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Course Title:

Options – So many choices – So little time!

Course Outline: The Options Dialog box can be your friend or your enemy. Depending on how you set it up. It can enhance your productivity or it can squelch it. It can be overwhelming – why are there so many choices? We will take an in depth look at every feature and check box in the Options Dialog. You will know what every button does when we are through. You will also know which ones to make sure you watch out for and which ones will be your best friend.

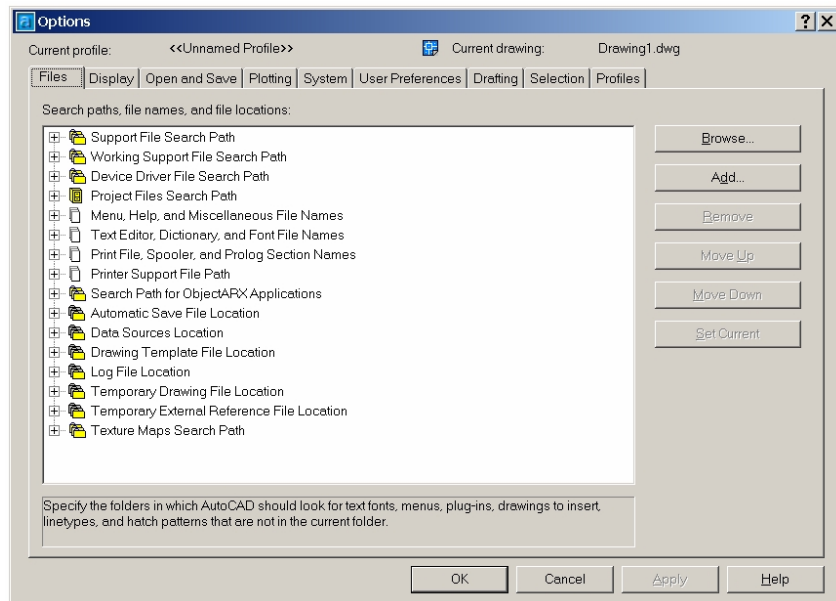
Opening Options

System Variables seem to be the residency of the elite. The Guru's seem to know them all. Others seem to think you are speaking some strange foreign tongue. Autodesk has made it a little easier for the novice to travel down this road with the creation and enhancements to the Options Dialog Box.

Options (formerly known as Preferences) is the first place I go to see what little tweaks Autodesk has provided for my pleasure or pain.

There are several different ways to get to the Options Dialog Box. A right click on the command line or the drawing editor will prompt you to select Options from a shortcut menu (when no command is active). It is also under the Tools pulldown menu. Finally, you can always just type in the word Options at the command line, or OP or even PR (a throwback from R13 and 14).

The Options Dialog box will open. The default is to open to the last Tab you had selected, so don't be shocked if it opens a little different on other user's machines.



FILES TAB

The first Tab, moving from left to right, is the Files section.

Support File Search Path

First and foremost is where AutoCAD will look for support files that it needs to get the job done. You can get into trouble by adding too many or not adding enough to this list. Click on the little plus sign to see what is already in place.



Out of the box, AutoCAD has the base folder paths that are needed to keep AutoCAD running. To add additional paths just hit the Add button on the right and Browsing until you find the desired directories.

Things to include may be the location of your Standard Blocks, Linestyle, Fonts, etc.

TIP: Remember that the order of the list matters (notice the Move Up and Move Down buttons). AutoCAD looks in the folders from top to bottom and stops looking once it has found a file by the name requested.

Working Support File Search Path

This section is read-only. This is actually what AutoCAD has found from the lists above.

Device Driver File Search Path

Device drivers for your input device, printer, plotter and video display, etc. must be stored in this folder.

Project Files Search Path

The Support folders outlined above are used for every file that you open. If you want to have additional folder searches based on the project you are working on then you need to add them to this area.

This setting is for resolving XREF and Image files. Each project searches different directories. It's a simple process of Adding a named project and then adding the directories you want AutoCAD to use. Once you have added these optional paths you need to tell the DWG file to use them.

The PROJECTNAME system variable stores the project name.

TIP: don't forget that the PROJECTNAME variable is stored in each drawing file. If another machine does not have the Project Search set, they will not see the XREFs.

Menu, Help and Miscellaneous File Names**Menu File**

Specifies the location of the AutoCAD menu file.

Help File

Specifies the location of the AutoCAD Help file.

Default Internet Location

Specifies the default Internet location used by both the BROWSER command and the Browse the Web button on the Web toolbar.

Configuration File

Specifies the location of the configuration file used to store hardware device driver information. This value is read-only and can only be changed by using the /c command line switch.

License Server

Provides a current list of client license servers available to the network license manager program for network administrators.

Text Editor, Dictionary and Font File Names**Text Editor Application**

Specifies the text editor application to use for editing multiline text objects.

Main Dictionary

Specifies the dictionary to use for checking spelling of your files. You can also set this option by using the DCTMAIN system variable.

Custom Dictionary File

Specifies a custom dictionary to use.

Alternate Font File

Specifies the location of the font file to use if AutoCAD cannot locate the original font that was used in the file and an alternate font is not specified in the font mapping file. You can also set the location of Alternate Font File by using the FONTALT system variable.

Font Mapping File

Specifies the location of the file that defines how AutoCAD should convert fonts it cannot locate.

Print File, Spooler and Prolog Section Names**Plot File Name For Legacy Plotting Scripts**

Specifies a default name for the temporary plot files used with plotting scripts created with AutoCAD Release 14 or earlier. The default name is the *drawing name* plus the .plt file extension.

Print Spool Executable

Specifies the application to use for print spooling.

Printer Support File Path**Print Spooler File Location**

Specifies the path for print spool files. AutoCAD writes the plot to this location.

Printer Configuration Search Path

Specifies the path for printer configuration files (PC3 files).

Printer Description File Search Path

Specifies the path for files with a .pmp file extension, or printer description files. PMP files are created when you make some overrides to your plotter definition files.

