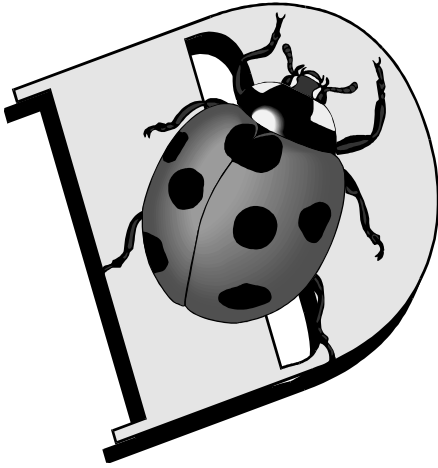


DataCAD Boston Users Group

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<http://world.std.com/~eshu/dbug.htm>



Creature Feature	Newsletters	Acronyms	Author, Author	Which Menu
				\$100
Meeting Notes -- DBUG at Build Boston November 17, 2004 Host: Evan H. Shu, FAIA & Mike Smith, Signature Architects Location: World Trade Center				
				\$200
				\$300
\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400
\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Figure: If you have PowerPoint, you can play online at <http://world.std.com/~eshu/dbug/DBUGJeopardy.htm>

An enjoyable time was had by all at DBUG's 17th Annual Users Meeting at *Build Boston* on November 17th as attendees gathered in the amphitheater and enjoyed some DBUG anniversary cake. Geoff and Cindy Langdon also presented Evan Shu with a new mascot for the group. (See Photo below.)

After introductions and a call for hosts for 2005, Evan led a rousing and surprisingly difficult trivia game of *DBUG Jeopardy!* If you have PowerPoint and would like to match wits with the game, you can play it online (complete with Jeopardy "think" music) at <http://world.std.com/~eshu/dbug/DBUGJeopardy.htm>.

Here is a sample of some of the Jeopardy "answers" along with the Final Jeopardy test:

Jeopardy

Author, Author

\$100 - Anonymous in origin, it's how you do the *DBUG Salute*.

Creature Feature (Name the DataCAD Version introducing these features):

\$200 - Multi-Scale Plotting, Multi-Line Walls, DWG Read/Write.

Newsletters

\$300 - DAILY DOUBLE! It was DataCAD's first in-house publication and used a vertical 11 x 17 format.

Acronyms

\$400 - SWOTHLUDFB

Which Menu (contains)

\$500 - Edit Plane



Double Jeopardy

Creature Feature II (Name the DataCAD Version introducing...)

\$200 - First Windows Platform.

Location, Location

\$400 - 1st National DataCAD Users Meeting (1987) was held in this building:

Render Me Speechless (which Rendering program ...)

\$600 - Came packaged with DataCAD 8 for Windows.

Heads of State:

\$800 - 1989 this company almost bought DataCAD.

Macrowriter

\$1000 - DAILY DOUBLE! EditKey & NewKey macros.

FINAL JEOPARDY: Beginnings

Eric Smith originally prototyped the first version of DataCAD for this type and model Computer.

(Jeopardy "Questions" on back page).

Lesson on Keyboard Macros and Toolbars

Mike Smith gave an excellent review and tutorial on keyboard shortcuts and creating custom icon toolbars. In methodical fashion, he showed the progressive nature of going from "plain" keyboard macros written in the DCADWIN.MCR file to making Custom Toolbars. In particular, he noted how the new format for toolbars in DataCAD 11 is much easier in terms of formatting (not-so-finicky) and even included some niceities such as adding drop down menus to your toolbars. As for icons, he suggested the best way to make icons is by modifying existing



icons. One crowd favorite was his icon of a man throwing up to symbolize the “Purge” command, which he made from the icon of the man’s head in the existing DataCAD navigator icons.

He also provided comprehensive charts showing all the ALT-# extended character codes that will help you access other DataCAD menus and functions directly and the Internal Function Codes that you can use in Icon Toolbars. His full handouts are available on the DBUG meeting page at <<http://world.std.com/~eshu/dbug.htm>>.

Mike also announced the release of his new textbook, *The DataCAD 11 Project Book*, which is a collaborative effort with Len Nasman. It is available via *Tech Ed Concepts* at <www.tecedu.com> or from DATACAD <www.datacad.com>.

Sneak Peak at Parametrics

Mike presented a comprehensive list of the new and upcoming beta features. One important one is that DataCAD XClips are now exported via DWG (Note: “Automatically Export Reference Files” must be enabled). This handout is also on the DBUG web site.

In the absence of any DATACAD staff, who were not able to attend this meeting due to scheduling conflicts, Mike Smith was given special permission to show a bit of what DATACAD has been working on in the way of *parametrics*. Parametrics is an object based approach that allows certain so-called “smart” entities to “know what they are.” For example, one smart entity Mike showed was the “Coffee Table” that is placed as a complete 3D object with table top and short legs. You see the legs as you dynamically draw the table in plan, but the legs disappear in plan (as they should) once the table is placed. However, if you take any 3D view of the table, the legs appear in view again. In addition, by right-clicking on the table, you can edit the dimensions of any of the parts of the table and have it update automatically. You can also stretch one part of the table and it will remain true to its “essence,” a table.

Mike showed us that hidden “Mode” menu that is in the current Beta version of DataCAD which has the various smart functions that DATACAD has been prototyping in-house. These functions currently include: *2-line walls, 3-line walls, Base Cabinet, Upper Cabinet, Coffee Table,*

Arrow, End Table, Door, Text Cloud, Text Bubble, and Paragraph Text. Probably the function closest to release is Paragraph Text, which Mike demonstrated as well. This function allows you to write text in a dialog window that when placed in your drawing can be stretched in various ways such that the text returns match your bounding box. So in other words (ours), when you need to move your general notes text to a different spot on your drawing with a narrower dimension, you will no longer need to re-input that text but can simply move and stretch it to fit. This new text entity (Paratext) can be copied and pasted and will also export to RTF (Rich Text Format) or to M-Text in AutoCAD DWG exports.

Everyone has been very curious about progress on this parametrics front at DATACAD Central. Mike quoted Mark Madura as saying, “Parametrics are still our absolute number one priority, but they remain very difficult to implement at this time.” In other words, please be patient!

With that coda, DBUG closed its meeting and its schedule for the year 2004. Look for more details on the schedule for 2005 and another great year of DBUG.

-- Meeting Notes by Evan H. Shu, FAIA

Jeopardy “Questions”

Author, Author
\$100: What is (wave hand over your head, as in “Whoa, that’s way over my head!”)
Creature Feature
\$200: What is DataCAD 7?
Newsletters
\$300: What is Perspectives?
Acronyms
\$400: What is Snagrid-Walls-Ortho-Text-Hatch-Lines-Userlines-Dimensions-Fills-Bitmaps?
Which Menu
\$500: What is 3D Views?
Double Jeopardy
Creature Feature II
\$200: What is DataCAD 8 for Windows?
Location, Location
\$400: Where is AIA Headquarters, Washington DC
Render Me Speechless
\$600: What is Renderize Live 2.0 by Visual Reality?
Heads of State
\$800: What is Sigma Design (ARRIS)?
Macrowriter
\$1000: Who is David Penderly? (or as David himself answered in the meeting, “Who am I?”)
FINAL JEOPARDY: What is the Apple II?