

SYBEX Bonus Chapter

AutoCAD[®] 2004 and AutoCAD LT[®] 2004: No Experience Required[®]

David Frey

Bonus Chapter: Making the Internet Work with AutoCAD

Copyright © 2003 SYBEX Inc., 1151 Marina Village Parkway, Alameda, CA 94501. World rights reserved. No part of this publication may be stored in a retrieval system, transmitted, or reproduced in any way, including but not limited to photocopy, photograph, magnetic or other record, without the prior agreement and written permission of the publisher.

ISBN: 0-7821-4194-3

SYBEX and the SYBEX logo are either registered trademarks or trademarks of SYBEX Inc. in the USA and other countries.

TRADEMARKS: Sybex has attempted throughout this book to distinguish proprietary trademarks from descriptive terms by following the capitalization style used by the manufacturer. Copyrights and trademarks of all products and services listed or described herein are property of their respective owners and companies. All rules and laws pertaining to said copyrights and trademarks are inferred.

This document may contain images, text, trademarks, logos, and/or other material owned by third parties. All rights reserved. Such material may not be copied, distributed, transmitted, or stored without the express, prior, written consent of the owner.

The author and publisher have made their best efforts to prepare this book, and the content is based upon final release software whenever possible. Portions of the manuscript may be based upon pre-release versions supplied by software manufacturers. The author and the publisher make no representation or warranties of any kind with regard to the completeness or accuracy of the contents herein and accept no liability of any kind including but not limited to performance, merchantability, fitness for any particular purpose, or any losses or damages of any kind caused or alleged to be caused directly or indirectly from this book.

Sybex Inc.
1151 Marina Village Parkway
Alameda, CA 94501
U.S.A.
Phone: 510-523-8233
www.sybex.com

BONUS CHAPTER

Making the Internet Work With AutoCAD

- ▶ Accessing the Autodesk websites
- ▶ Sending AutoCAD drawings with e-mail through eTransmit
- ▶ Publishing an AutoCAD drawing to the web
- ▶ Linking an object in an AutoCAD drawing to a website

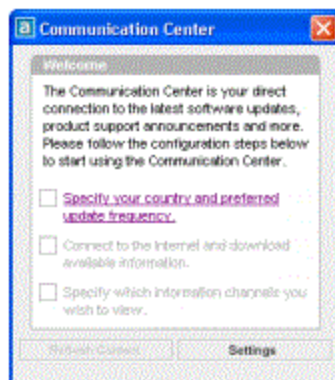
原创力文档
maxbook118.com
预览与源文档一致 下载高清无水印

AutoCAD 2004 contains a set of tools designed to make it easier to use with the Internet. They range from simple utilities to a wizard that leads you through the process of publishing AutoCAD drawings on the Web. In this chapter, we will be taking a brief look at some of these features.

The Communication Center



In the lower-right corner of your AutoCAD screen is a small icon that looks like a satellite dish. Click it. If the Communication Center has not been set up yet, you will see a window like the one here.



The check boxes here are unavailable until you click the text next to the upper check box and select your country and how often you want to be updated in the Configuration Settings dialog box (see Figure 15.1). There are four choices for frequency of update: daily, monthly, weekly, and on demand. At the bottom, check the Enable Balloon Notification For New Announcements check box to allow AutoCAD to display a balloon on your screen when new updates become available.

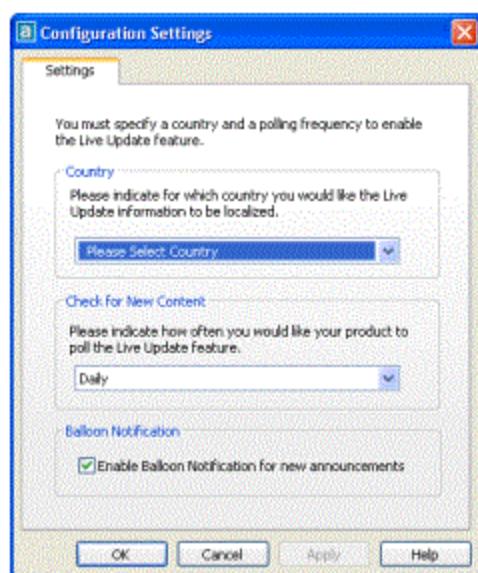
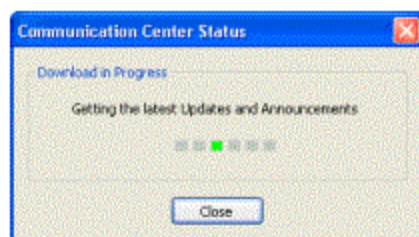


FIGURE 15.1: The Configuration Settings dialog box

Once you've completed and applied your information and choices in the Configuration Settings dialog box, you return to the Communication Center Welcome window. The upper check box is checked, and the text next to the middle check box is now highlighted, or *hot*. If you are connected to the Internet and click this text, your computer will connect to the Autodesk website and download new information. The Communication Center Status window monitors the downloading process.



