

As formerly seen on Suite101.com.
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This week we're going to highlight some interesting, bizarre, and just plain cool sites dealing with AutoCAD.

First, how about the story of the founding of Autodesk by one of it's founders? Check out <http://www.fourmilab.ch/autofile/> for various online (frames/no frames/PDF/PS) versions of how the company got it start and transformed into the giant it is today by John Walker. By the way - this is a complete book of about 900 pages!

<http://www.autodes.com/cadnews.htm> has a listing of various e-zines that are CAD related.

<http://www.cadshack.com/support.htm> - click on "Menu-Info" and the first item that comes up is a menu routine that erases all lines of text that contain only blank spaces or are nil. This is great if you have people who constantly erase the text in DDMODIFY, DDEDIT or the new PROPERTIES command.

From the realm of what do other people use, here's two links for you:

<http://www.bentley.com/academic/support/acadtoustrn.htm> is a command reference guide between ACAD and MicroStation.

<http://www.design-drawing.com/icad/i98rev.htm> is a in-depth review of ACAD LT vs. IntelliCAD

<http://www.cadsoftware.com/> has a free collection of over 300 symbols for your use.

Feeling board drafting - try playing Lunar Lander in ACAD. This is actually written in LISP! <http://hometown.aol.com/autolisper/software.htm>

Interested in creating Visual Basic enhancements for ACAD? Take a look here: <http://www.ctonline.com/features/vbasic.htm>

This one was fairly well hidden, but has quickly moved up in my list of cool sites. http://www.industry.net/c/mn/_swcad/ contains many very cool, hard to find and otherwise hard to do LISP routines, including stuff for BOM, structural analysis, Visual

DSL, lofting for CAD, weld symbols, etc. Not all of these will work in all versions ACAD.

<http://www.cadology.com/> has an interesting program that runs without ACAD to transform a DXF file into a DWG file.

This page was not that easy to find, but has quickly moved up to the top CAD LISP web sites online in my opinion. It contains a bunch of interesting routines, but one of the coolest of them (and one of the coolest I've seen) is CBYLAYER (the 9th routine on this page). It creates layers from 1 up to 255, based upon how high you tell it to go. Then it sets those layers' colors equal to the layer name, and then searches the drawing for items drawn with a specific color other than bylayer. Once found it moves them to the corresponding layer based on their color value and resets the color to bylayer. This is wonderful when you have beginning users who consistently change a color rather than a layer, or if you want to quickly setup a set of layers based on layer name = layer color. When modifying other drawings the only thing I would do is add in a purge all line to purge out all the unused layers. To do that, add the line: (Defun C:PUA () (Command "PURGE" "A" "*" "N")) to your ACAD.LSP or ACAD2000DOC.LSP file.