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DGN-DWG TERMINOLOGY TECHNOTE

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Subject: DGN-DWG Terminology
Product: MicroStation V8
Operating System: Windows® 2000, Windows XP Professional, Windows XP Home Edition, Windows Me, Windows NT® 4 (SP6 recommended), Windows 98 (Second Edition recommended)
Document Number: 8324

Note: This information is also available in the MicroStation V8.5 help system.

| MicroStation Term | Corresponding AutoCAD Term | Notes |
|---|----------------------------|--|
| AccuSnap | Osnap | Drafting tool for automatic snaps. |
| ACS | UCS | Coordinate system acronyms. ACS = Auxiliary Coordinate System; UCS = User Coordinate System. |
| ACTIVE LINESTYLESCALE | LTSCALE | Configuration/system variable used to define the scale of line scale/linetype patterns. |
| Block | Rectangle | N/A |
| ByLevel setting | BYLAYER setting | Setting that controls whether color, line weight, and line style are set for each level (layer). |
| Callout bubble | Balloon | N/A |
| Cell libraries | N/A | No analogous AutoCAD term. |
| Cells: shared and normal | Blocks | In AutoCAD, all blocks behave like shared cells. There is no analogy to a normal cell. |
| Configuration variables | System variables | N/A |
| Design model | Model space | DWG workmode and AutoCAD allow only one model. MicroStation DGN workmode allows multiple models. |
| DGN file | DWG file | Native file format for each program. |
| Drop Element | Explode | Command used to demote element/object types to lower level. For example, cells/blocks can be demoted to geometry. |
| Element Attributes | Properties | Title for current symbology of elements/objects. |
| Elements | Objects | N/A |
| Fit View | Zoom extents | Command for zooming in on all elements currently in the drawing. -"Zoom Extents" area will include layers that have display turned off - MicroStation "Fit" tool will fit only visible geometry. |
| Global Freeze/Viewport Freeze (DWG workmode only) | Freeze layers | In MicroStation, pay attention to the Mode setting in the Level Display dialog box. |
| Handles | Grips | Vertices on geometry that can be selected and manipulated. |

| | | |
|-------------------|--|--|
| Key-in | Command line | Place for entering commands/variables manually. |
| Levels | Layers | Both programs have a "Manager" style dialog box for controlling level/layer symbology. MicroStation also has the Level Display dialog box for quick on/off settings. |
| Line styles | Linetypes | MicroStation standard line codes are not available in DWG workmode. |
| Merge into Master | Bind XREF | Inserting an external reference into the current drawing. |
| Message Center | Text window | Place for viewing text messages of program feedback. |
| Nested references | Nested references | MicroStation lets you control levels of nesting; AutoCAD does not. |
| Parasolid | ACIS | Native 3D modeling kernel for each program. |
| Patterning | Hatching | AutoCAD hatching relies on predefined patterns. |
| Pen tables | Plot styles | AutoCAD CTB and STB files can be imported into MicroStation. |
| Print | Plot | N/A |
| References | References: attachments and overlays | AutoCAD references are also known as XREFs (for "eXternal REferences"). |
| Seed files | Template drawing files | These files are used as a starting point for newly-created files. They store standard settings. |
| Shape | Region | N/A |
| Sheet model | Drawing layout (paper space) | Unlimited sheet models (drawing layouts) allowed in both programs. |
| Smart Line | Polyline | Polylines can have variable width, as opposed to constant line weight. |
| Tags | Attributes | In AutoCAD, attributes must be part of a block. |
| View | Viewports | MicroStation views are more flexible in terms of display attributes and number. |
| View Attributes | (Drafting Settings) | In AutoCAD, there is no analogy to View Attributes. Some settings are found in the taskbar/drafting settings area. |
| Working units | Drawing units | MicroStation has a setting on the DWG Open dialog box for Design Center Units. This corresponds to AutoCAD's setting for "Drawing units for DesignCenter blocks". |

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