When the downloading has finished, the Communication Center Welcome window is displayed again, and the text next to the lower check box is highlighted. Click it to display the Channels tab of the Configuration Settings dialog box (see Figure 15.2).

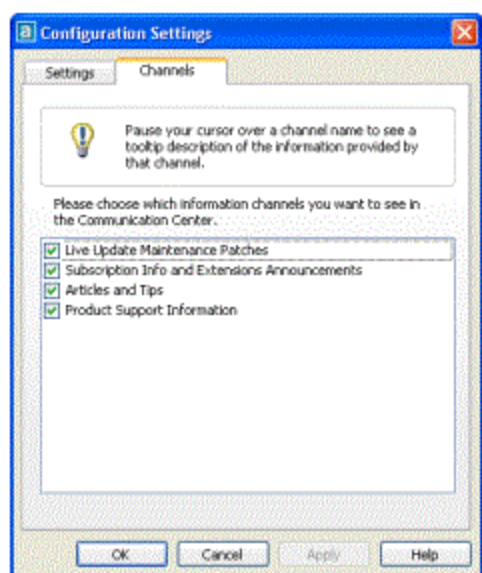


FIGURE 15.2: The Channels tab of the Configuration Settings dialog box

This is where the available channels are listed. Check those on which you want to be kept up-to-date. Click Apply, and then click OK. Now you will see the Communication Center dialog box in its final, set-up form (see Figure 15.3).

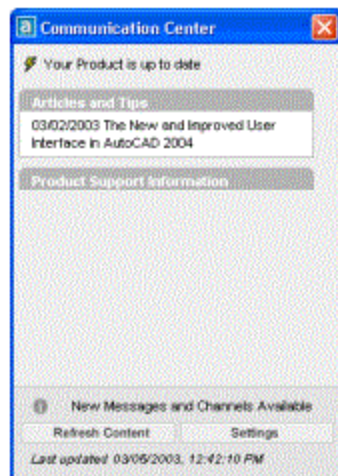
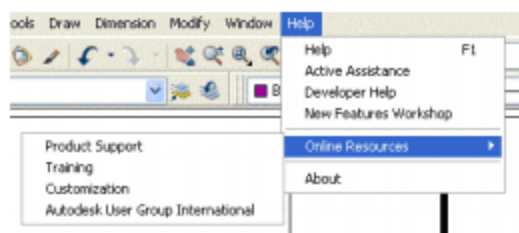


FIGURE 15.3: The Communication Center dialog box after being set up

The status of AutoCAD is displayed (up-to-date or not), and any relevant new information is listed under the headings of the other channels you selected. Now each time you click the Communication Center icon, you will see this dialog box. When you connect to the Internet, the information in this dialog box is automatically updated.

Help Menu Internet Features

On the Help menu, there is an Online Resources submenu that lists four Internet features.



If you are connected to the Internet, choosing items on this menu takes you to various web pages on Autodesk's website:

- Clicking Product Support takes you to the Autodesk Point A website and displays the Product Support page (see Figure 15.4).

