

2.0 Chapter Two - CDOT Workspace

The CDOT Workspace is a custom environment designed to facilitate CADD productivity and direct the user to CDOT-specific standards, workflows and processes. The CDOT Workspace is a complex set of configuration files, MicroStation and InRoads resource files, workflow documents, and many other customized tools, all designed to work together to increase productivity and efficiency, and allow for a standardized project plan set output. Some of the items in the workspace include:

- Seed files
- Cell libraries
- DGN libraries
- Line style resource files
- Font resource files
- Plot drivers
- Pen tables
- InRoads preference files
- InRoads templates
- CDOT configuration files
- Workflow documents

The CDOT configuration files define locations where MicroStation and InRoads will find the CDOT-specific resources listed above. They also enable or disable specific MicroStation and InRoads tools allowing for a streamlined and standardized environment within CDOT. Along with the configuration files, custom tools and utilities needed to perform design and drafting functions have also been created and made available to the user within the workspace. These tools have been written to save the user time and enable them to be consistent between projects.

This chapter will cover the following topics pertaining to the CDOT Workspace:

- Installation
- Configuration Files
- Workspace Folder Structure
- Select Group Environment Utility
- Customized MicroStation Menus

2.1 Installation

For CDOT users, the installation of the Workspace will be controlled and maintained by the Information Technologies (IT) Department. This includes the user's hardware, CADD software including upgrades and service packs, the maintenance and backup of pertinent CDOT workspace user files, including user preference files, project configuration files (pcf) and user menu customizations. This will ensure that all CDOT CADD workstations have the latest Workspace

files loaded locally to the user's computer and updated through automated routines, as needed when the user logs on each day. Users can manually update the workspace at any time by selecting the Start > All Programs > CDOT_CADD_Information > Update MicroStation-InRoads Standards.

2.2 Configuration Files

Custom configuration (*.cfg) files have been created that will set the correct MicroStation resource files and other standard files located on the user's computer. Along with these configuration files, personal support files have also been included in the workspace allowing the user to customize their workstation without impacting other users. These files include user preference (*.upf) files, user interface (*.m01) files and function key menu (*.mnu) files. The IT Department will also back up these customized files on a daily basis for recovery, if required. Occasionally when a new CDOT Workspace version is distributed, user defined files will have to be deleted or overwritten. However, this practice is avoided whenever possible.

Users should regularly check the CADD & Engineering Innovation website for information concerning configuration upgrades. If a project is approaching a major release, users may want to contact the IT Department to request that the configuration be updated at a later time. Under these circumstances, the automatic update process will be disengaged, but it is required that an estimated time of upgrade be established to maintain standardization.

2.3 Workspace Folder Structure

A Workspace folder structure has been developed to store CADD resource files and information related to the CDOT workspace. The folder structure is integrated with the MicroStation configuration files so that the user will not have to navigate to find files. MicroStation and InRoads will find the necessary files to ensure the CDOT configuration runs correctly. This folder structure can be found at C:\Program Files\Workspace-CDOT. The following link can be used to look at a detailed table showing the Workspace-CDOT directory and the associated files.

2.4 Select Group Environment Utility

The Select Group Environment Utility has been created to ensure that users from each specialty group have their unique resources available to them. This utility sets the group environment for the CDOT user enabling them to have the correct tools available to complete their work. For example, a Bridge designer would select the Bridge environment prior to starting MicroStation. Once in MicroStation the user would have access to Bridge specific cells, seed files, linestyles, levels and symbology, and any other Bridge specific utilities or resources needed. The utility must be run prior to starting MicroStation in order to set up tools specific to that user's group.

The Default Group Environment is set to xxMulti-Discipline. The multi-discipline environment enables MicroStation to have all the cell libraries, level libraries and filters, available at anytime without having to load these items individually. If you are a designer, who crosses all disciplines during your design process, this is the recommended environment to load.

The Select Group Environment Utility can be run from the user's computer through the Start button. Remember that you **MUST** exit MicroStation prior to running this utility. The following link can be used to look at a detailed, step-by-step, workflow on how to use the Select Group Environment Utility.

Select Group Environment Utility

2.5 Customized MicroStation Menu

The customized CDOT menu provides access to tools and applications intended to provide the user a simple, efficient method to apply CDOT's CADD standards to every project. These menus direct MicroStation to place elements on discipline-defined levels for drawing consistency.

2.5.1 CDOT Group Menu

The CDOT Group Menu is activated once a MicroStation file has been opened. The menus are a combination of both Menu Definition files (.mdf) and Visual Basic (VB) Programming that runs within MicroStation. The Bridge and the Construction Group still operate as an mdf file, through the use of pull-downs. All other discipline menus have been converted to a VB dialog box menu system. The Menu pull down contains links to all the group specific menus. To access these menus simply select the appropriate group from the CDOT Group Menus Bar pulldown.

Review the Discipline Specific Group Menus

Note: The CDOT Groups Menu is loaded by default. Should it not appear on the screen, the user can reload it by clicking on the CDOT icon on the Main MicroStation toolbar.

