As formerly seen on Suite101.com.
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Welcome to another installment of the AutoCAD Article. This time around we're going to check out some more tips and few hints out there.

First off, for those of you who haven't heard, AutoCAD is now worthless!

Got you attention? Good, because it seems that Autodesk has decided that we should love their products so much that we should never sell them. In fact, we should love them so much, they won't let us sell them. Not for any price! Basically here's what they are up to. When you open the Autodesk product, you are agree to certain terms and conditions placed upon the "intellectual property" that is owned by Autodesk. Technically, you are not buying the program, you are simply buying the right to use their program which they own. Think of it as leasing a car. You can't sell a car to someone else while you are leasing it. Unfortunately this means that unless you die and your kin want to sell the software, or your firm does a merger, you cannot transfer the ownership of the software. Even under these circumstances they still review each case individually and make a decision. In California they are trying to pass a Bill through the legislature to make all software follow this guideline. Per Autodesk they are trying to stop the sale of ACAD on e-bay and other auction sites since they don't make money on these sales. For your finances this means that if you own a copy of ACAD, you may wish to declare it's depreciated value at a whopping total of $0.00 at the end of this tax year. Personally I find this more than a bit crude on their part. If you feel the same, email them at the newsgroup: autodesk.autocad.marketing or give them a call at 1-800-964-6432

If you have trouble plotting you might need to download a new HDI driver from the Autodesk web site at: http://www.autodesk.com/support/filelib/acad2000/gdi6_hdi.htm

In other news, Carol Bartz is the new President of Autodesk, which has now separated into four different divisions. Mrs. Bartz is replacing Eric Herr who retired.

Tip of the week: If you are using the new ACAD 2000, you will quickly notice that the commands DDCHPROP and DDMODIFY are missing. Personally I find this incredibly annoying. I used these two commands countless times a day. In its place is the new command PROPERTIES. The command will not accept P for previous or L for last as any command does for selecting objects (at least not with any form of ease). The reason why is that this "command" is actually it's own separate dialog box that uses a second command to close it (PROPERTIESCLOSE) or by clicking on the X in the upper left hand corner of the dialog box. I have, however, heard of a work-around. If you have r14 installed on your computer, then all you have to do is simply copy the files DDMODIFY.LSP, DDMODIFY.DCL, DDCHPROP.LSP and DDCHPROP.DCL from

r14's support directory into A2k's support directory. Make sure you copy them and not move them or you will loose them in r14. You will also need to edit two lines of code in the ACAD.PGP file. Simply open the file in Notepad and place a semi-colon in front of both of the following lines.
Old version:
DDMODIFY, *PROPERTIES
DDCHPROP, *PROPERTIES
New version
;DDMODIFY, *PROPERTIES
;DDCHPROP, *PROPERTIES
You will also need to add the following lines to the bottom of your ACADDOC.LSP file.
(Load "ddmodify.lsp")
(Load "ddchprop.lsp")
Now, these are no longer supported by Autodesk, so if they crash your system, you should have saved first! According to Autodesk, there may be some objects that these commands will not work on. At this point I have found that trying to use DDMODIFY on dimensions to be a bad thing.

As a side note, you can run simultaneously both r14 and A2k! Just make sure to install A2k into a separate folder.

Here's an interesting site - http://edcwww.cr.usgs.gov/doc/edchome/ndcdb/ndcdb.html - it is home of the USGS Maps. They have all sorts of maps on the computer for all areas of the US. These come in DEM and SDTS file formats, although at this point I have yet to figure out an easy way to get the data into ACAD. They do have links to other software for viewing the data here too. If you have a tip on how to view this information in ACAD, please let me know and I'll happily pass it along to the rest of you.

And finally, here's this weeks LISP Tip:

In A2k you have commands for rotating the UCS, but in r14 it's a bit trickier. Here are some quick and easy Lisp routines to speed you in managing the UCS. They all ask for a new origin point then reset the UCS to the world with the origin at the specified point. Next they rotate the UCS based upon which command you typed.

```
                          ;Top view
 (defun C:ut (/ a osm)
    (setvar "cmdecho" 0)
    (command "ucs" "")
    (setq a (getpoint "\nSelect origin point of Top View:
"))
    (command "ucs" "o" a)
    (command "ucs" "x" 0)
```

```
    (setvar "cmdecho" 1)
  )

                          ;Front view
  (defun C:uf (/ b osm)
    (setvar "cmdecho" 0)
    (command "ucs" "")
    (setq b (getpoint "\nSelect origin point of Front View:
"))
    (command "ucs" "o" b)
    (command "ucs" "x" 90)
    (setvar "cmdecho" 1)
  )

                          ;Back view
  (defun C:ub (/ c osm)
    (setvar "cmdecho" 0)
    (command "ucs" "")
    (setq c (getpoint "\nSelect origin point of Back View:
"))
    (command "ucs" "o" c)
    (command "ucs" "x" 90)
    (command "ucs" "y" 180)
    (setvar "cmdecho" 1)
  )

                          ;Left view
  (defun C:ul (/ d osm)
    (setvar "cmdecho" 0)
    (command "ucs" "")
    (setq d (getpoint "\nSelect origin point of Left View:
"))
    (command "ucs" "o" d)
    (command "ucs" "x" 90)
    (command "ucs" "y" -90)
    (setvar "cmdecho" 1)
  )

                          ;Right view
  (defun C:ur (/ e osm)
    (setvar "cmdecho" 0)
    (command "ucs" "")
    (setq e (getpoint "\nSelect origin point of Right View:
"))
    (command "ucs" "o" e)
    (command "ucs" "x" 90)
    (command "ucs" "y" 90)
```

```
    (setvar "cmdecho" 1)
  )

                          ;Restore ucs to world and plan
view
  (defun C:uw ()
    (command "ucs" "")
  )
(Defun C:PW () (Command "PLAN" "W"))
```