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## E-News #1

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## Carlson Newsletter #1 (04-03-2000)

Welcome to the Carlson Newsletter. This is produced as a service to our customers to provide regular up to date information. This comes in the form of technical tips and product information.

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Carlson Software has positions available!

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As a fast growing organization, we are seeking qualified individuals to fill several positions. Here is a chance to put your AutoCAD & SurvCADD knowledge to work in a challenging and exciting environment.

Our primary needs are ...

**Sales Representatives:** Must be able to give effective demos of the Carlson products in the field. The organizational skills to follow through are necessary, and can lead to a rewarding position.

**Technical Support:** Must have a good working knowledge of SurvCADD, AutoCAD, and a basic knowledge of operating systems. If you've been working with SurvCADD on a daily basis for a few years, you are likely a good candidate!

**GIS Administration:** Skills in setting up and managing GIS systems, as well as knowledge of products used in GIS. Knowledge of issues facing groups such as county tax accessors is a plus.

To inquire about these or any service you think you could provide to our company, contact Dale Jefferson at <mailto:dalej@carlsonsw.com>.

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Technical Tips & Tricks

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### Smiley Faces on Toolbars:

**Cause:** Toolbar icons cannot be found.

**Solution:** Make sure that if you create custom icons, you save them into a

folder that is in the AutoCAD support file search path.

Cause: Toolbars buttons that are moved from one toolbar to another.

Solution: Never 'drag' buttons from one toolbar to another. If you want to create new toolbars buttons, create a new toolbar first and add the buttons to the new toolbar.

More info can be found here:

<http://www.autodesk.com/support/autocad/hotissue.htm>

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### **AutoCAD 2000 Patches:**

Autodesk has released two important patches for AutoCAD 2000 that could affect you. Follow the URL below and pay close attention to the 'AutoCAD 2000 Service Pack' and the 'AutoCAD 2000 Plotting Update Patch'.

<http://www.autodesk.com/support/autocad/patch2000.htm>

Note, you probably want (English/Unlocked).

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### **AutoCAD on CD/RW drives:**

On the typical application, you can use a CD/RW to read/write files directly to the CD with no problems. However, AutoCAD is not a 'typical' application. Attempts to use AutoCAD to read and write to these drives can lead to errors and loss of data.

This authors opinion is the same as it was with the consideration of the use of floppy drives to read/write files, and that is DON'T DO IT. Copy the files to the hard disk, work the file, then transfer it back to the removeable media. The only exception (again an opinion) is removeable hard drives and lomega products such as Zip/Jazz disks.

Also on the topic of recordable CD's, users often ask how to remove the read-only flag when copying from CD to hard disk. Simply highlight the file(s) in explorer, right click, choose Properties and clear the 'Read-Only' toggle.

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### **When TRIM won't trim, or EXTEND won't extend:**

Two new option settings introduced with AutoCAD R14 can affect the behavior of the TRIM and extend commands. If these commands seem to be misbehaving, make sure these variables are set.

Command: EDGEMODE 0

Controls how the TRIM and EXTEND commands determine cutting and boundary edges.

- 0 Uses the selected edge without an extension
- 1 Extends or trims the selected object to an imaginary extension of the cutting or boundary edge.

Command: PROJMODE 1

Sets the current Projection mode for trimming or extending.

- 0 True 3D mode (no projection)
- 1 Project to the XY plane of the current UCS
- 2 Project to the current view plane

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## Point Filters

With "point filters", you can specify one coordinate value while ignoring other coordinate values. Here is an example: Suppose you wanted to place a circle in the exact center of a rectangle. You could draw construction lines from each corner, then locate the circle at their intersection, then erase the construction lines, or simply use point filters.

First draw a rectangle on your screen, then start the circle command. When it asks for the center point, type in .X, now pick the midpoint of the bottom line of the rectangle. Next, type in .Y and select the midpoint of either side of the rectangle. AutoCAD then ask you for a Z value, type in 0 (zero). You have now located the center of the circle in the center of the rectangle. Complete the circle command by entering the radius.

