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The CAD Manager Wishlist – 2017 Edition

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Learning Objectives

- Discuss your needs and wishes with Autodesk employees and your peers
- Connect with seasoned CAD managers who may share your experiences
- Share best practices and innovative solutions to common CAD management issues
- Feel like part of a community with common needs to direct future changes to the CAD manager's toolset

Description

The tools and ancillary programs that CAD managers use seem to miss out when it comes to updates and new features. In fact, some of these tools haven't been updated in years. This roundtable discussion will focus on what feature changes or improvements would make the CAD manager's job more efficient. Tools and features to be discussed will include (but will not be limited to): Reference Manager, Sheet Set Manager, Standards Checker, eTransmit, and Fields. Attendees will be expected to actively participate, as an AutoCAD Product Team member will attend, so this is an opportunity to have the CAD manager's voice heard!

Speakers



Frank was most recently the CAD Manager for the Oil, Gas and Chemical division at Benham in Tulsa, Oklahoma. In this role, he oversaw all aspects of the AutoCAD, Plant 3D, Navisworks and CADWorx environments.

He has been using AutoCAD since 1986 (v 2.61). Frank is an AutoCAD Certified Professional, a volunteer with AUGI as a forum manager, and a contributing author for the AutoCAD Blog. He is a member of the AutoCAD Customer Council, Autodesk User Panel, the Product Delivery Council, Product Research Community, and the Autodesk Advisors Community.

He was part of a select group invited by Autodesk to attend the inaugural CAD Manager Summit in 2015. As a top-rated member of the AutoCAD All-Star Mentor program, he has provided live guidance and answered questions for over 2,500 in-trial users in more than 50 countries worldwide.



Jisell Howe is currently the CAD Administrator for Uponor, a PEX pipe system manufacturing company located in Apple Valley, Minn. As an AutoCAD certified professional, she manages several product and BIM/CAD content databases as well as supports the multi-platform software needs for 35 designers in the company's Design Services department.

She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Management as well as an Associate of Applied Science degree in Architectural Drafting & Estimating from Dunwoody College of Technology.

Jisell is a returning guest instructor for Midwest University, a regional professional development conference featuring Autodesk software. She was recently named a Top 10 Speaker at Midwest University 2017 and has an article published in the July 2017 issue of AUGIWorld Magazine.

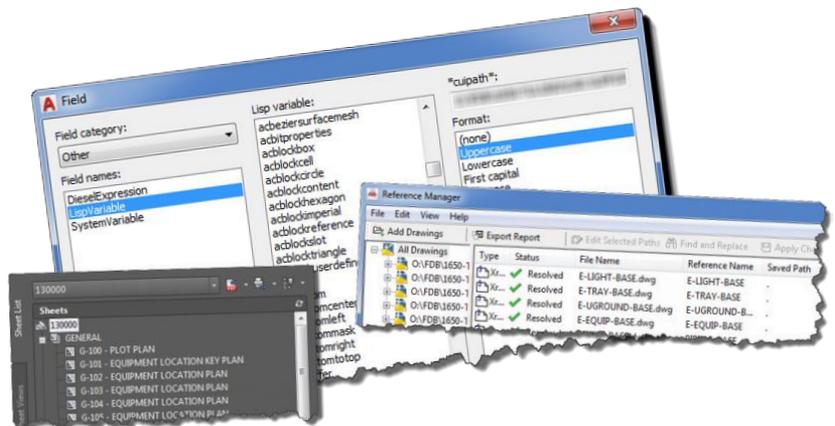
Overview

The position of CAD Manager has often been described as a thankless job. In some ways, that's true; our users should take it for granted that things "just work". We often get our satisfaction from knowing that they do just that.

Every now and then though, we're expected to pull a rabbit out of the hat. For me, that's when the job satisfaction is the greatest. Generally, this magic is performed with the tools Autodesk has given us, such as Reference Manager, eTransmit, Sheet Set Manager etc.

All too often though, our magic is reduced to wishes, as the tool just won't do the job for us. Key features are missing. For those of us who have been doing this since the early 2000's, we may remember the excitement we felt when we got new tools nearly every release. It was like Christmas morning and your birthday all rolled into one.

But just like that new bike you got, after a few years you realized there were things that would make it even better – no matter how great it was when you got it.



Everything it was designed to do still worked fine, it just needed some improvements. What you need is "Bike 2.0".

Our CAD Manager's tool set is essentially the same. Great when it was new and shiny, but after a few years went by, we found that it could use some improvements. Unfortunately, there have been few updates, if any, over the years.

Now, like you perhaps, I've been using these tools for years, but literally lost track of when they were introduced. I did some informal investigation, and came up with the following timeline (Figure 1) that shows when they were introduced, and any major upgrades. As you can see, most were introduced after R14 up through AutoCAD 2005. That's anywhere between 12 to 16 years of using the same feature set in the same tool.