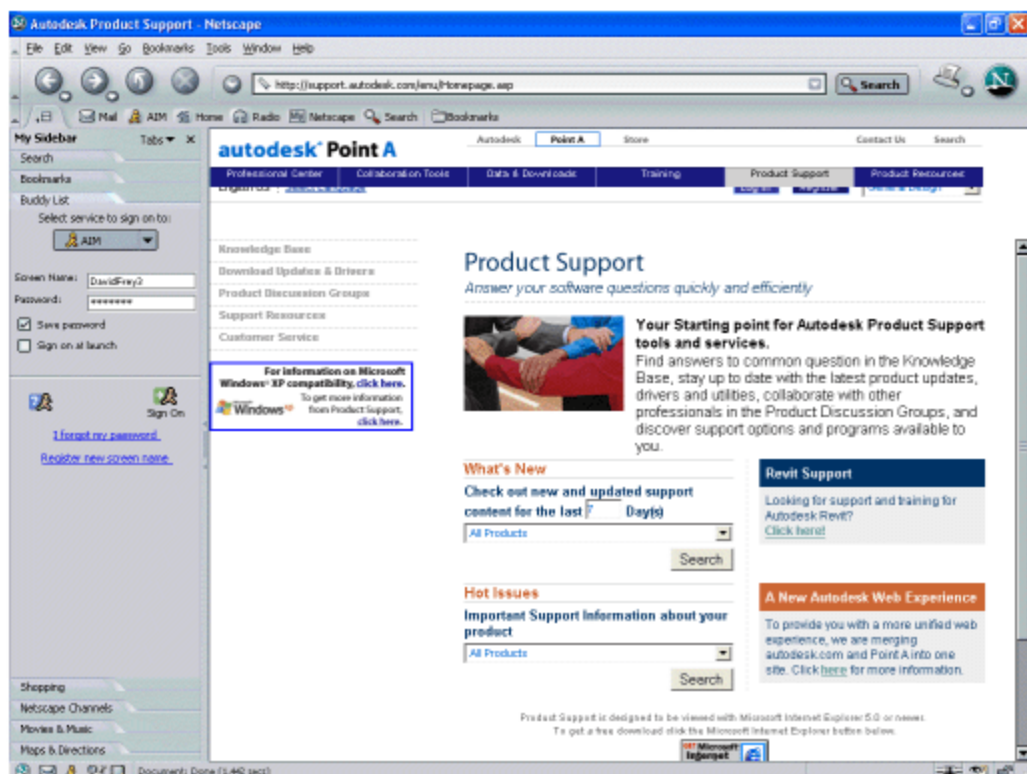


FIGURE 15.4: The Autodesk Point A Product Support page

- ▶ Clicking Training takes you to the Authorized Training Centers page of the Autodesk.com website (see Figure 15.5).

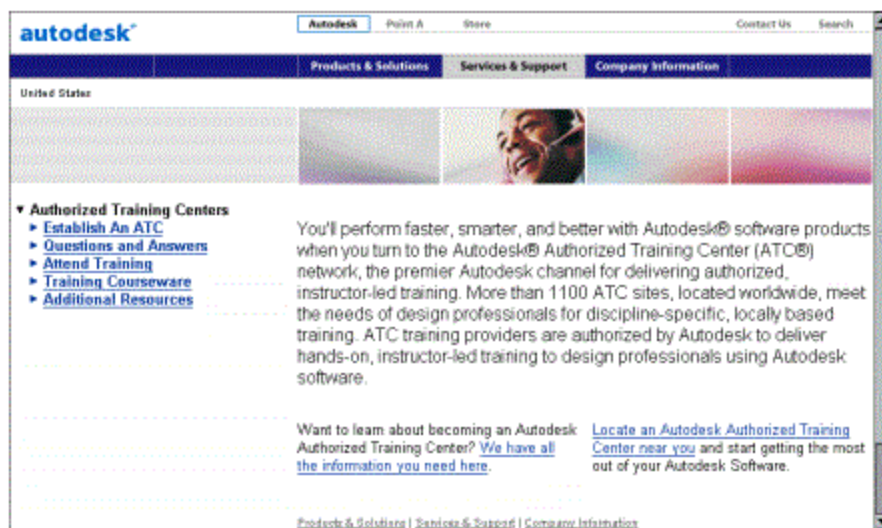


FIGURE 15.5: The Authorized Training Centers page of the Autodesk.com website

- ▶ Clicking Customization takes you to the AutoCAD section of the Developer Center (see Figure 15.6). From here you can find out about other Autodesk products as well.

