Autodesk University Round Table Summary

SESSION TITLE	The Path of a Power User: Best Practices and Methods
SESSION ID	AC2529-R
SPEAKER	Russell Karshick
COMPANY	PPL Corp.

MAIN DISCUSSION POINTS

- What is a Power User?
- How do you become and remain a Power User?
- Best Tips/commands
- Lisp routines

KEY TAKE-AWAYS

- A Power User is a person who understands AutoCAD in great detail. Thus they operate in a very efficient manner and are very knowledgeable of even obscure commands and solutions. More important however, the group agreed that there is more to being a Power User than speed and accuracy. Amongst these things, it was noted that a power user has motivation to learn the products (and continue learning), they feel an obligation to their co-workers, and most importantly they have a proper attitude when it comes to sharing what they know.

- In order to become/remain in this elite group, one must never lose their curiosity! Being inquisitive about how a process works, or how to minimized time spent on a project, leads to a search for solutions, which broadens knowledge of Autodesk products.

- Communication is also vital in this role. A Power User seems to be identified by their co-workers, not for what they know, but for what they share. In order to gain the respect of your peers you must openly share what you know (both up and down the food chain).

- It was brought out that you can't be afraid of losing your position (as more knowledgeable people come into your company) but rather to encourage an exchange of information from all sides.

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- Training was also seen as vital to the role as Power User, but it was acknowledged that incenting a user to advance to this role is difficult. The key attitude must be present for a user to truly advance.

- While it was acknowledge that using the keyboard to enter commands was one of the fastest ways to save time (and even encouraged by a few), speed is not a necessarily an identifying factor of a Power User (although it usually exists).

- Use of LISP routines great saved time at each users company. It was acknowledged that it is not always necessary to "start from scratch" when programing (many codes exist that can be modified to your needs).

- All Power Users in discussion group seemed to recognized a few keys areas at their companies that, when address properly, will save all user an immense amount of time. These areas are; Plotting, Detail Library's, Using tool palettes, and setup of proper template files

- Most users go to the same places to get information on LISP and find coding to use. These places include; http://forums.autodesk.com/, http://www.cadtutor.net , http://www.cadalyst.com , http://www.theswamp.org

- It was also acknowledged that there are many ways to control LISP routines and the group uses a variety of methods (from networking, to dragging routines into CAD workspace).

SUGGESTED FOLLOW-UP

- Identify ways to recognize Power Users in a more effective manner. Some companies (or managers) may take certain users out to lunch or give special projects to a small group, but there was no consistent manner of recognition. Recognition may lead to more users reaching out for these responsible positions.

- Research a standardize way to test potential employees to identify special Power Users skills up front. Interview should be able to identify attitude towards work with proper question set, but a specialized test will show if knowledge is applied in an efficient manner.