new dealer and received an email with your <dealer.xml> file, then that email should contain the password.  
**IMPORTANT:** the installer password changes periodically! If the previous password does not work, you'll need to call the Helpdesk to get the current password.

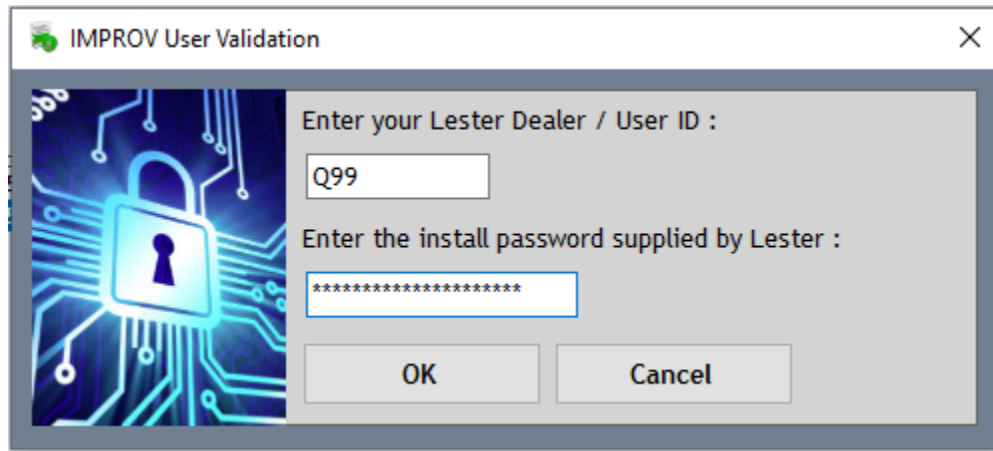
# Running the Installation Wizard

1. Close all other programs and disable all anti-virus software. It is okay to leave your web browser or PDF reader open with these instructions during the installation.
  - If you downloaded the file **<FullInstall###.exe>** from LesterNet®, double-click the downloaded file to start the installation.
  - If you are installing from a USB stick, insert it. Open Windows Explorer and navigate to the USB drive. The drive should contain the same file **<FullInstall###.exe>**.