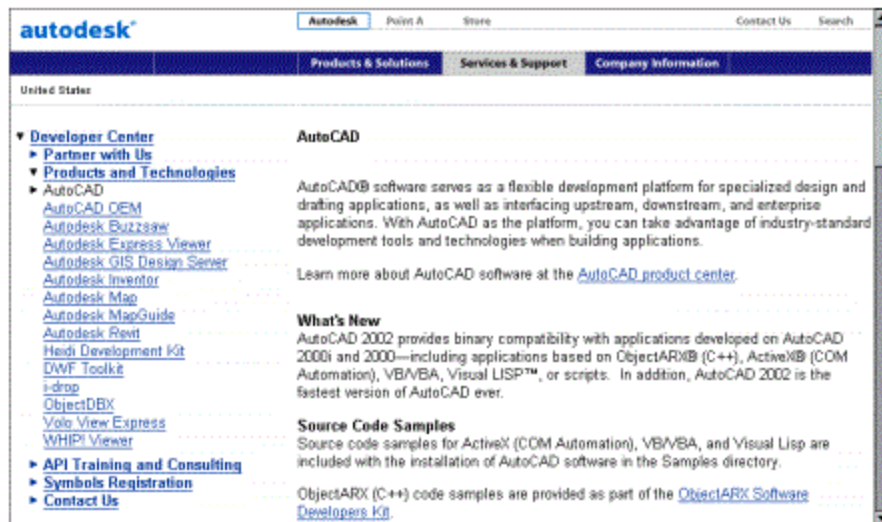


FIGURE 15.6: The AutoCAD section of the Autodesk Developer Center

- ▶ Clicking Autodesk User Group International takes you to a page where you can log on and become a member for free.

Other Internet Features That Work with AutoCAD

原创力文档

max.book118.com

预览与源文档一致, 下载高清无水印

You can access two Internet features that work with AutoCAD using the Files menu—eTransmit and Publish To Web—and you can access one other Internet feature from the Insert Menu—Hyperlinks.

eTransmit

If you use e-mail, you can attach AutoCAD files to your messages. eTransmit is a utility that bundles AutoCAD drawings and their relevant auxiliary files in preparation for e-mail attachment. It saves you the trouble of identifying and collecting these auxiliary files, and it organizes them according to various options.

To see how eTransmit works, let's use a file we developed in this book. When you make a .dwg file the current file, eTransmit will set up the transmission for this file.

1. Open the Site14a drawing (see Figure 15.7). This is the drawing of the site plan with three auxiliary views of the externally referenced Cabin12a.dwg file. This Xreferenced file should be included in the bundle we are sending.