Here is the command sequence:

```
Command: Circle
3P/2P/TTR/<Center point>: .X
of mid of (need YZ): .Y
of mid of (need Z): 0
Diameter/<Radius> <87.33>: 100
```

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## Missing Dialog Boxes

If you run the OPEN command and don't get the normal 'open' dialog box, don't worry, its a simple fix. AutoCAD/SurvCADD users type in FILEDIA at the command prompt and change this to 1.

Carlson Survey/Roads users, choose "Set environment variables" from

the Inq-Set menu and choose variable name FILEDIA and change its value to 1. If your PLOT dialog box is missing, use this same procedure but change the CMDDIA variable to 1.

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## Quicktext

If you have a large drawing with a lot of text, you may want to use Quicktext mode. This turns off the font display for all your text, making zooms and regens a little faster. Although you cannot read each text entity, you can still edit and modify them. Be sure to turn quicktext OFF before plotting. AutoCAD/SurvCADD users can type QTEXT at the command to turn this off or on.

Carlson Survey/Roads users, choose "Set environment variables" from the Inq-Set menu and choose variable name QTEXTMODE.

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## Importing DXF files

AutoCAD R14 and Carlson Survey/Roads users should know that you cannot import a DXF file into an existing drawing. AutoCAD R14 will warn you of this, but Carlson Survey/Roads will not. This is a limitation of R14 and the OEM R14 engine that Carlson Survey/Roads is built on. In order to bring a DXF file into an existing drawing, you must begin a NEW drawing, import the DXF file, save it as a DWG file, then re-open the original drawing and insert it as a block.

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Support Information

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## Carlson Newsgroups:

We have introduced a new way to get your technical support questions answered, as well as collaborate with other users of the same product. Follow these links to find out more.

### SurvCADD

- Cogo/Design: <news://hq.carlsonsw.com/cogo-design>
- DTM/Contour: <news://hq.carlsonsw.com/dtm-contour>
- Section/Profile: <news://hq.carlsonsw.com/section-profile>
- Hydrology: <news://hq.carlsonsw.com/hydrology>
- Mining (Standard): <news://hq.carlsonsw.com/mining-standard>
- Mining (Advanced): <news://hq.carlsonsw.com/mining-advanced>

Standalone Products:

- Carlson Survey: <news://hq.carlsonsw.com/carlson-survey>
- Carlson Roads: <news://hq.carlsonsw.com/carlson-roads>
- SurvStar: <news://hq.carlsonsw.com/survstar>
- Tsunami: <news://hq.carlsonsw.com/tsunami>
- GradeStar: <news://hq.carlsonsw.com/gradestar>

Other Groups:

- Data Collection: <news://hq.carlsonsw.com/data-collection>
- AutoCAD Support: <news://hq.carlsonsw.com/autocad-support>
- General: <news://hq.carlsonsw.com/general>

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New/Updated Product Information

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### **Real Time Data Collection: Tsunami**

Carlson Software is pleased to introduce the first Real-Time Kinematic GPS and Total Station data collection directly in CAD!

Running on today's ultra small laptops, this product comes to you in a size comparable to a data collector, except with all the power you've become accustomed to in the office. Windows based CAD with real-time data collection brings possibilities that never were possible before.

Watch the points and linework as the shots are being taken. You can generate contours at any time and see immediately any areas that need additional points, saving those expense trips back to the project site. All this and much, much more!

See all the details at <http://www.carlsonsw.com/tsunami.htm>.

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### **Productivity Tools Update: ToolPac 5.0 Ships**

If you are an intermediate to advanced AutoCAD user looking to squeeze the maximum amount of productivity from every minute, you should consider taking a look at ToolPac. If you've ever been frustrated by repeating an operation on multiple objects, knowing that there was a better way, then this is the tool for you.

Details at <http://www.carlsonsw.com/toolpac.htm>.

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