Plot Style Table Search Path

Specifies the path for files with an .stb or .ctb extension, or plot style table files (both named plot style tables and color-dependent plot style tables).

Search Path for ObjectARX Applications

Add search path (URL) for additional searches when an ARX Application is needed for a file.

The Automatic Save File Location

Holds the location of the Automatic Saves files. Out of the box, it is buried in Windows 2000. You may want to make it C:/Temp or something simple. Set your SAVEFILEPATH variable correctly and you will find your files here.

TIP: *There are multiple save files if you are running in Multiple Document mode.*

Data Sources Location

Using External Data files? Here is where you define the path to your database source files. Any changes made will take effect next time you restart AutoCAD.

Drawing Template File Location

This setting is used to indicate where you will store your template files for the AutoCAD Setup Wizards. These also show up in your TODAY page and when you create a NEW file.

Log File Location

Should you choose to maintain a log file which would be done under the Open and Save tab, then it would be stored in this location. This is also controlled by the LOGFILEPATH system variable.

TIP: If you turn this on – the file can get quite large.

Temporary Drawing File Location

Where would you like to store your temporary files? These are the files that AutoCAD creates while you are creating and editing. AutoCAD deletes them when you exit.

TIP: I would suggest creating a special location for these files. Then when you crash you can delete all of the files with no worries.

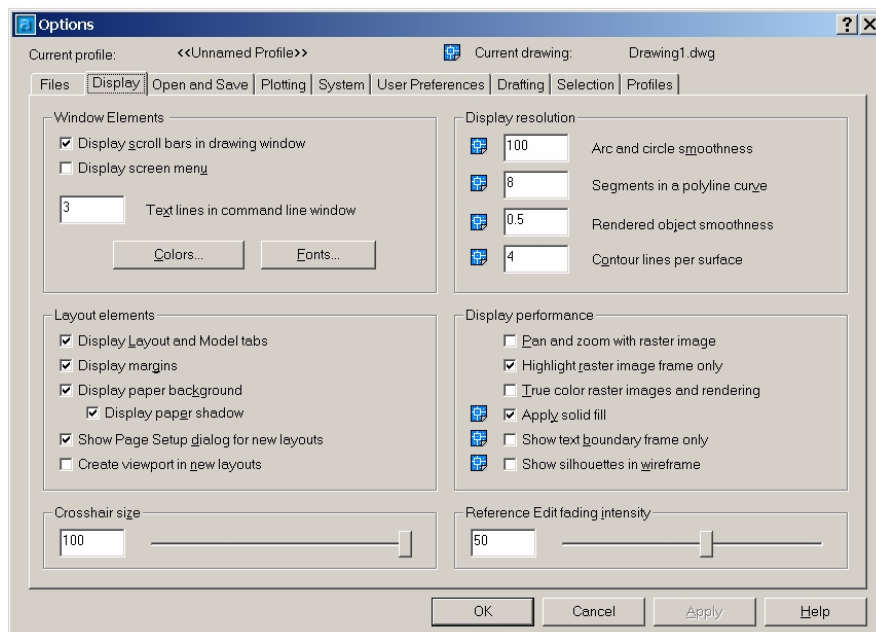
Temporary External Reference File Location

If you select Enabled with Copy (which you should) on the Open and Save tab in the Demand Load Xrefs section, you'll need a location for the copies of the XREF files. This value is also stored in the XLOADPATH variable.

TIP: You can set this to the same place as the TEMP files.

Texture Maps Search Path

Stores the location of Texture Maps for rendering.



Display Tab

Customizes the AutoCAD Display Properties

Window Elements

Controls display settings specific to the AutoCAD drawing environment.

☒ Display Scroll Bars in Drawing Window

Displays scroll bars at the bottom and right sides of the drawing area.

Display Screen Menu

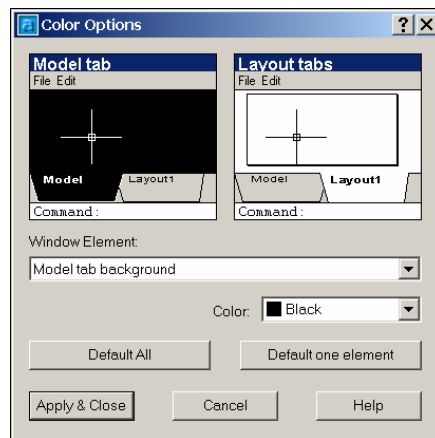
Displays the screen menu on the right side of the drawing area. The AutoCAD screen menu font is controlled by the Windows system font settings.

Text Lines in Command Line Window

Specifies the number of lines of text you want to display in the docked command line window. The default value is 3. The valid range is 1 to 100. Can you imagine anyone wanting 100 text lines?

Colors

Displays the Color Options dialog box. Use this dialog box to specify colors of elements in the AutoCAD window.

**Fonts**

Displays the Command Line Window Font dialog box. Use this dialog box to specify the font for the command line text.

Layout Elements**☒ Display Layout and Model Tabs**

Displays the layout and Model tabs at the bottom of the drawing area.

☒ Display Margins

Displays margins in a layout. Margins appear as dashed lines. Margins are determined by the plot dialog box.

☒ Display Paper Background

Displays a representation of the specified paper size in a layout. It makes understanding Paper Space easier for the novice.

☒ Display Paper Shadow: Displays a shadow around the paper background in a layout. If the Display Paper Background option is not checked then this option will not be available.

☒ Show Page Setup Dialog for New Layouts

Displays the Page Setup dialog box the first time you choose a layout tab. Use this dialog box to set options related to paper and plot settings.

Create Viewport in New Layouts

Creates a single viewport automatically when you create a new layout.

***TIP:** You have no control over size or scale. Turn this off.*

Crosshair Size

Controls the size of the crosshairs. The valid range is from 1 to 100 percent of the total screen. The default size is 5 percent. This value is also controlled by the CURSORSIZE system variable.

