



April 16, 2002 minutes

The meeting of the Madison Area SolidWorks® User Group (MASWUG) was held at the Ackman center on the Nicolet campus. 31 people attended from 20 companies and organizations.

Introductions and SolidWorks World Review

Michael Alex from Venus Graphics, Co-Secretary of MASWUG, welcomed the group and gave a brief rundown of the agenda. Several people commented on the highlights of SolidWorks world. Some of the comments included: SolidWorks now employs 400+ people. There are 700,000+ SolidWorks users. There were over 2000 attendants at SolidWorks world. One of the exceptional presentations was on advanced sweeps and lofts.

Brainstorming SolidWorks enhancements for Drawings, Part Modeling, Sheetmetal, Assemblies, Templates, and General

The group was divided up into small teams to list enhancements for the above categories.

Michael Alex solicited for nominees for officers to be elected at the summer meeting.

Have you thought about becoming an officer to practice your leadership skills and meet some new folks?

If you would like to be nominated or would like to nominate someone, please go to the www.maswug.org web site and enter a name. Two people can share position of secretary or president. Also, anyone interested in being a part of the planning committee for ideas on meeting topics, can also sign up on the web site.

President

1. Provide vision and energy to lead and grow MASWUG

2. Serve as moderator during quarterly user group meetings
3. Act as primary MASWUG contact with SolidWorks and other sponsors
4. Work with planning team to develop program for quarterly user group meetings

Secretary

1. Participate in MASWUG planning meetings; send quarterly meeting announcements to MASWUG members
2. Handle meeting logistics (meeting room, refreshments, computer, gifts, etc.)
3. Take notes of the presentations and forward for posting on the web site
4. Work with Web Master to maintain a data base of all MASWUG members

More detailed duties for the secretary and president will be posted on the web site.

Using configurations by Michael Kohlmann of CATI

Highlights of the presentation include:

The feature tree can be split to view configuration names while still viewing the feature tree. This is handy when creating various configurations that involve suppressing features.

One can drag parts from the configuration tree directly into an assembly.

Start and end conditions can be controlled for example by extruding up to a surface in an assembly. This end condition can be controlled by a configuration. For example, in one configuration the end condition could be surface A, and in another configuration, it could be surface B.

Equations can be suppressed in a configuration. For example, two equations for the controlling the same dimensions could exist where one equation is suppressed in a configuration.

Constraints such as concentric or coincident can be configuration specific.

Dimensions can be set as DRIVEN or DRIVING within a configuration.

An external design table can contain notes that can be suppressed in a configuration. For example: "Dimensions are in cm" for a metric configuration and "Dimensions are in inches" for an English configuration.

Complex features can be suppressed in a configuration to make large assemblies operate quicker.

In drawings, entire views can be hidden with a configuration.

The next meeting will be on July 19th at the Memorial Union with refreshments and socializing on the Union Terrace after the meeting.

Special thanks to Thermo-Nicolet for the use of the meeting room and to Mike Kohlmann of CATI for your presentation.

Submitted by: Ron Pulvermacher
Co-Secretary of MASWUG