

AS467387-R

The CAD Manager Wishlist – 2020 Hindsight Edition

Frank Mayfield
Design Technology Consultant, Tulsa OK

Learning Objectives

- Discuss the challenges you faced this year with Autodesk employees and your peers
- Connect with seasoned CAD Managers who may have shared your experiences
- Share best practices and innovative solutions to common CAD Management issues
- Feel like part of a community with common needs to help direct techniques for CAD Managers

Description

After a one-year hiatus, the CAD Manager Wishlist is back, this year with a focus on the unique challenges that 2020 has presented to my fellow CAD Managers.

Did you have to switch your staff to a work at home environment? How did you handle it? What would you do different in the future? How could you better be prepared if there's a next time? From various work from home strategies, licensing issues, file access concerns, user management, even shifts in meetings and collaboration, we'll tackle all the various topics that made 2020 a memorable year for any CAD Manager.

As usual, an Autodesk research team member will be in attendance, so this is an opportunity to have the CAD Manager's voice heard!

Speaker



Frank Mayfield is a Design Technology Consultant based in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He specializes in CAD Management for various AEC clients, along with providing customization and online training.

He has worked with AutoCAD software and Autodesk, Inc., software since 1984. Since then, he has been involved in various industries, including design of switchgear for the US Navy; flight simulators; offshore oil rigs; AEC and MEP design and CAD management; software development; and his own CAD consulting firm.

Frank is an Autodesk Expert Elite member, a Certified Professional, and a member of numerous Autodesk Community panels and groups. He currently serves as the Vice President on the Board of Directors for AUGI, Inc. and is the author of the recurring "Tuesday Tips with Frank" feature on the official AutoCAD Blog.

Overview

The CAD Manager Wishlist is now in its fourth year and this marks the sixth time it's been presented. To all those who have attended in the past, and to all of you attending this year, I want to sincerely thank you.

The Wishlist began as my effort to make Autodesk aware of the limitations of some of the tools that were introduced in the early years of this millennium. These tools have been largely ignored since they were introduced, and I knew that a modern update would significantly improve the CAD Manager's daily routine. I realized that I couldn't be the only one frustrated with this, so the Wishlist Roundtable was born.



However, feeling that the idea may have run its course, I decided to retire it in 2019.

Then came 2020.

As our world began shutting down, and working from home became a real thing, it occurred to me that we CAD Managers were all facing similar issues. It quickly became obvious that these challenges would be a perfect topic for the Wishlist. Little did I know at the time that we wouldn't all be together in Las Vegas. Trust me, the irony of doing a virtual roundtable about how CAD Managers handled a virtual work force during the pandemic is not lost on me.

But one thing didn't quite fit. We're not talking about product enhancements (per se) this year. Our discussions will focus on what our challenges were, and how we handled them, as well as what Autodesk could do to help, either in hindsight, or going forward.

I had always included an AutoCAD product team member in the session, and I know that was a huge draw, but just didn't make sense in this context.

Then things got really good.

I still wanted someone there - someone that would understand *this* year's discussions. They would need to understand your perspective, as well as from that of Autodesk.

I was lucky enough to have the perfect answer, and am thrilled to introduce Christie McAllister as my Special Guest Star this year. Christie is the Digital Platform Experience UX Research Manager at Autodesk. We have worked together in the past, and I am beyond excited to have her join this year's Wishlist.

Then things got even better.

As AU approached and the speakers began learning what a virtual AU would look like for them, I found out I'd need a moderator for our session. This person would need to know and understand the class and format, be a master at multi-tasking, and certainly be someone I know and trust.

Again, I had the perfect answer. Who better than my 2017 Wishlist co-speaker, Jisell Howe to handle the job? You'll interact with her often, as she'll be in charge of triaging questions, or enabling your mic for live interaction. (I hope she wears out the un-mute button – roundtables are the only time you'll be allowed to talk during AU sessions, so let's all make the most of it!)

Expectations

Quite simply, we're going to discuss what our challenges were, how we handled them, and what Autodesk could do, or could have done in hindsight. Sounds easy, huh? One thing I have learned from our previous sessions (and just talking to other CAD Managers) is that we all have frustrations and similar problems. As I said in the class description, we're here to discuss the unique challenges that 2020 has given us.

Here are some potential topics, and some things to think about coming into the session. Your collective experience may vary, so we'll see where our they lead us during our conversation.

- **WORK FROM HOME**

How did you handle hardware?

How did you access the software?

- **LICENSING / INSTALLATION / ACTIVATION**

Sign In or Network?

What got in your way?

- **USER MANAGEMENT**

Day to Day Management?

Standards / Data Libraries?

- **FILE ACCESS**

LAN/WAN/VPN?

Cloud/Virtual?

- **COLLABORATION**

Autodesk 360 Solution or Others?

Meetings / Communication Tools?

- **HOW COULD AUTODESK HELP YOU?**

What didn't work?

What did work?

What could be done in the future?

My biggest expectation is simply participation from everyone. After all, you signed up for a roundtable session, knowing what it entails. My Autodesk Guest Star and I will do our best to facilitate our discussion, but in the end, this is about you and how you dealt with using Autodesk products during a pandemic. This is your chance to speak up.