Display Resolution

Controls the quality of the display of objects. If you set high values to improve display quality, the impact on performance is significant.

***TIP:** you may notice the little  icon on many areas of the Dialog Box. This means that the setting is stored in the drawing file. The rest are set at the system level and apply to all files you open.*

Arc and Circle Smoothness

Controls the smoothness of circles, arcs, and ellipses. The default setting is 100. Try setting it at 2000. This value is also controlled by the VIEWRES command.

Segments in a Polyline Curve

Sets the number of line segments to be generated for each polyline curve. The higher the number, the greater the performance impact. Set this option to a low value such as 4 to optimize performance for drawing.

This value is also controlled by the SPLINESEGS system variable.

Rendered Object Smoothness

Controls the smoothness of shaded and rendered curved solids. The valid range is 0.01 to 10. The default setting is 0.5. Just fiddle with this till you see what you like. The value is also controlled by the FACETRES system variable.

Contour Lines per Surface

Sets the number of contour lines per surface on objects. A higher number decreases display performance and increases rendering time. The valid range is 0 to 2047. The default setting is 4. The value is also controlled by the ISOLINES system variable.

Display Performance**Pan and Zoom with Raster Image**

Controls the display of raster images when you use Realtime PAN and ZOOM. Clear this option to optimize performance. If this is turned on and you select Pan and Zoom with Raster Image, a copy of the image moves with the cursor as you reposition the original image. This slows things down quite a bit. Turn this puppy off. The DRAGMODE system variable controls dragging display. Pan and Zoom with Raster Image is also controlled by the RTDISPLAY system variable.

☒ Highlight Raster Image Frame Only

Controls the display of raster images during selection. If this option is selected, only the frame of the raster image is highlighted when selected. Select this option to optimize performance. Highlight Raster Image Frame Only is also controlled by the IMAGEHLT system variable.

True Color Raster Images and Rendering

Controls whether raster images or renderings are displayed at optimum quality. Selecting True Color Raster Images and Rendering enables AutoCAD to display images in True Color or at the highest display quality available for the system.

☒ Apply Solid Fill

Displays solid fills in objects. Objects affected by FILL include hatches (including solid-fill), two-dimensional solids, wide polylines, multilines and traces. This value is also controlled by the FILLMODE system variable.

Show Text Boundary Frame Only

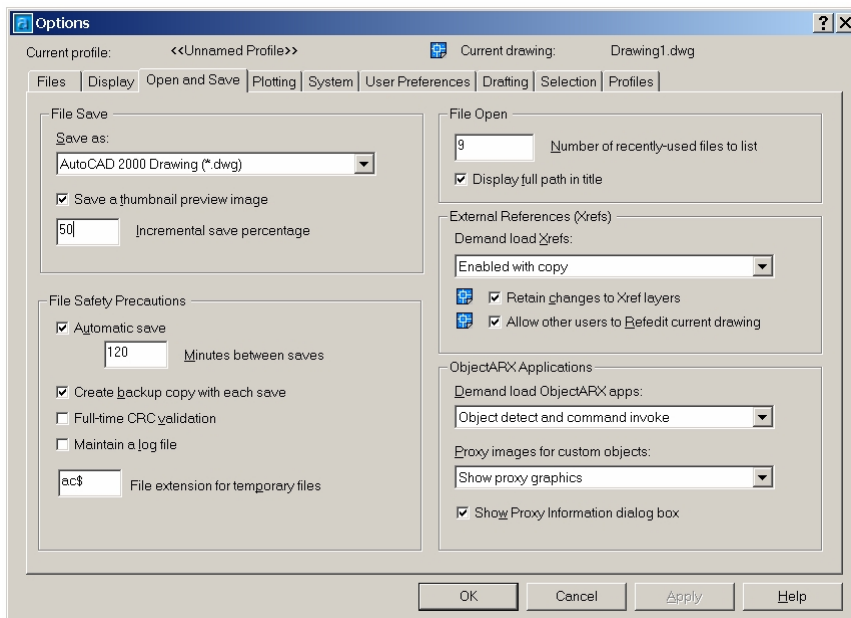
Displays the frames for text objects instead of displaying the text objects. After you select or clear this option, you must use REGEN to update the display. With speedier CPU's and graphics cards this is fairly outdated. This value is also controlled by the QTEXTMODE system variable.

Show Silhouettes in Wireframe

Controls whether silhouette curves of 3D solid objects are displayed as wireframes. Uncheck this option to optimize performance.

Reference Fading Intensity

Specifies the fading intensity value for objects during **in-place reference editing**. While references are being edited in-place, objects that are not being edited are displayed at a lesser intensity than objects that can be edited. The valid range is 0 through 90 percent. The default setting is 50 percent, which is fine. This value is also controlled by the XFADECTL system variable.



Open and Save Tab

Notice right above the Open and Save Tab there is a listing of the Current Profile: If you are using profiles, the name will be displayed in the Options Dialog.

File Save

Save As

Displays the valid file formats used when saving a file with SAVE and SAVEAS. Whatever you choose in this Option will set the default for all Saves and Save As functions. Set this to AutoCAD 14 if you are working with others who have not yet upgraded. Note: AutoCAD 2000 is the drawing file format used by the AutoCAD 2000, AutoCAD 2000i, and AutoCAD 2002 releases. Files are interchangeable between releases.

☒ **Save a Thumbnail Preview Image**

Displays an image of the drawing in the Preview area of the Select File dialog box. This option is also controlled by the RASTERPREVIEW system variable.

Incremental Save Percentage

Sets the percentage of potentially wasted space in a drawing file. When the specified percentage is reached, AutoCAD performs a full save instead of an incremental save. Full saves eliminate wasted space. If you set Incremental Save Percentage to 0, every save is a full save. This value is also controlled by the ISAVEPERCENT system variable.