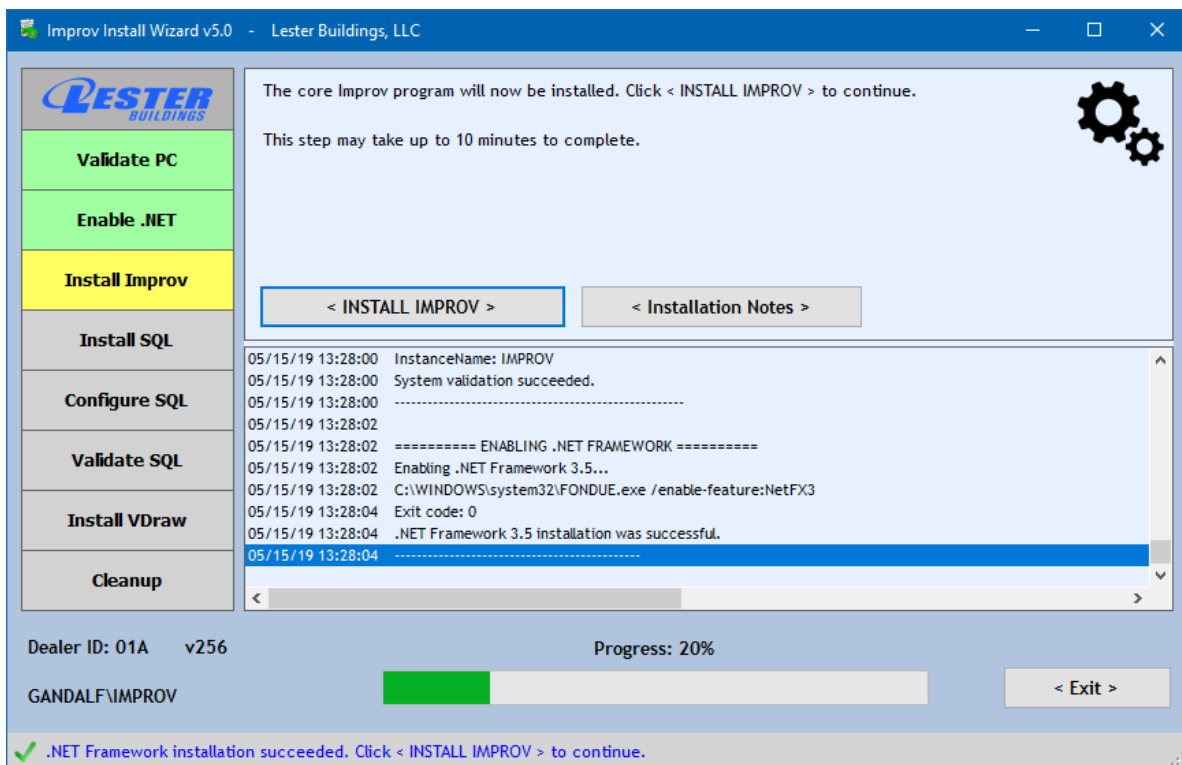


2. The first thing that launches is the Pre-Installer. The pre-installer contains the compressed installation files. Click <NEXT> twice to extract and expand the files. This will take 2-3 minutes to complete.
3. Once it completes, it will create a new icon on the desktop ('**Improv Install Wizard**'). This is the shortcut to the main wizard, which actually installs Improv. The wizard should launch automatically. If it doesn't, double-click the desktop icon to start it.

4. When the wizard starts, a SECURITY form will appear. You must enter your Lester Dealer ID and the installer password. If you don't know the password, call the Improv Helpdesk @ 320-395-5233. **YOU CANNOT PROCEED WITHOUT YOUR ID AND PASSWORD!**
- **IMPORTANT:** the installer password changes periodically! If the previous password does not work, you must call the Helpdesk to get the current password.

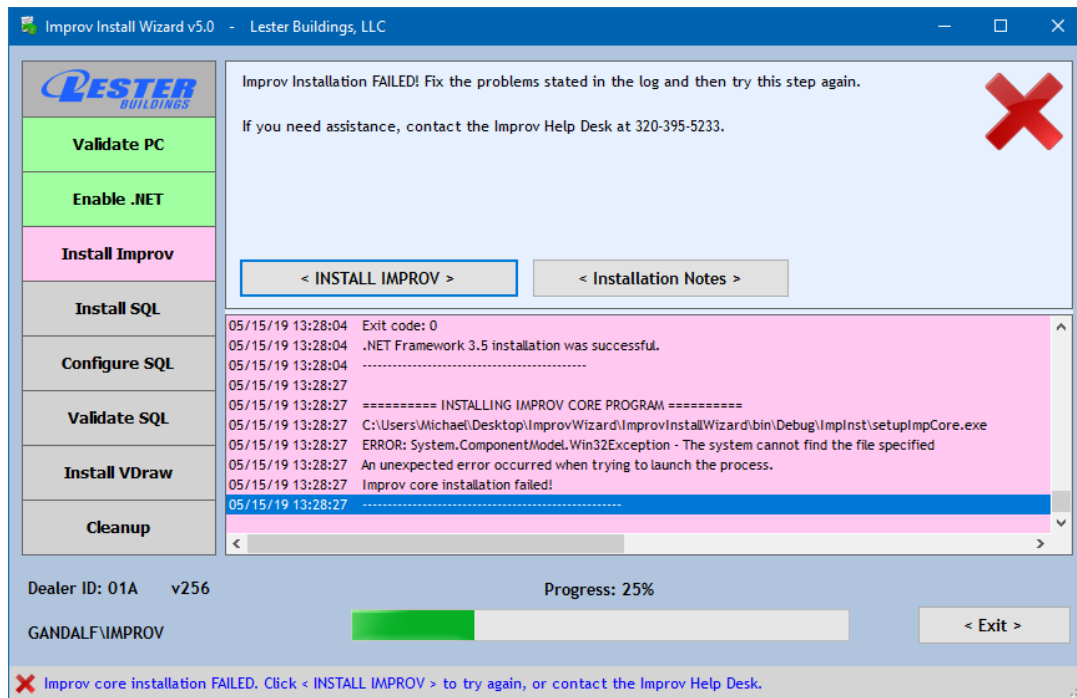


5. Once you enter the password, the main wizard will start. The wizard walks you through (8) installation steps. Each step is represented with a gray rectangular icon along the left side of the wizard window (see below figure).
6. Follow the message prompts to step through the installation. As each step is completed, the color of its corresponding icon changes from Gray, to Yellow, to Green.



