



August 18, 2001 minutes

The meeting of the Madison Area SolidWorks® Users' Group (MASWUG) was held on May 31, 2001 at the Pyle Center on the UW Campus. 34 people attended from 25 companies and organizations.

### **Introductions**

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David Strait from Imago Scientific Instruments, President of MASWUG, welcomed the group. David introduced our theme, a variety of show and tell, and thanked Computer Aided Technology, Inc. for the use of their computer and projector. David also solicited for new MASWUG officers.

### **Using SolidWorks Explorer**

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Michael Allex of Venus Graphics Corp. discussed the use of SolidWorks Explorer for the manipulation of SolidWorks files. Previewing files, file properties, rename and copy were the main highlights.

### **From Part to Package Design**

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Joe Perushek of Placon discussed how they design thermoformed packaging. One method is to use the product geometry from their customer to create a cavity feature in SolidWorks. This is quick and accurate, but hard to work with.

Another method is to define the cavity using many simple features. This takes more time, but is easier to work with.

### **Advantages of having a Rapid Prototyping Machine by your Desk**

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Steve Krueger of Promega Corporation outlined their use of a Stratasys Genisys FDM rapid prototype machine to speed up product development. Speed to market is very important and rapid prototypes allow functional models to be created and tested in short order. They are also used during discussions with machine shops and manufacturers as well as by marketing and other in-house organizations.



### **3D Rapid Prototyping Machines – Z-Corp and Stratasys**

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Tim White of Graphics Systems Corporation examined the rapid prototype construction methods of the Z-Corp 3D Printer and the Stratasys Prodigy, which they sell.

The 3D Printer from Z-Corp uses two different powder based materials, can print in color, is fast & inexpensive, and does not need any support structure while printing. The Prodigy from Stratasys uses ABS for material and can be used in an office environment.

Tim also had many examples from both machines.

### **Using Custom Properties and Custom Software to create Cut Lengths for Cabinet Production**

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Dan Lange of Carlson Company discussed the use of custom file properties at Carlson Company. The software runs from a macro and makes the designer fill out the custom file properties for each part. The data can then be used to create drawing with filled in title blocks and generate a cut list, grouping items by material properties.

### **Making Drawing Revisions using SolidWorks v.s. Simple PDM**

Bob Hansen of Custom Programming ran a presentation outlining the advantages of using a PDM system. Some of the advantages include: ease of entering file property data, organizing files by projects, working with multiple files in batch mode, searches, the ability to output data to Excel, and handling revision levels.



## **Election of Officers**

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David Strait of Imago Scientific Instruments closed the meeting with the election of MASWUG officers. No one nominated anyone for office, so the current officers where elected for a second, one year term, by a show of hands.

A post-meeting party was held on the main floor of the Pyle Center with refreshments and snacks.

Submitted by MASWUG co-secretary: Mike Alex