File Safety Precautions

Automatic Save

Saves your drawing automatically at the intervals you specify. You can specify the location of all Autosave files by using the SAVEFILEPATH system variable. SAVEFILE (read-only) stores the name of the Autosave file.

- *Minutes Between Saves:* Specifies how often the drawing is saved when using Automatic Save. The value is stored in SAVETIME.

TIP: Remember that if you open more than one file at a time – each will have a unique name. They will have .SV\$ at the end.

TIP: If you are the kind of user who never remembers to save the file – then set this variable low (say 10 to 15). If you save your stuff all the time, then set it high so you won't be interrupted by auto-saves.

☒ **Create Backup Copy with Each Save**

Specifies whether a backup copy of a drawing is created when you save the drawing. The backup copy is created in the same location as the drawing. This option is also controlled by the ISAVEBAK system variable. Make sure this is checked.

Full-Time CRC Validation

Specifies whether a cyclic redundancy check (CRC) should be performed each time an object is read into the drawing. CRC is an error-checking mechanism. If your drawings are being corrupted and you suspect a hardware problem or AutoCAD error, turn this option on. Otherwise leave it off.

Maintain a Log File

Writes the contents of the text window to a log file. To specify the location and name of the log file, use the Files tab in the Options dialog box. You can also set the log file location by using the LOGFILEMODE system variable.

File Extension for Temporary Files

Specifies a unique extension for the current user to identify temporary files in a network environment. The default extension is .ac\$.

File Open**Number of Recently Used Files to List**

Controls the number of recently used files that are listed in the File menu for quick access. Valid values are 0 to 9. Crank this up to 9.

☒ **Display Full Path In Title**

Displays the full path of the active drawing in the drawing's title bar, or in the AutoCAD title bar if the drawing is maximized. Make sure this is checked ON.

External References (Xrefs)**Demand Load Xrefs**

Controls demand loading of xrefs. Demand loading improves performance by loading only the parts of the referenced drawing needed to regenerate the current drawing. This option is also controlled by the XLOADCTL system variable.

Disabled: Turns off demand loading.

Enabled: Turns on demand loading and improves AutoCAD performance.

Enabled with Copy: Turns on demand loading but uses a copy of the referenced drawing. Other users can edit the original drawing. Use this in a network setting.

☒ **Retain Changes to Xref Layers**

Saves changes to layer properties and states for xref-dependent layers. When the drawing is reloaded, the properties currently assigned to xref-dependent layers are retained. This setting is saved in the drawing. You can also set this option by using the VISRETAIN system variable.

☒ **Allow Other Users to Redit Current Drawing**

Determines whether the current drawing file can be edited in-place if it is being referenced by another drawing or multiple drawings. This setting is saved in the drawing. You can also set Allow Other Users to Redit Current Drawing by using the XEDIT system variable.

ObjectARX Applications

Controls settings that relate to AutoCAD Runtime Extension applications and proxy graphics.

Demand Load ObjectARX Apps

Specifies if and when AutoCAD demand-loads a third-party application if a drawing contains custom objects created in that application. Demand-loading is also controlled by the DEMANDLOAD system variable.

- *Disable Load on Demand:* Turns off demand-loading.
- *Custom Object Detect:* Demand-loads the source application when you open a drawing that contains custom objects.

- *Command Invoke*: Demand-loads the source application when you invoke one of the application's commands.
- *Object Detect and Command Invoke*: Demand-loads the source application when you open a drawing that contains custom objects.

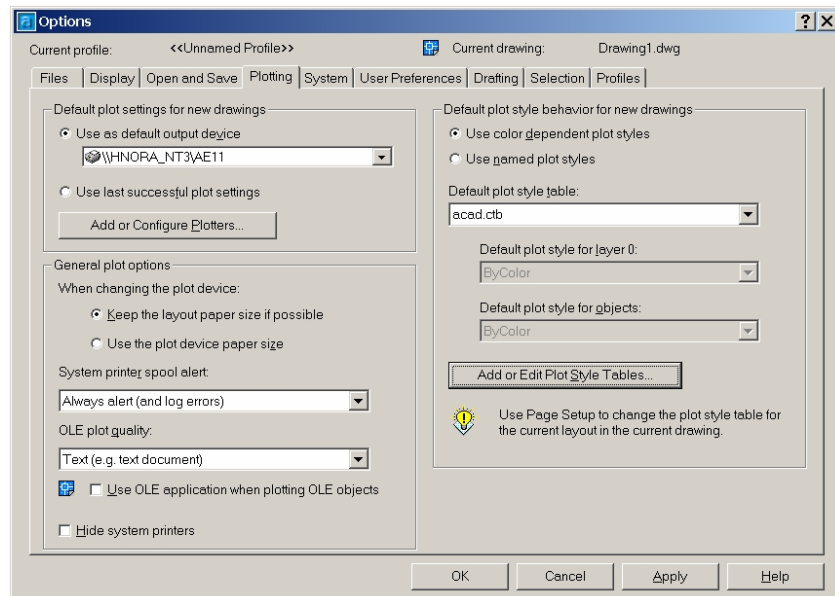
Proxy Images for Custom Objects

Controls the display of custom objects in drawings.

- *Do Not Show Proxy Graphics*: Specifies not to display custom objects in drawings.
- *Show Proxy Graphics*: Specifies to display custom objects in drawings. This is the one to set.
- *Show Proxy Bounding Box*: Specifies to show a box in place of custom objects in drawings.

☒ Show Proxy Information Dialog Box

Specifies whether AutoCAD displays a warning when you open a drawing that contains custom objects. This option is also controlled by the PROXYNOTICE system variable. Turn this on if you want to be notified that proxy graphics exist in your files.



Plotting Tab

Default Plot Settings for New Drawings

Controls default plotting settings for new drawings or drawings created in AutoCAD Release 14 or earlier that have never been saved in AutoCAD 2000 format.

☉ Use As Default Output Device

Sets the default output device for new drawings and for drawings created in AutoCAD Release 14 or earlier.

