AutoGen documentation

Description

AutoGen creates new drawings based on templates using a specified control file.

In the process text and attribute values can be changed individually on each new drawing.

Installation

AutoCAD Automation Tools.VLX needs to be loaded within AutoCAD.

AutoGen.lsp, AutoIns.lsp and AutoUpd.lsp needs to be loaded within Bricscad.

One way is to use acaddoc.lsp so that the command always is available. The included acaddoc.lsp needs to be edited so the path to the program file is correct.

Another way is to use the command APPLOAD and browse for the program file. This needs to be done each time the command is run. In AutoCAD there is the option to use the Startup Suit by clicking on the Contents button and then adding AutoCAD Automation Tools.VLX. The last option will make sure AutoCAD Automation Tools.VLX is always loaded.

Creation of control file

The Control file should be in TXT tab delimited format.

Start with AutoGenTemplate.xls and when ready save as Text (Tab delimited) (*.txt).

For an example of the usage take a look at AutoGenSample.xls.

The rows 5 and higher are used to define the new drawings to be created.

Column A (row 5 and higher) holds the path to the drawing.

Column B (row 5 and higher) holds the name of the drawing.

Column C (row 5 and higher) holds the path for the type drawings.

Column D (row 5 and higher) holds the type drawing name.

Column E (row 5 and higher) holds the full path to an AutoCAD AutoLISP application that should be loaded. *.lsp;*.vlx;*.fas are supported. This is optional.

Column G and higher are used to define what should be changed in the template before it is saved to a new drawing.

When only row 1 and 2 has values it is a Block attribute and all instances of that block with that attribute should get the value.
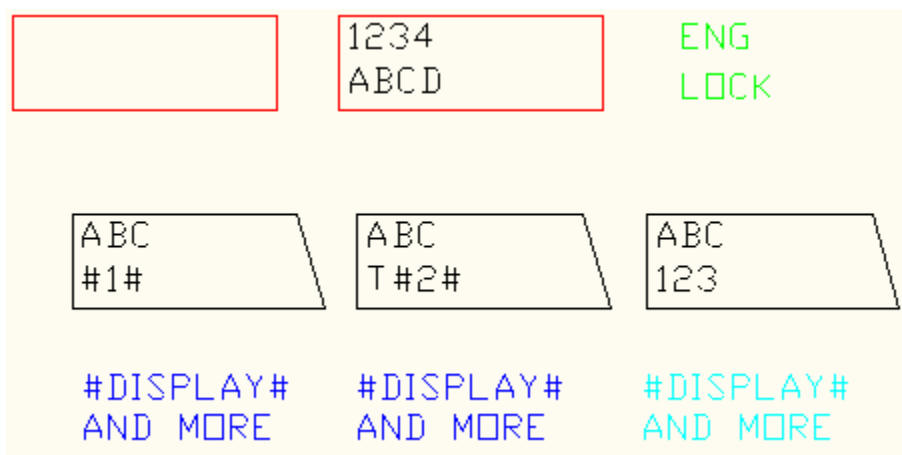
When only row 2 has a value it is an Attribute definition. This is not a good solution but sometimes users explode blocks and edit the attribute definition thinking it is plain text. What is to be done here is that the Attribute definition should be converted into a Text object with the same properties and the new value.

When row 1,2 and 3 has values it all matches should get the value listed. If the value is between # it should be searched for and replaced. For example. #1# will search for all occurrences of the text # 1# and replace it with the value listed. If not between # it is only the attributes that matches the value that should be replaced.
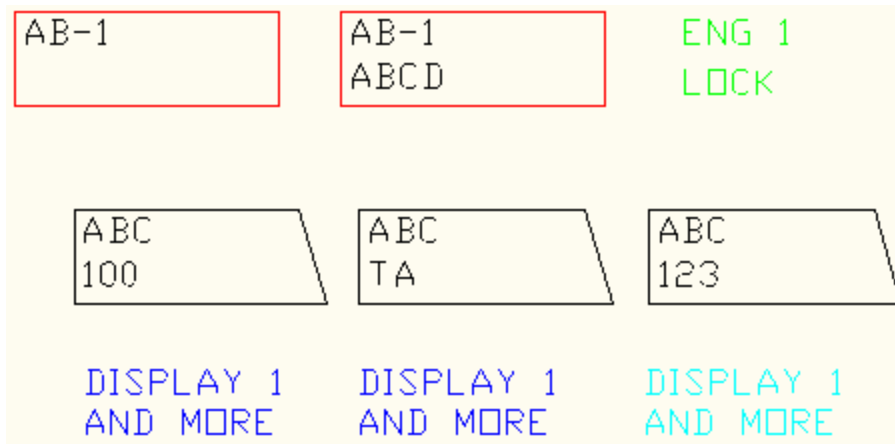
When only row 3 has values it is either Text or Mtext objects that should be searched and replaced. Only # is supported so not all text is overwritten.

Sample

Here is what the template file AutoGen template 1.dwg look like.

After running the command it would look like this. TEST1.dwg

Usage

Recommendation is to close all drawings and start a new empty drawing.

Start with the command AutoGen.

The first time you might be asked for the location of the program file.

When asked for control file browse for and select the control file to be used.

System requirements

AutoCAD 2000 or later or verticals based on AutoCAD, Bricscad 10.

Tested on AutoCAD 2004, AutoCAD 2008, AutoCAD 2009, AutoCAD 2010 and Bricscad 10.

Test drive

Extract the files to c: so the folder "AutoCAD Automation Tools" is created. If you want to place the files in another folder you need to edit the AutoGenSample.txt file so the path is correct for the template drawings.

Follow the instructions described under the subheading Usage. Run the AutoGen command and browse for the file AutoGenSample.txt and the resulting new drawings will be created in the NEW folder.

Support

Contact details are found here:

http://www.jtbworld.com/contact.htm

http://www.jtbworld.com/autocad_automation_tools.htm