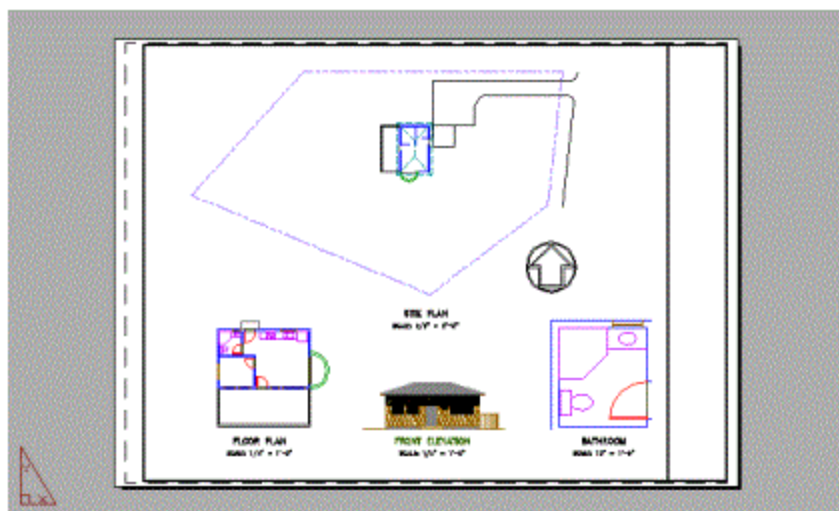


FIGURE 15.7: The Site14a drawing

2. Choose File > eTransmit to open the Create Transmittal dialog box (see Figure 15.8).

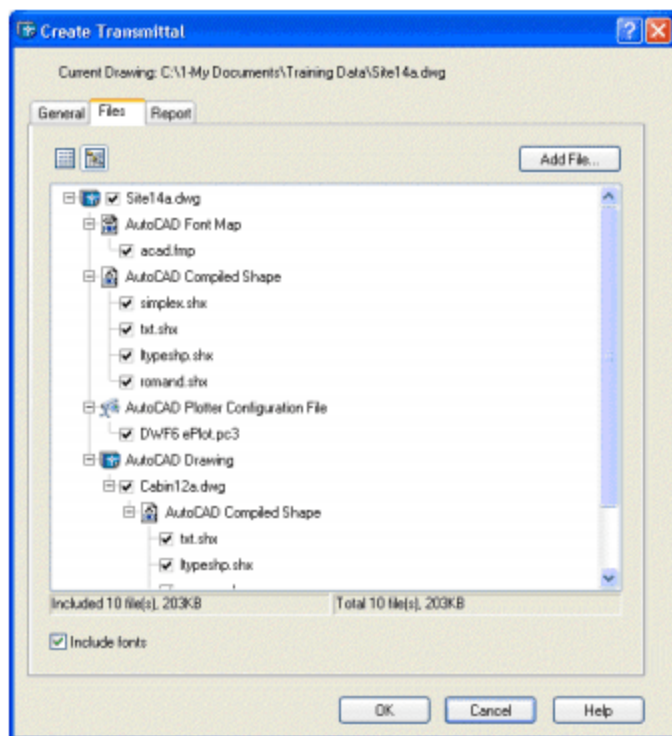


FIGURE 15.8: The Create Transmittal dialog box with the Files tab in front

You can access an alternate view, the List View, by clicking the left button at the top of the display window on the Files tab in the Create Transmittal dialog box.

3. Click the Files tab to bring it to the front. Figure 15.8 (shown earlier) shows the Tree view. It displays the 2 .dwg files and the 11 associated files that need to be included in the transmission, in a hierarchical tree form.
4. Click the General tab to make it active (see Figure 15.9). In the Notes text box at the top, you can write a message that will be sent with the transmittal report.

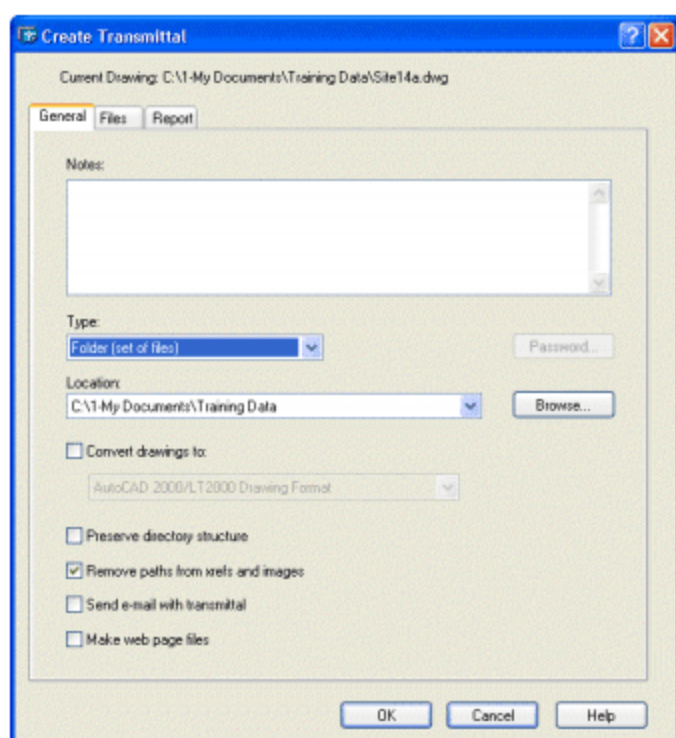


FIGURE 15.9: The General tab in the Create Transmittal dialog box

5. Open the Type drop-down list. There are three options for the format in which the set of associated files are grouped and sent. Note the Password button to the right.



Each option has its own characteristics.

Folder (set of files) Bundles the files into a folder that you designate, uncompressed, and saves the folder on your hard disk. You can then use a file compression utility to create a compressed file and attach this file to an e-mail. The password option is not available for this type.

Self-extracting executable (*.exe) Creates a self-extracting .exe file titled with the name of the current drawing (such as Site14a.exe) and saves it in the folder you designate. When the

recipient downloads and double-clicks this file, the bundled files are extracted. The password option is available for this type.

Zip (*.zip) Creates a .zip file containing the bundle of files. When the recipient downloads and double-clicks this file, the WinZip application is started, and the files can be extracted. The password option is available.

6. Click the Report tab. It displays the contents, including any text you entered in the Notes box of the General tab, of a .txt file that accompanies the transmittal bundle. Click the General tab again.
7. Below the Type drop-down list is the Location drop-down list and a Browse button, for determining where the set of files to be transmitted will be saved on your computer. The drop-down list displays locations of previous transmittals.
8. Below the Location drop-down list are five check boxes for further options:

Convert Drawings To When checked, activates the Format drop-down list, which has two options: AutoCAD2000/LT 2000, and AutoCAD2004/LT 2004 drawing formats.