TIP: set this one for your usual plotter

Use Last Successful Plot Settings

Sets the plotting settings to match those of the last successful plot.

Add or Configure Plotters

Displays the Plotter Manager (a Windows system window). You can add or configure a plotter with the Autodesk Plotter Manager.

General Plot Options

Controls options that relate to the general plotting environment including paper size settings, system printer alert behavior, and OLE objects in an AutoCAD drawing.

☉ Keep the Layout Paper Size If Possible

Uses the paper size specified on the Layout Settings tab in the Page Setup dialog box as long as the selected output device can plot to this paper size. You can also select this option by setting PAPERUPDATE to 0.

Use the Plot Device Paper Size

Uses the paper size specified either in the plotter configuration file (PC3) or in the default system settings if the output device is a system printer. You can also set this option by setting PAPERUPDATE to 1.

System Printer Spool Alert

Controls whether you are alerted when the plotted drawing is spooled through a system printer because of an input or output port conflict.

OLE Plot Quality

Determines the quality of plotted OLE objects.

Hide System Printer

Controls whether Windows system printers are displayed in the Plot and Page Setup dialog boxes. This option hides standard Windows system printers only. It does not hide Windows system printers that have been configured using the AutoCAD Add-a-Plotter wizard.

***TIP:** You can control the size of the list of devices in the Plot and Page Setup dialog boxes by moving a device's PC3 file out of the Plotters folder and its subfolders.*

Default Plot Style Behavior for New Drawings

Controls plot style options. Changing the default plot style setting using the Options dialog box does not affect the current drawing. The default plot style setting is Use Color Dependent Plot Styles. You can also set this option by using the PSTYLEPOLICY system variable.

☉ Use Color Dependent Plot Styles

Uses color-dependent plot styles in both new drawings and drawings created in AutoCAD Release 14 or earlier. This setting is saved with the drawing.

Use Named Plot Styles

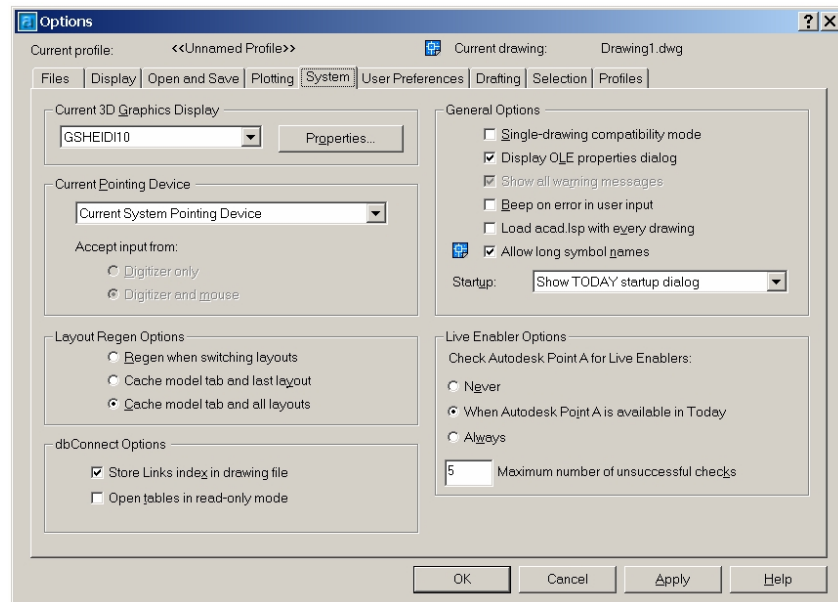
Uses named plot styles in both new drawings and drawings created in earlier versions of AutoCAD. This setting is saved with the drawing. You can change the setting for plotting from using .STB file to .CTB files, but not the other way. Once a drawing is saved with Use Color Dependent Plot Styles as the default, you can convert it to Use Named Plot Styles using the CONVERTCTB and CONVERTPSTYLES commands.

Default Plot Style Table

Specifies the default plot style table to attach to new drawings. A plot style table is a file with a .ctb or an .stb extension that includes and defines plot styles. You will see one or the other on the list, not both.

Add or Edit Plot Style Tables

Displays the Plot Style Manager (a Windows Explorer window), where you can create or edit plot style tables.



System Tab

Current 3D Graphics Display

Controls settings that relate to system properties and configuration of the 3D graphics display system.

Current 3D Graphics Display System

Lists the available 3D graphics display systems. The default is the Heidi® 3D graphics display system (GSHEIDI10).

Properties

Displays a 3D Graphics System Configuration dialog box for the current 3D graphics display system. In the 3D Graphics System Configuration dialog box, you set options that affect the way objects are displayed and system resources are used in the 3D Orbit view.

Current Pointing Device

Current Pointing Device

Displays a list of the available pointing device drivers.

- *Current System Pointing Device:* Sets the system pointing device as current.
- *Wintab Compatible Digitizer:* Sets the Wintab-compatible digitizer as current.

Accept Input From

Specifies whether AutoCAD accepts input from both a mouse and a digitizer or ignores mouse input when a digitizer is set.

Layout Regen Options

Specifies how the display list is updated in the Model and layout tabs.

Regen When Switching Layouts

Regenerates the drawing each time you switch tabs. Can be costly - timewise.

Cache Model Tab and Last Layout

For the Model tab and the last layout made current, saves the display list to memory and suppresses regenerations.

☉ Cache Model Tab and All Layouts

Regenerates the drawing the first time you switch to each tab. For the remainder of the drawing session, the display list is saved to memory and regenerations are suppressed when you switch to those tabs. This is the one to use.

dbConnect Options**☒ Store Links Index in Drawing File**

Stores the database index in the AutoCAD drawing file. Select this option to enhance performance during Link Select operations.

☒ Open Tables in Read-Only Mode

Specifies whether to open database tables in Read-only mode in the AutoCAD drawing file.

