Managing Your Standards and Reusable Content with AutoCAD® Tool Palettes

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Managing Your Standards and Reusable Content with AutoCAD® Tool Palettes – Revealed

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About me

- 34 years teaching and training
  - Secondary, post-secondary, collegiate and corporate training
  - ATC – Instructor, Manager, Director, ATCEC and ATCAB
  - AUGI CAD Camps
- 21-year veteran and 7-time award-winning Autodesk University Speaker
- Featured columnist for CADalyst and AUGIWorld magazines
- AutoCAD Exchange – Ask the Expert Series
- AutoCAD Mentor All-Star
- Director of Content Management and Development for 4D Technologies
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Learning Objectives

- At the end of this class, you will be able to:
  - Create palette tools from existing AutoCAD content
  - Create and manage legacy and dynamic block libraries
  - Manage company standards for blocks, hatch, layers and objects with tool palettes
  - Manage enterprise tool palettes and demand load as needed
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Course Agenda

- The What and Why of Tool Palettes
- Understanding Tool Palettes
- Working with Tool Palettes
- Making Palatable Tools
- The Power of Content
- Sharing your Tools
Introduction to Tool Palettes
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Introduction to Tool Palettes

- What are Tool Palettes?
  - They are the easiest way to gain productivity by:
    - Inserting blocks and hatch patterns
    - Accessing types of AutoCAD content
    - Creating content tools from multiple sources
    - Organizing your tools in groups or drive folders
    - Sharing your tools with others
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Introduction to Tool Palettes

- Why use Tool Palettes?
  - They are the easiest way to customize AutoCAD
  - They can float, be docked, hidden or anchored
  - They will make you more productive by:
    - Gaining real estate
    - Greater organization
    - Maintaining standards
    - Needing fewer clicks and picks
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Understanding Tool Palettes

- The properties of the Tool Palette Window
- Right-click everywhere!
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Working with Tool Palettes

- Loading the Tool Palette Interface
- Modifying an Existing Tool
- Copying an Existing Tool
- Moving a Tool
- Changing the Look
Let’s Try It!
Making Your Own Palette Tools
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Making Palatable Tools

- What type of tools can I put on Tool Palettes?
  - Block Tool
  - Hatch Tool
  - Fly-out Tool
  - Command Tool
  - Content Tool
  - Table Tool
Let’s Try It!
The Power of Content
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A Common Tale
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INSERT
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The Power of Content
- Good content is everywhere – use it!
  - Drag-n-drop
  - DesignCenter (ADC)
  - Windows Explorer
  - Internet Explorer
Let’s Try It!
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Everyone Stand Up!

Afternoon Stretch
Sharing Your Palettes and Tools
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Sharing Your Tools

- Organizing your tools
  - Tool Palette folders
  - Environment variable _TOOLPALETTEPATH
- Importing and exporting Tool Palettes (but not groups)
- Sharing your tools
  - Enterprise Palettes
  - Locking and protecting your content
  - Maintaining order
- Create an Action Macro
  - Load Palettes with a custom command
Let’s Try It!
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Have you learned something new today?
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How to reach me:
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Thanks for attending my session and participating!

Please complete the course evaluation.

Good luck on your path to improved productivity!