

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.

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 that will be created.

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 that is an existing drawing.

Column E (row 5 and higher) holds the full path to an 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.

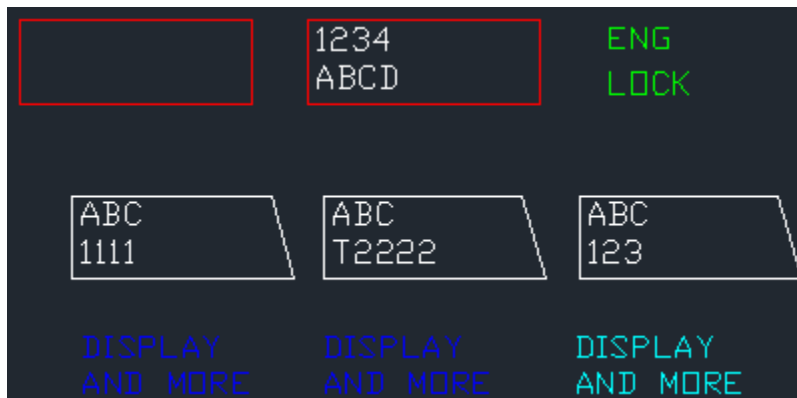
When only row 2 has a value it is an Attribute definition. This is not a good solution but sometimes users explode blocks and edit the attribute definition thinking it is plain text. What is to be done here is that the Attribute definition should be converted into a Text object with the same properties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

When row 1,2 and 3 has values it all matches should get the value listed. The value will be searched for and replaced. For example: 1111 will search for all occurrences of the text 111 and replace it with the value listed. For wildcard matching AutoCAD AutoLISP's wcmatch syntax can be used.

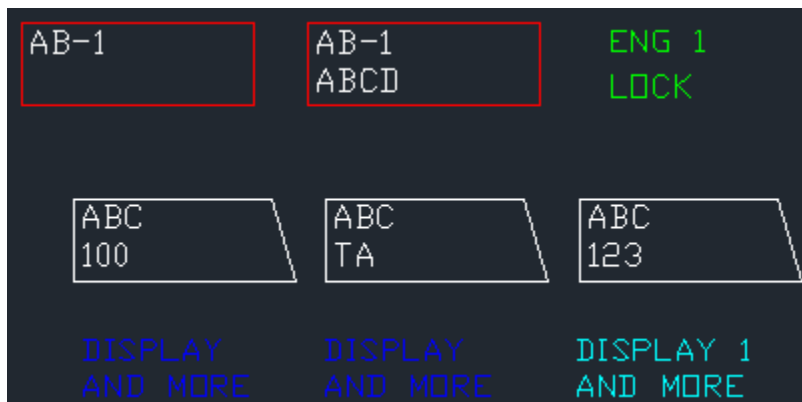
When only row 3 has values it is either Text or Mtext objects that should be searched and replaced.

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 "AutoCAD Automation Tools.VLX".

When asked for control file (.TXT) 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, AutoCAD 2011, AutoCAD 2012 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