

THE CAD RATING GUIDE USER SURVEY

To All CAD Users

WBH Associates and ZEM Press are preparing the sixth edition of *The CAD Rating Guide*. *The CAD Rating Guide* is a tool for evaluating CAD systems, and contains information on almost all CAD systems on the market today. GIS, FEM, and Animation systems are also included. (Printed-circuit board and integrated circuit design systems are not included.) This survey forms the basis of one of the most significant parts of the book—user’s comments about their CAD systems.

Your participation in the user interview will contribute greatly to the validity and quality of information presented. In exchange for your participation, **all users who complete the form will be given a \$10 discount on the book** (if purchased directly through ZEM Press). Please be as thorough as possible in your answers. Please be sure to indicate your preference regarding the inclusion of your name and your firm’s with your comments. If you would like your name or your firm’s name withheld, be sure to check the appropriate box on questions #1 and 2.

If you are using more than one type of CAD system, please copy this form and fill out one copy of the form for each system. Where versions of the software for different platforms vary significantly in one or more areas, complete separate forms for each version. We must have the forms back as soon as possible in order to be assured of being included in the next edition. Any information received after that date will be considered for supplements to the book.

Please copy and distribute this survey to other appropriate individuals/firms.

There is an online version of this form at www.wbh.com/crgus.html.

If you have questions about the survey or the process please call me or my office, at 301-365-1159 or fax to 301-365-4586. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

W. Bradley Holtz, AIA
Editor and Publisher



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Please return to WBH Associates as soon as possible

Today's Date _____

1. Your name _____

2. okay to print your name where your comments appear
 no, please don't use my name

Your title _____

3. Your company's name _____

4. okay to print your company's name where your comments appear
 no, please don't use my company's name

Street address: _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Country _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

Email _____

Website _____

Is this your Business address , Home address , or address for both Home & Business ?

What Software Are You Using? Use a separate form for each CAD program.

5. Name of CAD program (e.g., AutoCAD, MicroStation, Pro/E...) _____

6. Version # _____

7. Name of the CAD Vendor(e.g., Autodesk, Bentley, PTC...) _____

8. Extensions/options _____

9. Third-party options _____

10. How long has your firm been using this software? (not just the current version) _____

11. How long have you personally been using this software? (not just the current version) _____

12. What other CAD systems are in use at this site? _____

13. What do use CAD for? _____

14. What business are you in? _____

15. How many people are employed at your firm? _____

16. How many CAD users in your firm use this software at this site? _____

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NARRATIVE SECTION

This is the most important part of the survey. Many of your answers may appear in the book verbatim. Please answer questions as thoroughly as you can. If you require more space, feel free to use the back sides or additional sheets.

17. **What surprised you about the system?**

18. **What have you been unable to do that you thought you would or should be able to?**

19. **What features have you found to be important with this system that you had not considered before you had this system?**

20. **What sort of support/response/interactions have you had from/with the vendor?**

21. **Briefly describe if and how you use surfaces, solids, and variational geometry.**

22. **What stumbling blocks did you run into that you would like to warn others of?**

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23. **What is on your wish list for this product?**

24. **How do you use this system in ways that were unanticipated?**

25. **Describe your layering scheme and file procedures used when two or more people need to work on the same project at the same time.**

26. **What customization have you taken advantage of?**

27. **How do you feel about this system?**

28. **What would you have done differently if you were given the opportunity?**

29. **Is there anything else you want us to know?**

30. **How would you grade the system as meeting your needs? (A+ through F)**

31. **Would you recommend this system?**

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What Hardware Platform(s) Are You Running It On?

- 32. **Operating System** (e.g., Windows NT, Solaris, MacOS...) _____
- 33. **Platform** (e.g., Intel Pentium II, SGI O2, PowerMac...) _____
- 34. **CPU type** (e.g., Alpha, Intel - Dual processor, UltraSparc...) _____
- 35. **CPU speed** (in Mhz) _____
- 36. **RAM** (in Megabytes) _____
- 37. **Local disk storage** (in Gigabytes) _____
- 38. **Plotter type** (e.g., electrostatic, laser printer, pen plotter...) _____
- 39. **Display resolution** (e.g. 1024x768) _____
- 40. **Display controler(s)** _____

- 41. **What do you do to protect yourself against a loss of data due to a hard disk crash?**

- 42. **Which applications do you use the CAD system for?**
- 43. **What file exchange formats do you use?** _____
- 44. **(optional) Name and address of the dealer/VAR/reseller you bought the system from**

- 45. **(optional) Name and address of your local user group**

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WITHOUT PROPER
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ATTN: USER SURVEYS
THE CAD RATING GUIDE
8220 STONE TRAIL DRIVE
BETHESDA, MD 20817-4556

Dear Colleague:

Thank you for responding to this User Survey for The CAD Rating Guide. The results from this survey will be part of the sixth edition of The CAD Rating Guide, due out in October 1999. The book will cost \$150 and includes access to the private website for one year. Any of you who have already bought an earlier edition are entitled to a discount of \$49. If you order the 6th edition now (by September 1, 1999), you will receive another \$25 pre-publication discount in addition to the \$10 discount for responding to this survey. If you would like more information on the book, please go to our website at www.cadratingguide.com, or, please check this box to receive a flyer with ordering information.

Finally, if you have any comments about the book that you believe would help for the next edition, please let me know now while I still have time to make changes. In addition to the address/phone/fax below, you may reach me crg@wbh.com.

Thank you again for your cooperation.