Preserve Directory Structure When this box is checked, AutoCAD creates a set of folders matching those that the files being sent were in, to be part of the bundle. For Site14a.dwg, the folders would look like Figure 15.10. The .dwg files are in the C:\Program Files\AutoCAD 2002\Training Data folder. When unchecked, all files are put in one folder.

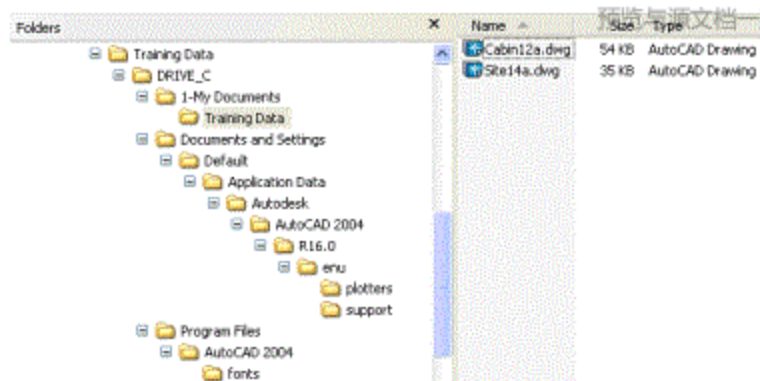


FIGURE 15.10: The folder structure for transmittal of Site14a

Remove Paths From Xrefs and Images When this box is checked, the current paths of accompanying .dwg files or image files that are attached to the current drawing (or nested) are deleted.

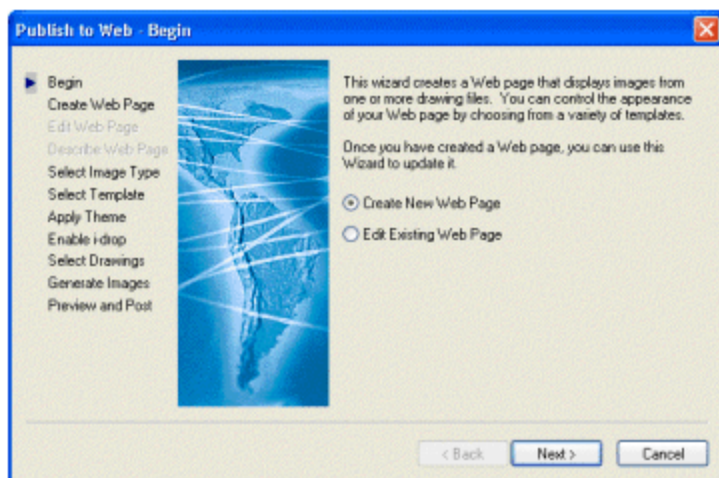
Send E-mail With Transmittal When checked, the transmittal will be attached to an e-mail.

Make Web Page Files Posts the transmittal to a web page.

9. When all options have been set, click OK. The transmittal is created and saved in the designated folder on your hard disk.

Publish to Web

Publish To Web is a utility for publishing your AutoCAD drawings on the Web. When you choose File > Publish To Web, the Publish To Web Wizard starts.



A series of screens with helpful descriptions walks you through the utility's features. They let you do the following:

- ▶ Name the web page, specify its location, and enter a description.
- ▶ Select an image type and, depending on the type you choose, size. One of the three choices is an AutoCAD type, .dwf, which has no size option.
- ▶ Choose from among four format styles, or templates. Your drawings can be thumbnail sketches or listed by name with a viewing box.
- ▶ Choose a color scheme from seven options (Theme).
- ▶ Decide whether to include a drag-and-drop tool called i-drop.

- Choose which drawings to regenerate as they are captured (see Figure 15.11).