General Options**☒ Single-Drawing Compatibility Mode**

Limits AutoCAD to opening one drawing at a time, just like AutoCAD 14 did. If you uncheck this option, AutoCAD can open multiple drawings at once. If multiple drawings are open, this option cannot be turned on until the additional drawings are closed. You can also set this option by using the "SDI" system variable.

TIP: Be careful – novice users soon forget that they have multiple files open.

☒ Display OLE Properties Dialog

Displays the OLE Properties dialog box when inserting OLE objects into AutoCAD drawings.

☒ Show All Warning Messages

Displays all dialog boxes that include a Don't Display This Warning Again option.

Beep on Error in User Input

Sounds an alarm beep when AutoCAD detects an invalid entry. Don't bug me. Turn it off.

☒ Load acad.lsp with Every Drawing

Specifies whether AutoCAD loads the acad.lsp file into every drawing. If this option is cleared, only the acadoc.lsp file is loaded into all drawing files.

TIP: You should be adding custom lisp routines to your arsenal of tools. Get them from the web, from news groups or create them yourself. Just get them. Check what loads when. It all changed in 2000 plus.

☑ Allow Long Symbol Names

Permits long names to be used for layers, dimension styles, blocks, linetypes, text styles, layouts, UCS names, views, and viewport configurations. Names can be up to 255 characters and include letters, numbers, blank spaces, and any special character not used by Windows and AutoCAD for other purposes. You can also set this option by using the EXTNames system variable.

TIP: *Don't go nuts with the long names. Keep it simple.*

Startup

Controls whether the Today window, the traditional startup dialog box, or no dialog box is displayed when starting AutoCAD or creating a new drawing.

Live Enabler Options

Objects created by ObjectARX™ applications are called custom objects. To display and use custom objects in AutoCAD drawings, the ObjectARX application that created them must be available to AutoCAD. If the ObjectARX application is not installed on your system, AutoCAD can check for available Object Enablers on the Web.

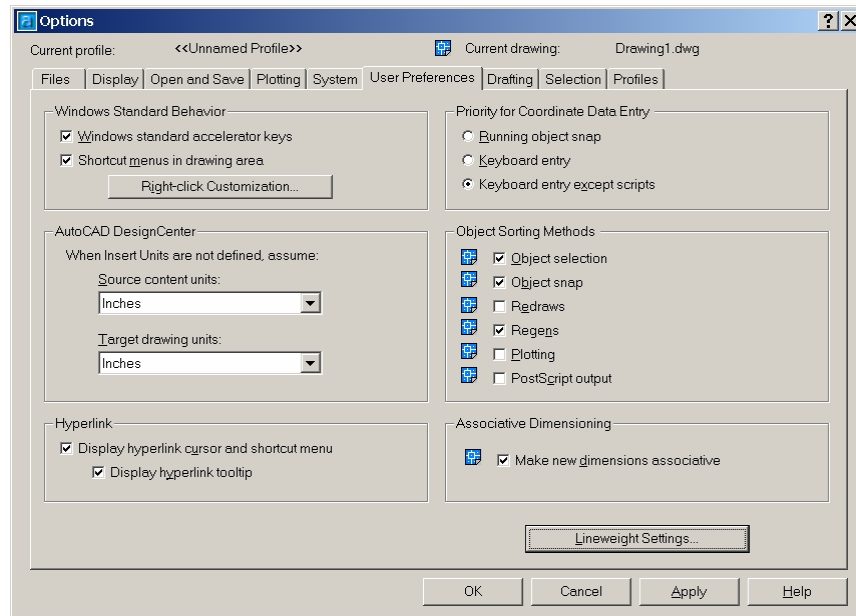
For example, if you receive a drawing that contains objects that were created in AutoCAD Architectural Desktop but you don't have that application installed on your system, AutoCAD downloads the AEC Object Enabler so you can view those drawings as they were intended.

Never - Prevents AutoCAD from checking for Object Enablers regardless of your settings in the Today window (see TODAY).

☉ When Autodesk Point A is Available in Today - AutoCAD checks for Object Enablers only if a live Internet connection is present.

Always - AutoCAD always checks for Object Enablers regardless of your settings in the Today window. Slows you down.

Maximum Number of Unsuccessful Checks - Specifies the number of times AutoCAD will continue to check for Object Enablers after unsuccessful attempts.



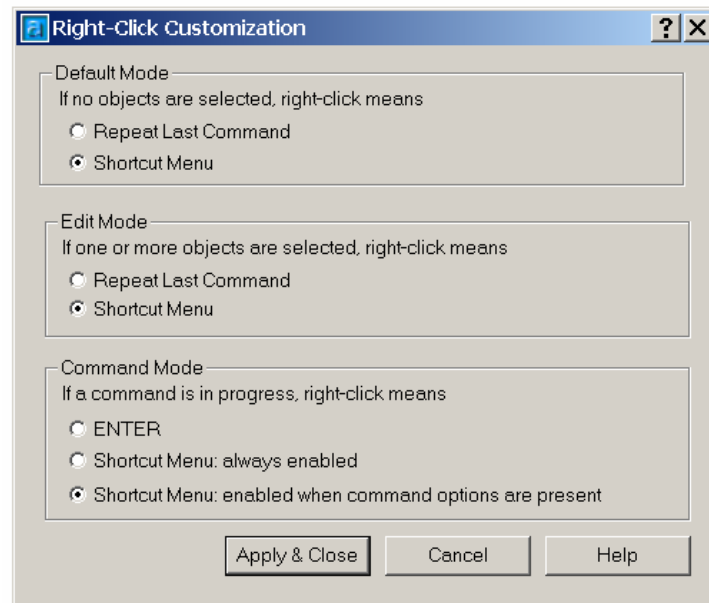
User Preferences Tab

☒ **Windows Standard Accelerator Keys**

Follows Windows standards in interpreting keyboard accelerators (for example, CTRL+C equals COPYCLIP). If this option is not checked, AutoCAD understands keyboard accelerators by using AutoCAD standards rather than Windows standards (for example, CTRL+C equals Cancel, CTRL+V toggles among the viewports). Hey - let's all go back to AutoCAD 9.