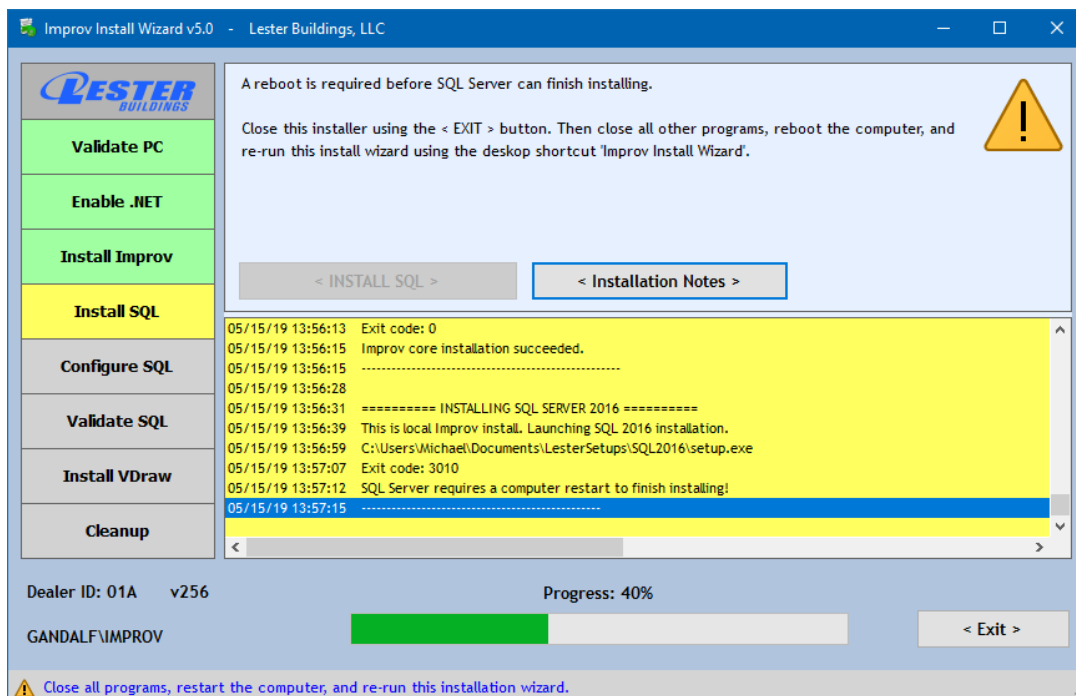
The main Improv Installation Wizard window.

7. If a failure occurs at any step, the corresponding icon will turn pink (see figure below), and the wizard will display an error message. Try to follow the messages in the log to fix the conflict, and then click the button to run the step over again. If you cannot resolve the issue, contact the Improv Help Desk.



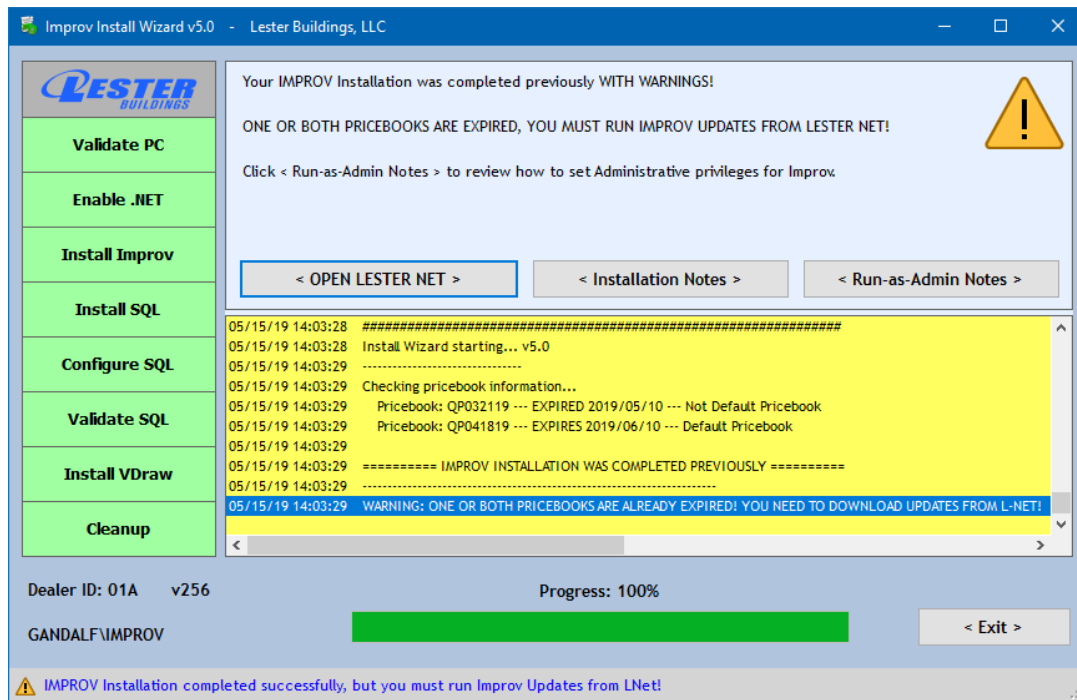
PINK icon and background indicates that a step has failed!

