

Meeting Overview

This MASWUG Users' Group meeting was held at the Madison Area Technical College (MATC) – Truax campus inside the computer lab for the Mechanical Design program. A MATC van was used to shuttle people back and forth from the student parking lot to the CAD lab before and after the meeting. This was the first time we held a MASWUG meeting inside a computer lab.

I would like to thank Mark Durkee¹ and the students of the Mechanical Design program for their efforts in procuring the refreshments and a school van, for setting up (and cleaning up) the two rooms, for driving the van, and for attending the meeting.

I would also like to thank our sponsors, presenters, and planning committee members who work to make these meetings successful.

Tom Calenberg² volunteered to take over the open webmaster position.

In general, the presentation topics were advanced. The discussions were good and we actually finished this meeting on time.

Preview of SolidWorks For New SolidWorks Users

This short presentation was deemed unnecessary and was skipped.

Welcome and Announcements

Christine Vrooman³ and Marla Schmidt⁴ set up the registration table, handed out user surveys, and passed around the sign-in sheets. Kevin Honaker⁵ gave the announcements.

Managing and Monitoring SolidWorks Network Licenses

Paul Oliphant⁶ gave us a shortened version of his SolidWorks World 2003 presentation, which focused on the benefits, applications, and usage of SolidWorks network licenses. Paul demonstrated that both large and small companies could benefit from network licenses, especially when add-in products are considered. Paul's presentation is available for download from the MASWUG website at www.maswug.org.

¹ Mark Durkee is an instructor and the director of the mechanical design program at MATC-Truax.

² Tom Calenberg is the vice president and principal engineer of MSC Technologies.

³ Christine Vrooman is a MASWUG co-secretary and a mechanical engineer at Thermo Electron Corp.

⁴ Marla Schmidt is a MASWUG co-secretary and a senior design drafter at Sub-Zero Freezer Co.

⁵ Kevin Honaker is the MASWUG president and a robotics systems designer at Geiger Handling USA.

⁶ Paul Oliphant is a senior information processing consultant at UW-Madison's College of Engineering.

Making the Most of SolidWorks' Custom Properties – Part 1

Kevin Honaker gave a short presentation to introduce custom properties, emphasizing how the user interface for this feature has been changed in SolidWorks 2003. Kevin's presentation is available for download from the MASWUG website.

Making the Most of SolidWorks' Custom Properties – Part 2

Brenda Bosley⁷ expanded upon the topic of custom properties by describing some of their more advanced possibilities. Brenda showed us how to write macros and executable programs to make custom (and configuration) properties even easier and more productive to work with. Brenda's presentation is available at www.customsolids.com.

SolidWorks "Best Practices" presentation

I would recommend viewing the actual SolidWorks "Best Practices" guide from the directions below (if you have an active SolidWorks subscription).

This presentation was given via Greg Jankowski of SolidWorks Corporation. It was displayed on the CAD Lab's computer monitors via Placeware®⁸ and on the overhead projector. A speakerphone provided a method of interaction between the group and the presenter. We chose to do a remote presentation at this meeting because the CAD Lab is well-suited for it.

The actual "Best Practices Guide" is available to SolidWorks users with active subscriptions. Go to www.SolidWorks.com, log in to Subscription Support, and then click on the "Best Practices" link.

Submitted by: Kevin Honaker
MASWUG President
February 18, 2003

Edited by: Christine Vrooman
MASWUG Co-Secretary
February 18, 2003

Posted by: Tom Calenberg
MASWUG Webmaster
February 25, 2003

⁷ Brenda Bosley is a mechanical engineer, software writer, and the owner of CustomSolids.

⁸ The Placeware® website address is <http://main.placeware.com/>.