☒ **Shortcut Menus in Drawing Area**

This displays a shortcut menu in the drawing area when you right-click the pointing device. If this option is cleared, AutoCAD interprets right-click as ENTER.



Right-Click Customization

This displays the Right-Click Customization dialog box. This dialog box provides further definition for the Shortcut Menus in Drawing Area option. You can also set Shortcut Menus in Drawing Area and the right-click customization settings by using the SHORTCUTMENU system variable.

AutoCAD DesignCenter

Source Content Units

Sets the units AutoCAD uses for an object being inserted into the current drawing using Design Center when no insert units are specified with the INSUNITS system variable.

If Unspecified - Unitless is selected, the object is not scaled when inserted. You can also set this option by using the INSUNITSDEFSOURCE system variable.

Target Drawing Units

Sets the units AutoCAD uses in the current drawing when no insert units are specified with the INSUNITS system variable. You can also set this option by using the INSUNITSDEFTARGET system variable.

Hyperlink

☒ Display Hyperlink Cursor and Shortcut Menu

The hyperlink cursor appears at the crosshairs whenever the mouse moves over an object that contains a hyperlink. The hyperlink shortcut menu provides additional options.

☒ Display Hyperlink Tooltip

When checked the mouse will display a tooltip when it moves over an object that contains a hyperlink. If the Display Hyperlink Cursor and Shortcut Menu option is cleared, this option is unavailable.

Priority for Coordinate Data Entry

These options are also controlled by using the OSNAPCOORD system variable.

Whenever you enter coordinates at the command line there is the possibility that the coordinates will land right on an existing graphic object. When this happens the OSNAP come into play.

Running Object Snap

Specifies that running object snaps override coordinate entry at all times. You can also select this option by setting OSNAPCOORD to 0.

Keyboard Entry

Specifies that coordinate entry overrides running object snaps at all times. You can also select this option by setting OSNAPCOORD to 1.

☉ Keyboard Entry Except Scripts

Specifies that coordinate entry overrides running object snaps, except in scripts. You can also select this option by setting OSNAPCOORD to 2.

Object Sorting Methods

Determines the sort order of objects. You can also set these options by using the SORTENTS system variable. Pick the one with the most priority for getting the work done.

☒ Object Selection

☒ Object Snap

Redraws

☒ Regens

Plotting

PostScript Output

Associative Dimensioning

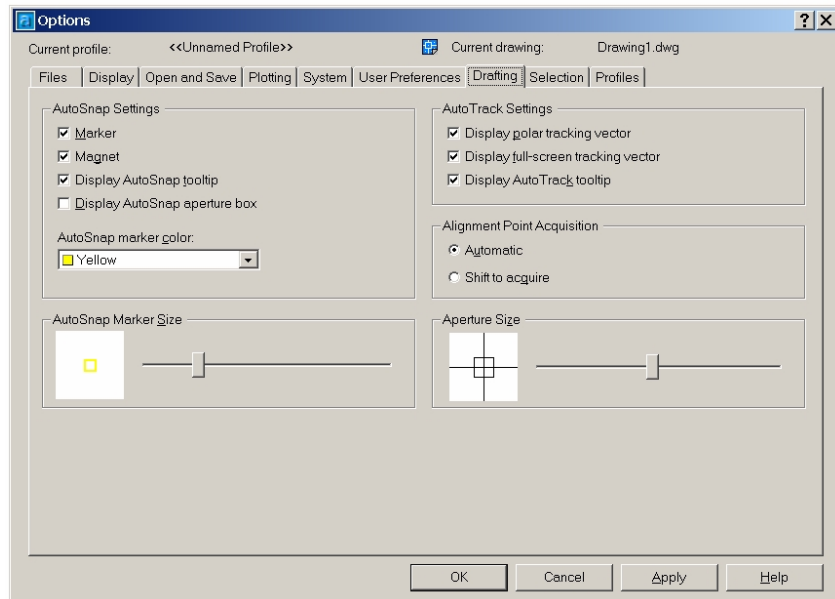
Controls whether associative dimension objects or legacy-style, nonassociative dimension objects are created. Associative dimensions automatically adjust their locations, orientations, and measurement values when the geometric objects associated with them are modified. You can also set this option by using the DIMASSOC system variable.

***TIP:** Associative Dimensions have taken on a new meaning. We now have true associativity. AutoCAD 14 and before is a different beast.*

Lineweight Settings

Click here to displays the Lineweight Settings dialog box. Use this dialog box to set lineweight options, such as display properties and defaults, and also to set the current lineweight.

TIP: These are relative lineweights on your screen. Notice the Min/Max slider. You can change the relative display of weight.



Drafting Tab

Finally – one that I don't change

AutoSnap Settings

Controls settings that relate to the visual aids, called AutoSnaps, that display when you use object snaps.

TIP: When the cursor, or aperture box, is on an object, you can press TAB to cycle through all the snap points available for that object.

☒ **Marker** - Controls the display of the AutoSnap marker.

☒ **Magnet** - Turns the AutoSnap magnet on or off.

☒ **Display AutoSnap Tooltip** - Controls the display of the AutoSnap tooltip.

Display AutoSnap Aperture Box - Controls the display of the AutoSnap aperture box.

AutoSnap Marker Color - Specifies the color of the AutoSnap marker.

AutoSnap Marker Size

Sets the display size for the AutoSnap marker.

AutoTrack Settings

Controls the settings that relate to AutoTrack™ behavior, which is available when polar tracking or object snap tracking is turned on.

☒ **Display Polar Tracking Vector**

Displays a vector along specified angles when polar tracking is on. With polar tracking, you can draw lines along angles. Polar angles are 90-degree divisors, such as 45, 30, and 15 degrees. You can disable Display Polar Tracking Vector by setting TRACKPATH to 2.