8. The installation wizard might prompt you to restart your computer multiple times during the installation process. These restarts are **critical**. If you do not restart your computer, some components may not install properly, and Improv will not function.



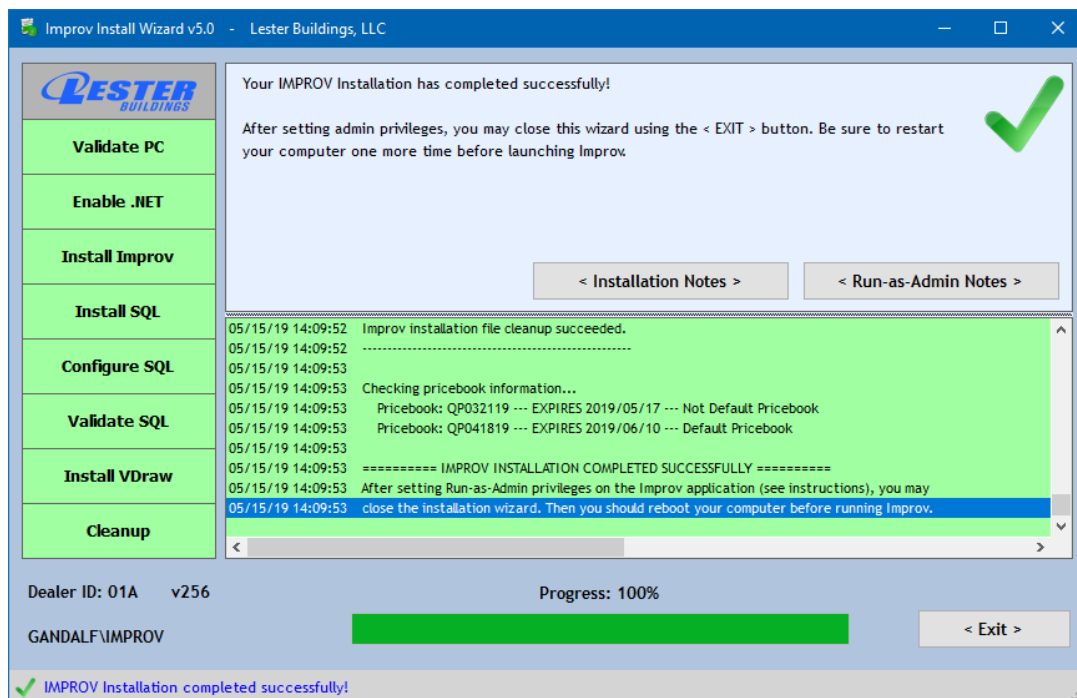
YELLOW background on an intermediate step means a REBOOT is required!

9. When you get to the end of the installation, all the icons along the left side will be green. If there are additional Improv Updates to run, the Wizard will prompt you to open Lester Net to download these updates. You must download each update from Lester Net and run it in sequence.



If the final-step background is YELLOW, additional updates are required!

10. If the background of the installer is ALL GREEN at the end, this means that there are no additional Improv Updates to run. After finishing the install, all files and desktop icons are automatically deleted.