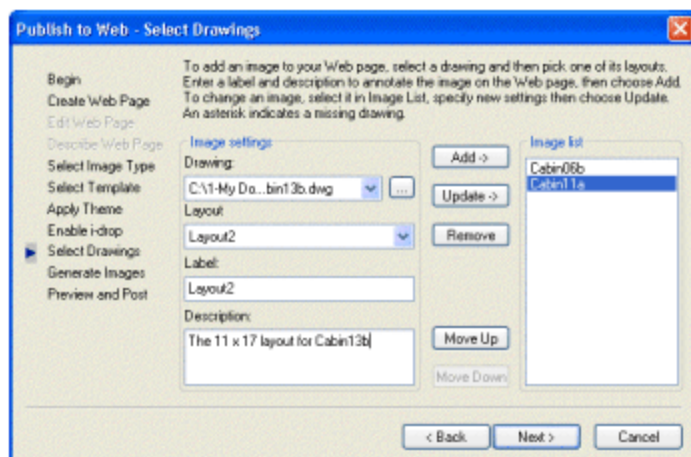


FIGURE 15.11: The Select Drawings screen of the Publish To Web Wizard

The wizard generates the web page and offers you a preview (see Figure 15.12). You can click the filenames to see the various drawings and then close the preview and click Post to post the page to a website. You can use the same procedure to edit an existing web page.

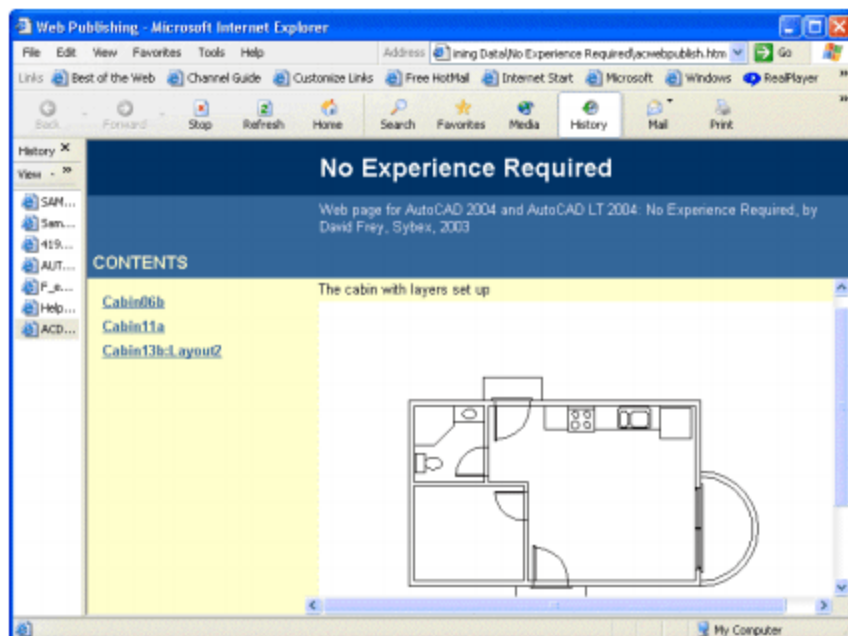


FIGURE 15.12: A preview of a new web page with AutoCAD drawings

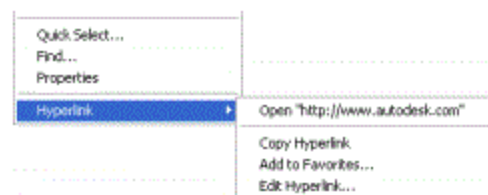
Using Hyperlinks

A hyperlink is a mechanism that links an object in an AutoCAD drawing to something else. For example, it can link a block in a drawing to an Internet website, to another drawing, or to a Word document.

Choose Insert > Hyperlink to create a new link. After you select objects, the Insert Hyperlink dialog box opens. Specify the file or click the Web Page button to connect to the Internet and find a site to link to. Once a hyperlink has been created, the object with the link acts like a hot button. When you move the cursor to that object, AutoCAD displays the hyperlink icon and a tool tip.



Select the object, then right-click to bring up a shortcut menu. Select Hyperlink at the bottom of the menu. A submenu is displayed that includes the website or the file location of the document that the AutoCAD object is linked to.



In this example, the word BALCONY in the AutoCAD drawing is linked to the main Autodesk website, so the website is displayed on the submenu. When you click it, you are connected to the website.

Summary

I encourage you to experiment with the Internet tools offered by AutoCAD. Some of you may be beginners at AutoCAD but quite savvy on the Internet. If so, you may already know about tools like those described in this chapter. Good luck in your pursuits with AutoCAD and the Internet.

Are You Experienced?

Now you can...

- ☑ set up the Communication Center and get live updates
- ☑ access the Autodesk and Autodesk Point A websites
- ☑ send AutoCAD drawings with e-mail through eTransmit
- ☑ publish an AutoCAD drawing to the Web
- ☑ link an AutoCAD object in a drawing to a website with a hyperlink