

## CAD Management Session II

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2-C | 1:00 - 2:15 pm

Instructor: Mike Carlson

### Configuring a CAD System

Upfront configuration of a CAD system can make a great difference in the performance of your software.

#### Hardware Configurations

There are many options today with computer systems and their configurations. What Video Card, Processor, hard drive, and RAM should I buy? Should I buy 32-bit, 64-bit, Vista, or XP? Where should you spend your money on a limited budget? The answer is the all important video card driver.

##### Processor

The latest technology of processors now allow CPU's to process four threads of data through a single CPU. Also, multiple CPU's can be added to process even more data.

##### 32-Bit or 64-Bit

The biggest difference that would apply to a CAD system and 32 vs. 64-bit computers is the ability to expand the Memory beyond 4GB.

##### RAM

When building a system for CAD this is where you don't want to skimp, make sure you are getting the most RAM possible. This is the most important part of the system configuration. If you are on a 32-bit system you are limited to 4GB, it is not necessary to purchase more.

##### Hard Drive

Hard drive space now is relatively cheap so do what you can here. Also, please be aware of the hard drive speed, you will need the RPM's to be a minimum of 7200.

##### Video Card

Graphics in today's CAD application are quite intense, particularly in the 3D environment. This would be the second most important place to spend your money. Do not purchase a card that uses shared memory. For the Inventor product line, make sure you are using an Inventor certified card and driver.

### Software Configurations

#### Operating System

Most everybody can relate to the following statement "Why does my computer run so much slower than when I first got it?". This is primarily caused because over time different software is downloaded to machine and will infect itself on the Operating system to run the application at start-up of the machine. The programs that run at startup can be controlled both in XP and Vista. By modifying these items a system can boot faster and the hardware can run more efficiently.

### Product Based Settings

AutoCAD has many choices within the Options dialog box to manage a users experience and keep them within the company standards. Inventor's Application options also allow a range of performance enhancing tools that can be saved externally.

### Inventor Content Center Options

With Inventor 2010 there are now two option for the install of Content Center data (Desktop Content, ADMS managed content). There are pros and cons to both and it will vary on a company basis which one to use.

### Backup for Data and Systems

Data backup and the use of an effective disaster recovery are critical in organizations. Often companies are backing up the critical systems (ERP, Outlook, ETC.) but ignoring the engineering data. Also, backing up the data can be a challenge as often designer/engineers are working on data local that will not be included in a backup.

Once you have a base system configured it is recommended to create an image of that system to place on a separate hard drive. If a problem occurs in the system an image will allow for an easy reformat of the machine.

### KETIV Support

It is important for a CAD manager to understand what support options are available to them and their users when problems arise. KETIV has a support team that is available via direct contact, e-mail ([support@ketivtech.com](mailto:support@ketivtech.com)), and phone for all products we as a company represent. We have a Tech On Duty (TOD) scheduled every day of the work week for immediate assistance for those customers with a Support Contract with Ketiv.

### Autodesk

For the CAD customers that are on Subscription, Autodesk has e-mail support through their subscription website.

### Discussion Groups and Knowledge Base

Discussion groups are a great resource for not only support issues but also how to type issues. Autodesk supports open forums for users to discuss product based items. The Autodesk Knowledge Base is a location for documented issues and work-arounds for issues as well as answers to questions such as "Does Inventor take advantage of multi-processor/threading?"

### Training

In today's market of getting product to market faster, cheaper, earlier, and with less staff, training is essential. The Autodesk tools are easy to learn and use but they are also deep. Thus, many options exist for training the new and seasoned users. These tools will become even more valuable as the products expand.