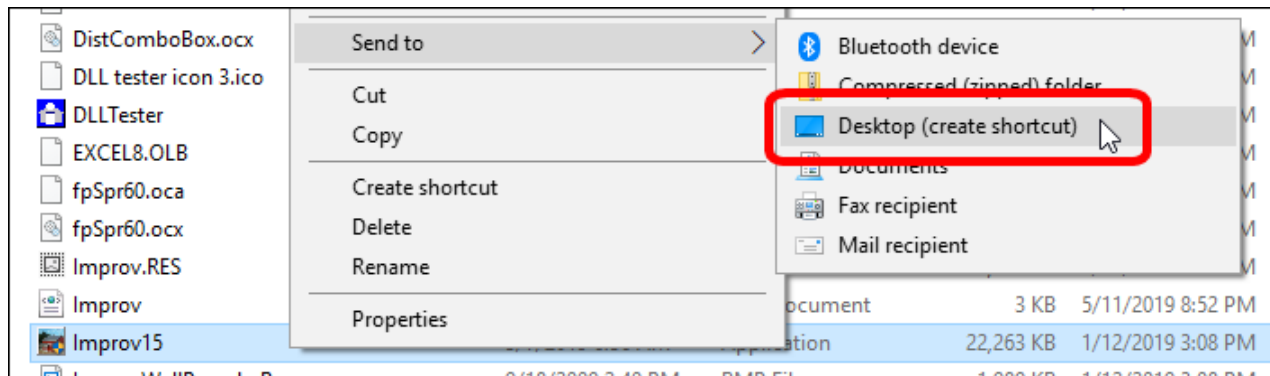
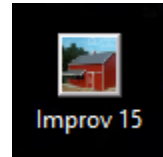


If the final-step background is ALL-GREEN, no updates are required.

# Starting Improv 1.50 for the First Time

1. If you see the Improv® program ICON on your desktop (see above), double click to launch Improv®.
2. If you don't see this ICON, then do the following:

- Open Windows File Explorer. Navigate to the <C:\> drive
- Open the <LESTER> folder.
- Open the <IMPROV> folder.
- Locate the program file **Improv15.exe**.
- Right click on this file.
- From the pop up menu, click <SEND TO>.
- From the second pop menu, select <DESKTOP (create shortcut)>.
- This will create an Improv shortcut on your desktop.

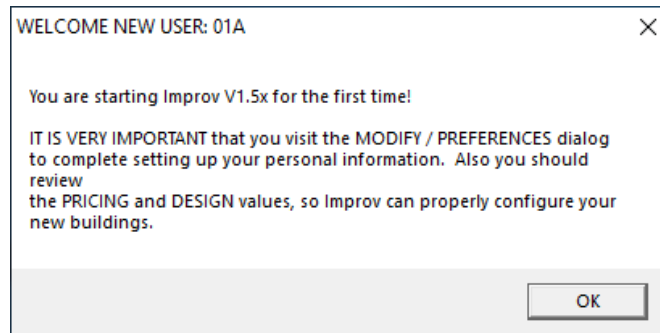


3. When you launch Improv, you will first see a small “Splash Screen” appear in the middle of your screen. This lets you know that Improv is loading, which will take several seconds. A progress bar shows gives you an idea of the loading time.

**Note:** If you get a Fatal Startup Error, modify the desktop shortcut properties to force Windows to run Improv as an Administrator. If you continue to have problems, contact the Improv Help Desk.



4. The first time you start Improv, you will see a welcome message. Click <OK> to continue, and follow the directions to modify your user preferences and setup your design environment.



