Some Areas of Importance To Generic Cadd Users Switching to General CADD Pro v6.1

Welcome Generic CADD User!

We hope your experience switching to **GCP** (General CADD Pro) will be as painless as one could possibly ask for. Many report that it takes a few days to fully realize that there really are no real differences in operation between Generic and **GCP**. And the cool new features really make it very difficult to go back!

The purpose of this document is to more or less give you a "heads up" on the common questions new users ask. Full complete details on all subjects can be found in the **On Screen GCP Help Manual** (press **F1** while GCP is running). **Good Luck and Enjoy!**

File Extension Difference

The standard file extensions for default file types in General CADD Pro are named differently.

File Type	Generic	GCP	Hard Drive Location
Drawing	GCD	GXD	..\General CADD 6\GXD
Component	CMP	GXC	..\General CADD 6\GXC
Font	FNT	GXF	..\General CADD 6\Fonts
Macro	MCR	GXM	..\General CADD 6\Batch
Menu	MNU	GXV / MNU	..\General CADD 6\
Hatch	HCH	GXH	..\General CADD 6\Hatch

Loading GCD files with LO command instead of DL

The native Drawing file extension in **GCP** is .**GXD**. Therefore, a **DL** or drawing load will open a **GXD** file by default. To load a Generic **GCD** file, you must use the **LO, G** command or first convert it to a **GXD** file. You will need to convert your Generic Fonts to GCP format prior to loading **GCD** files to prevent "font not found" errors during file load. See the **CT** command below.

CT File Convert Utility - Fonts - Drawings - Components

We assume that former Generic CADD users will want to use the same fonts that were available in Generic CADD. A convert utility, **CT** command, is provided in **GCP** to convert Generic Drawing, Component, Font and Hatch files to the **GCP** default formats. This utility will allow conversion of single files, selected groups of files or entire folders of files through use of the Windows Common Dialog file selector. The manual describes the use of this Dialog in detail. Look for it in the **GCP** Help Manual Appendix. Macro and Menu files do not need to be converted.

File Compression

General CADD **GXD** and **GXC** files are compressed internally by the **GCP** program when saved. These files will be much smaller on the storage device than they are in native Generic Format. They do not need to be Zipped when sent by email.

GT Text Grouping Utility

Text that was placed into a Generic Cadd GCD Drawing with the **TP** command will import into **GCP**

as individual letters. These text strings can be changed into editable paragraphs by using the Group Text **GT** command. Once grouped, the **TE** Text Edit command will afford full editing capabilities. Text strings that were created in Generic using the **TL** command will not require grouping.

Menus
GCP Will use the Generic Cadd .**MNU** Menu files in the original plain text form and with the same file extension. All that is needed is to copy the .**MNU** files to the ..\General CADD 5 folder. **GCP** in addition has its own .**GXV** menu file format. These **GXV** menu files are created in the same way with the same plain text structure but the style of operation of the menu when it is on the screen functions differently. A full description is contained in the **GCP** Help Manual Appendix.

Macros
Macro or batch files in Generic use the .**MCR** file extension. **GCP** will run these macros without having to rename the file extension. However, newly created macros should use the .**GXM** file extension. The default location for Macro files is in the ..\General CADD 5\Batch folder.

Drivers for Video, Mice, Printers, Digitizer and Plotters.
One very important difference between Generic Cadd and all Windows programs is the issue of "Device Drivers".

Generic CADD, being a MSDOS program, contained within itself all the necessary software or drivers needed to receive input from and output to external computer hardware. **Simply stated, under MSDOS, every program written needed to contain the necessary routines to function with every video card, monitor, mouse, printer, plotter and digitizer made by all the different manufacturers in the industry.**

When Generic first started, this seemed like a fairly simple task. There were only a few video cards, plotters and mice available. But, as the number of manufacturers increased and the variety of products available expanded, writing a new driver for each new piece of hardware became impossible to keep up with and the cost was prohibitive. This one fact of life is the main reason the independent software developers embraced the Windows Concept.

