CES500157

Drawing from Experience:
CAD Management Through a Pandemic and Back Again

Rick Ellis
CADapult Software Solutions

R.K. McSwain
LJA Engineering

Kate Morrical Towne
Silman

Mike Thomas
Prairie Machine

Curt Moreno
Kung Fu Drafter

Learning Objectives

- Learn how CAD managers have navigated the pandemic
- Learn how to work remotely and support remote users
- Learn about how others have successfully implemented CAD standards
- Learn how to communicate better with management and other nontechnical people

Description

CAD Managers have been tested as never before in 2020 and 2021 as the world changed seemingly overnight and now as we navigate the changes back to "normal". This award-winning panel is back to discuss these timely topics and more. Learn from the experiences of this panel of diverse CAD Managers that are widely respected as leaders in their field. Hear their unique perspective and solutions to challenges faced by CAD Managers from organizations of all sizes and backgrounds. We will discuss topics related to working remotely and the challenges of being a CAD Manager during a pandemic. If you are burnt out on hearing about COVID we will cover several other important CAD Management topics including CAD standards, keeping up with rapidly changing technology, managing users, communicating with management, budgeting and more. Join us for a panel discussion that has become an anticipated AU tradition. Take this opportunity to learn from four CAD Managers who have been there and done that.

Moderator

Rick Ellis

Rick Ellis is the President of CADapult Software Solutions, Inc., where he provides training and consulting services to clients around the country, helping them get the most out of their design software investment. Rick specializes in Autodesk® Civil 3D®, AutoCAD® Map 3D, Autodesk® InfraWorks™, AutoCAD® Raster Design, and AutoCAD®. He is a member of the Autodesk Developer Network, and author of several critically acclaimed books on Autodesk Civil 3D, AutoCAD Map 3D and AutoCAD; including the Practical Guide series. Rick continues to use Autodesk Civil 3D on projects in a production environment, in addition to teaching classes to organizations both large and small around the country. This practical background and approach have made him a sought-after instructor by organizations around the world.

rick@cadapult-software.com

@theRickEllis

Meet the Panel

Kate Morrical Towne

Silman is a structural engineering firm with offices in New York, Boston, Washington, DC, and Ann Arbor. As the Digital Design Manager, Kate is responsible for coordinating procedures and standards for software used in the design process, whether CAD, BIM, or design/analysis programs. Before rejoining Silman in 2012 (where she also worked from 2003 to 2008), Kate was a Technical Marketing Manager for Autodesk, Inc. There, she worked on the AutoCAD software family of products, specifically AutoCAD LT software. She has over 15 years' experience with Autodesk products, served on AUGI's Board of Directors from 2013 to 2018 (including as President 2017-2018), and has presented at numerous technical events, including Revit DC, BILT North America, Midwest University, and several Autodesk University conferences.

towne@silman.com
@KateMTowne

Curt Moreno

Curt Moreno is a freelance content creator for clients such as the Autodesk, Inc.; Hewlett-Packard; and other corporations, large and small. He has a long-time member of the CAD community having been a member of the board of directors for Autodesk User Group International (AUGI), and an award-winning Autodesk University speaker. He has written and spoken on topics revolving around the CAD profession, management issues, presentation topics, and customer relations for the past 9 years, and he hopes to broaden his reach. Moreno currently lives in Houston where he is the IT Manager for a Texas-based engineering firm. He is a public speaker and trainer and enjoys spending time with his dogs. Visit his new site at www.kungfumanager.com or follow him on Twitter.
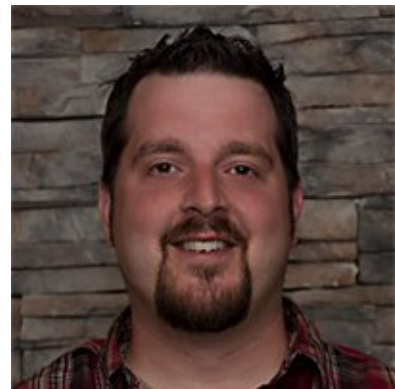
thekungfudrafter@gmail.com
@WKFD

Mike Thomas

Mike has been using AutoCAD since r13, cut his solid modeling teeth on Mechanical Desktop, and has been using Inventor since before it was known as Inventor. Data Management has always been a big part of his professional life. He is the Technical Services Manager at Prairie Machine www.prairiemachine.com a mining equipment manufacturer. Reporting to the general manager, Mike is responsible for overseeing the company's technical operations and the strategic technical growth. His primary duties include the ongoing support of critical applications and the interactions between departments.

mthomas@pmparts.com
@aurbis

R.K. McSwain

R.K has worked in the Civil Engineering/Survey field for 25 years, designing projects for public and private clients using skills ranging from hand drafting to the use of the latest CAD applications. Most recently, he accepted the position of IT Customer Service Manager after many years serving as a CAD Manager for leading Civil Engineering firms in Texas, furthering his technological reach beyond the CAD world.

R.K. has 20 years experience in application development for various CAD applications using autolisp and VBA, and has been presenting professional training seminars in this field for almost as long. He continues to serve as a contributing editor for Cadalyst magazine.

R.K. created CAD Panacea www.cadpanacea.com in 2005 as a resource for CAD users all over the world. He is a member of the Autodesk Expert Elite and multiple Autodesk Customer Councils.

rkmcswain@cadpanacea.com
@cadpanacea