☒ Display Full-Screen Tracking Vector

Controls the display of tracking vectors. Tracking vectors are construction lines from which you can draw objects at specific angles or in specific relationships to other objects. If selected, AutoCAD displays alignment vectors as infinite lines. You can disable Display Full-screen Tracking Vector by setting TRACKPATH to 1.

☒ Display AutoTrack Tooltip

Controls the display of the AutoTrack tooltip which displays the tracking coordinates. You can also set this option by using the AUTOSNAP system variable.

Alignment Point Acquisition

☒ Automatic - Displays tracking vectors automatically when the aperture moves over an object snap.

Shift to Acquire - Displays tracking vectors when pressing SHIFT and moving the aperture over an object snap.

Aperture Size

This sets the display size for the AutoSnap aperture. The aperture size determines how close to a snap point you must be before the magnet kicks in and “snaps” to the object. Values range from 1 to 50 pixels. You can also set this option by using the APERTURE system variable.

Selection Tab***Selection Modes*****☒ Noun/Verb Selection**

This allows you to select an object before starting a command. The command affects the previously selected object or objects. You can also set this option by using the PICKFIRST system variable. You can use many editing and inquiry commands with noun/verb selection, including

Use Shift to Add to Selection

Adds or removes an object to the selection set when you press SHIFT and select an object. You can also set this option by using the PICKADD system variable. Default is shift to remove object. I would leave this the way it is.

Press and Drag

If this option is not checked, you can draw a selection window by selecting two separate points with the mouse. So Pick and Pick with no drag in the middle. Kind of weird. You can also set this option by using the PICKDRAG system variable.

☒ Implied Windowing - Initiates the drawing of a selection window when you select a point outside an object.

Drawing the selection window from left to right selects objects that are entirely inside the window's boundaries. Drawing from right to left selects objects within and crossing the window's boundaries. You can also set this option by using the PICKAUTO system variable.

☒ **Object Grouping**

Selects all objects in a group when you select one object in that group. If you use GROUPS then turn this on. With GROUP you can create and name a set of objects for selection. You can also set this option by setting the PICKSTYLE system variable to 1.

☒ **Associative Hatch**

Determines which objects are selected when you select an associative hatch. If this option is selected, boundary objects are also selected when you select an associative hatch. You can also set this option by setting the PICKSTYLE system variable to 2.

Pickbox Size

This slide Control adjusts the display size of the AutoCAD pickbox. The pickbox is the object selection tool that appears in editing commands. Keep it small. You can also set this option by using the PICKBOX system variable.

Grips

Get a GRIP! If you have not been using them – start.

☒ **Enable Grips**

You can edit an object with grips by selecting a grip and using the shortcut menu. AutoCAD Help file states that “Displaying grips in a drawing significantly affects performance. Clear this option to optimize performance” - Boy are they wrong. Grips are one of the greatest productivity gains you can make.

You can also set this option by using the GRIPS system variable.

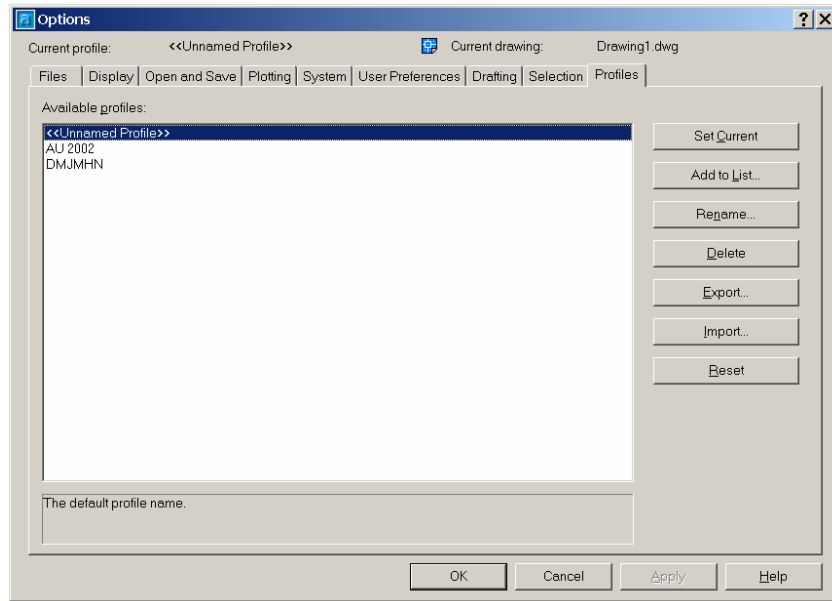
Enable Grips within Blocks

Turns on the Grips inside of blocks. Now you can edit a block without exploding it.

Unselected Grip Color & Selected Grip Color – determines the colors of the grips

Grip Size

Slide to get a different size. You can also set this option by using the GRIPSIZE system variable.



Profiles Tab

The best for last. Well not quite, but it is very important. You can use the Profiles Tab to create and save your drawing environment settings as a profile. AutoCAD displays the current profile name, as well as the current drawing name, in the Options dialog box. Everything you have set up to this point should be exported to a profile. If anything gets messed up, by you or someone you love, you can restore (import) the file to get back to normal.

Available Profiles

Displays a list of the available profiles. To set the current profile, select a profile and choose Set Current.

Set Current - Makes the selected profile the current profile.

Add to List

Displays the Add Profile dialog box to save the selected profile under a different name.

Rename

Displays the Change Profile dialog box for changing the name and description of the selected profile. Use Rename when you want to rename a profile but keep its current settings.

Delete - Deletes the selected profile (unless it is the current profile).

Export

Exports a profile as a file with an *.arg* extension so the file can be shared with other users. You can import the file on the same computer or a different computer. Once you save a profile, you can export or import the ARG file to and from different computers. You can import the profile again into AutoCAD to update your profile settings.

Import - Imports a profile (a file with an *.arg* extension) created by using the Export option.

Reset - Resets the values in the selected profile to the system default settings.