In Windows, the responsibility to provide a "driver" rests with the hardware manufacturer. Instead of having each software program write the drivers for all hardware devices, now, under Windows, the manufacturer has to write only one driver for each product. The hardware manufacturer just has to make sure his driver conforms to the Windows specifications and once installed, all Windows programs will function with that device.

If a hardware device can function under Windows for one program, then it will function for all installed Windows programs. We say, if the device can "talk" to Windows, then GCP can "talk" to the device.

Hardware manufacturers often supply a device driver to Microsoft to include in with the initial Windows OS installation. However, this driver will be the one currently available at that time and may not be the latest version. **If you experience trouble or limitations with a hardware device, check the manufacturer's web site for the availability of a more recent version of the device driver.** Drivers are updated often as errors are discovered or new features added. (*BTW, if you have a Windows scroll or wheel mouse installed, **GCP** will dynamically zoom in and out when you roll the wheel. Once you try this feature, you may find you cannot live without it!)*

Printers vs. Plotters

This issue comes up almost every day. Many Generic CADD users are very familiar with “plotting” and refer to all paper output as being “plotted”. Wouldn’t you know it!. Under Windows this is changed too. All paper output is referred to as “Printing”. The type of device we always knew as a “plotter” is now known as a “**Wide Format Printer”**. To use a Wide Format Printer with **GCP** under Windows, a “printer driver” must be installed. Some may find that the “plotter” that they have been using with Generic CADD does not function with Windows on the first attempt. The reason usually points to the fact that a driver has not been installed and because Windows can’t talk to the “plotter”, **GCP** cannot either. This is usually resolved once the proper driver has been installed.

Many readers will remember back when the early "printers" were not very capable of printing graphics or vector drawings. If you needed paper output back then, the only alternative was to buy a "pen plotter". Today's printers are very capable and "pen plotters" are just about non existent.

Digitizers
Digitizers also need a driver in order to “talk” to Windows. The common driver is known as the **WinTab** driver. The digitizer manufacturer provides this driver and updated versions are usually available on the internet. Here is an information link: http://www.logicgroup.com/WintabDriver.htm

Linetypes
GCP uses the same Line Types as Generic and there should be no problem in this area. However, it may be important to point out that **GCP** provides for 2 different linetype systems. The first is the Generic Compatible system and the second is a system new to **GCP**. Suffice to say, we want to point this out and if you need more detailed information, please refer to the **GCP** Help Manual Appendix.

Restricting your Cursor to the Draw Screen Area
Because of the nature of all Windows programs, when drawing a line, your mouse cursor can leave the draw screen area so that it may perform other functions. To many old time Generic users, this is very distracting. To combat this, **GCP** includes a new **XC** command. When **XC** is turned on and when you are in the middle of a drawing command, the cursor movement will be restricted to the draw screen only. To move the mouse off the draw screen, you need to either exit the draw command or turn **XC** off.

Screen Ratio
The ability to adjust your draw screen to fit the monitor so that circles look perfectly round is available in **GCP** as well. It is not an independent 2 letter command but can be found among the options available under the **DI** or display command. Issuing the command **DI, S** will allow you to adjust the screen.

Help Manual
GCP includes with it an detailed and illustrated Help Manual. When **GCP** is properly installed, all one needs to do to obtain help describing a particular command is to press the **F1** key while executing the command. For example, to obtain help while drawing a circle, type **C2** and once in the command, press the **F1** function key. The manual will pop up opened to the **C2** page. This is known in Windows programs as **Context Sensitive Help.**

Some users insist on using the **F1** function key to launch a custom macro or to contain a favorite command. We have provided for this by allowing you to override the default **F1** Help function by clearing a check box on the **MA** Macro Assign dialog. If this is your choice, then the **HE** command will also pop up context sensitive help. You may wonder why you cannot program the **F10** key as you could in MSDOS. The answer is simply that Windows reserves the **F10** key for it’s own purposes and

that it is not allowed under Windows.

General CADD also hosts an **On Line Internet Help Forum**. In this forum you have direct access to the **GCP** programming and Support Staff where you can get it "from the horse's mouth". Click this link to "check it out" www.generalcadd.com/forum.htm

See you in our Forum!

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