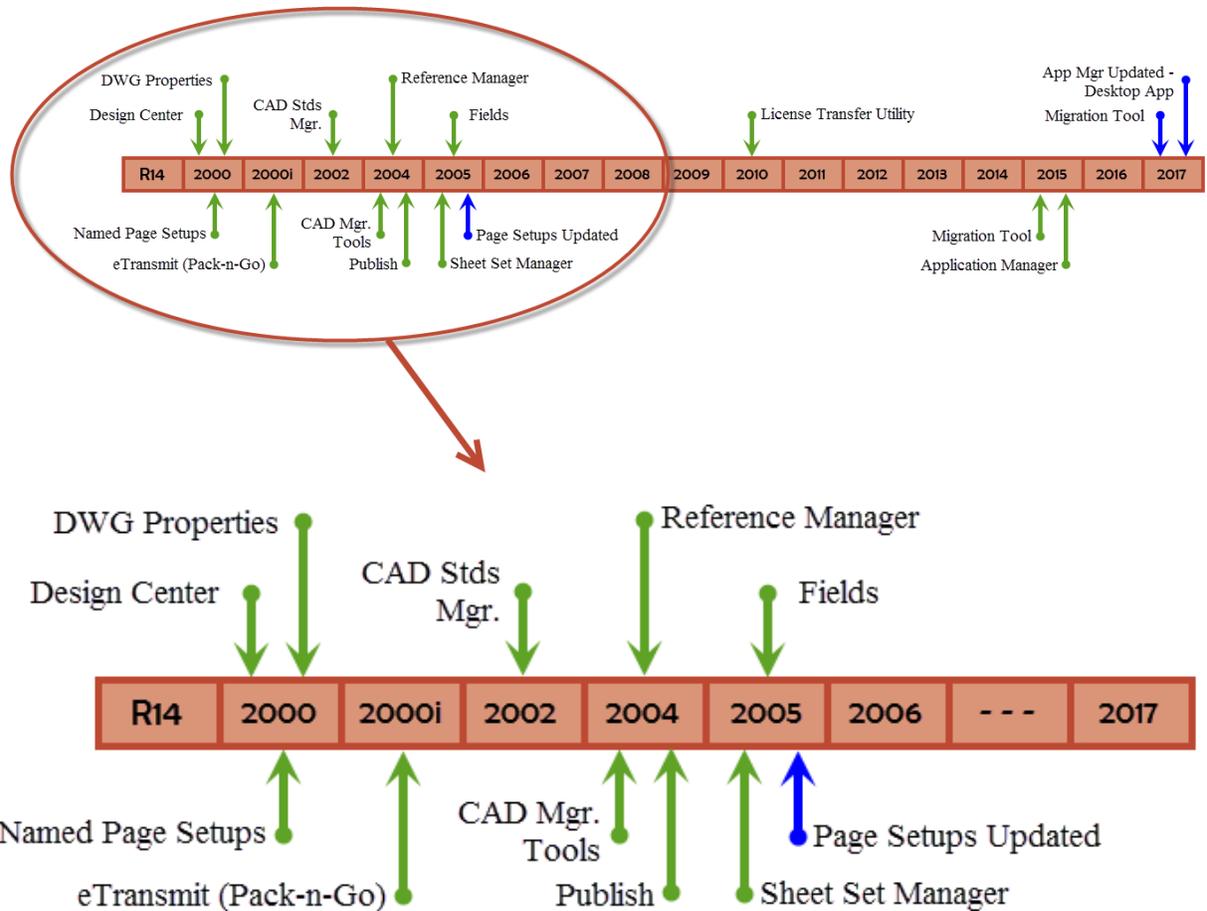


FIGURE 1: A TIMELINE OF AUTOCAD'S CAD MANAGER TOOLS

The Objective

After a few years of discussing these perceived deficiencies with both my Autodesk contacts, and my fellow CAD Managers at AU and other events, I decided to propose a roundtable at AU in 2016. My purpose was not only to continue the discussion with my peers, but to increase the awareness to Autodesk itself.

To accomplish this, I designed the session to be a hybrid of a typical AU roundtable, and of an Autodesk led focus group, as is often held at AU. I invited an AutoCAD project manager that I had met at the CAD Manager Summit held by Autodesk in 2015, and encouraged each participant to discuss how they use these tools, and how they would like to see them improve.



The response was fabulous, and the project manager assured me that the feedback was at times surprising, and of great value to their team. Most of my suspicions that others have the same issues as I were confirmed. Best of all, we heard other viewpoints and workarounds that I hadn't thought of.

However, just presenting the session last year didn't make my concerns go away. I decided to propose an updated edition of the roundtable for this year; looking at some of the same issues, but with a renewed perspective. I was thrilled when it was selected, but shocked when the session was full within hours of the opening of registration. That feeling was taken to a new level when the AU team offered me a repeat session, which also filled up quickly, this time within days.

This demonstrates to me a passion that other CAD Managers have for these tools, and how they're used. I'm looking forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas, sharing them with the group, and directly with Autodesk. To all my attendees, thank you, and I'm looking forward to help influence positive change for we CAD Managers.

Our Topics

Standards Checker

eTransmit

Reference Manager

Fields

Page Setups

Sheet Set Manager

PDF Import

Other?

If you could make anything...?