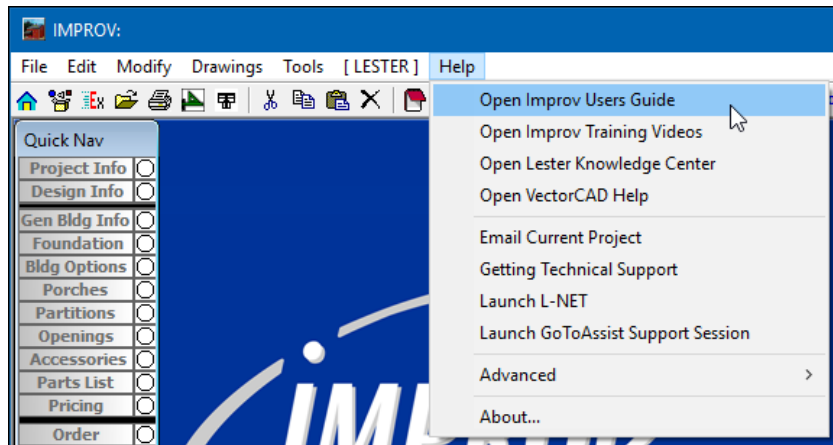
5. Review ALL of the values on ALL tabs and ensure they are correct before you price any buildings.  
**NOTE:** If you have multiple computers running Improv within your dealership, be sure to set the <COMPUTER ID> to a different letter for each computer (ex: A, B, C...). This prevents the duplication of Improv project numbers and allows you to properly transfer projects between your computers. If this is the only computer running Improv, use the default of "A".

A screenshot of the "Preferences" window in Improv. The window has a title bar with a question mark icon and a close button. Below the title bar are several tabs: "Company Info", "File Locations", "Markets", "Pricing", "Design / Const.", and "Order Info". The "Company Info" tab is selected. It contains two columns of input fields. The left column includes: "Business Name:" (text box with "Your Dealer Name"), "Dealer ID:" (text box with "01A"), "Contact:" (text box with "Your Name"), "Address:" (text box), "City:" (text box), "State:" (dropdown menu with "MI" selected), "Zip:" (text box), and "County:" (dropdown menu). The right column includes: "Day Phone:" (text box with "- -"), "Extension:" (text box), "Evening Phone:" (text box with "- -"), "Fax:" (text box with "- -"), "Cell Phone:" (text box with "- -"), "Region:" (dropdown menu with "CH" selected), "Email:" (text box), and "Computer ID:" (text box with "A" selected). Below these fields are two more text boxes: "Last Project Number:" (with "15000") and "Last Customer Number:" (with "15000"). At the bottom of the window are three buttons: a play button, a question mark button, and "OK", "Cancel", and "Save" buttons.

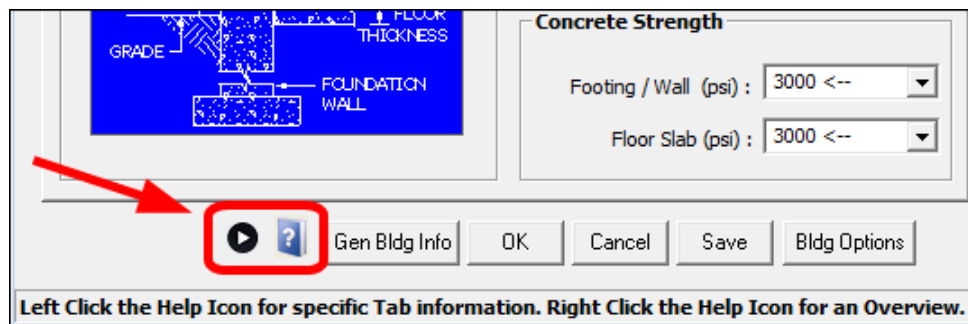
Improv Preferences window

# Getting HELP for Improv

There are a number of ways to get help for using Improv. There are multiple options in the <HELP> menu in Improv (refer to below figure):



- **Improv User's Guide:** This guide will provide you with information about how to use the Improv software from starting a project to printing the customer proposal.
- **LESTER-NET Website:** This opens Internet browser to the LesterNET login page.
- **Launch GoToAssist Support Session:** Select this option to open your Internet browser to the new Lester GoToAssist remote assistance website. One click and you'll be ready to enter the KEY provided by your Improv Help Desk technician to start a new remote support session.



Help is also available from any of the dialogs to the IMPROV USERS GUIDE. When you see the GUIDE symbol (a book with the question mark), you can access the GUIDE system in two ways:

- **RIGHT - CLICK YOUR MOUSE** on the help symbol to open the Topic with an OVERVIEW of this dialog. This provides general information about that this dialog does.
- **LEFT CLICK YOUR MOUSE** on the help symbol to open the Topic about the TAB that you are current viewing. This gives more information on each INPUT on that tab.

There is also a button to launch the Improv Training Videos (black circle with white triangle inside).

- **LEFT CLICK YOUR MOUSE** to open a window to watch the training videos.