

Objectives and Chapter Hints

Chapter 5 – Getting In and Around AutoCAD

Objectives

After studying this chapter you should be able to

1. Recognize the basic components of the AutoCAD user interface
2. Enter commands and command aliases through the Command line
3. Describe the use for each function key on the keyboard
4. Access commands using keyboard shortcuts (for example, CTRL+Z = Undo)
5. Describe the function of each mouse button and “wheel”
6. Access commands using a digitizer tablet overlay
7. Access commands using drop-down menus and toolbars
8. Identify the features of a dialog box
9. Begin a new drawing from scratch, with a template, or using a Wizard
10. Browse, Search, and Open an existing drawing
11. Adjust the automatic save time parameters

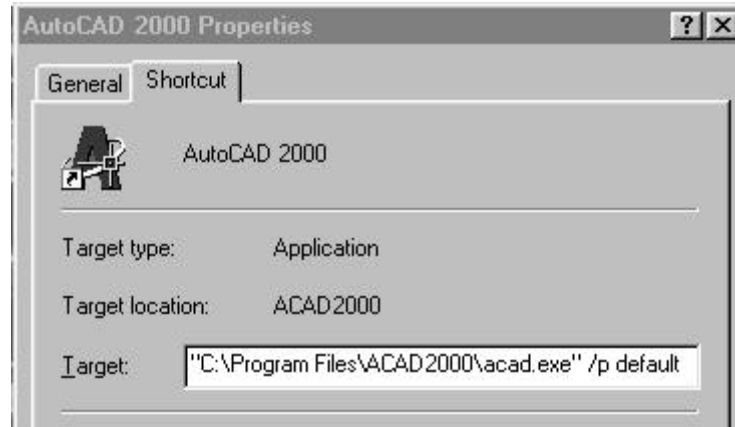
Chapter Hints

Emphasize the power of the right mouse button for accessing options to a command. Drawing productivity is greater through the “heads-up” command access of toolbar icons and right-click options rather than traditional keyboard entry.

Most beginning student files are small, so setting AutoSave to a short interval (10–15 minutes) will not cause performance degradation. The more backups the better!

The AutoCAD user interface can become very cluttered with toolbars and odd background colors after only a few minutes with a creative student. It is possible to save a “default” user interface using Profiles in the Options dialog box. A custom profile is saved as a .ARG file and a clean copy of the file can be copied to

the AutoCAD directory in a startup batch file. The custom profile can be used automatically when AutoCAD is launched through the /p switch in the Target area of the AutoCAD shortcut icon.



The /p switch specifies a user-defined registry profile for starting AutoCAD. The selected profile is in effect only for the current session of AutoCAD, unless you make another profile current in the Options dialog box during that session.

You create or import Profiles on the Profiles tab in the Options dialog box. With the /p switch, you can specify only those profiles that are listed in the Options dialog box. If the profile does not exist, AutoCAD uses the current profile.