

Ideas 12 Rollout – Changes, and help for Avoiding Problems

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As Larry previously posted, Monday June 12th the default Ideas program will be version 12. This document lists additional details on changes that will affect all users, and restates the directions for debugging problems when they occur. It will also briefly explain the changes to the FERMI_IDM macro programs. As is the case with any major upgrade I'm sure there will be additional issues, Please report all errors promptly to help us with the transition, most errors are easily resolved, but ignored errors can result in hours to fix.

Since this upgrade requires a migration of each TDM, testing has been limited to a non-production TDM. This means that none of the production TDM's (ADMS, FERMI, and PPD) have been tested. Problems are likely to occur so once again here are the directions for helping me fix macro problems. Please ALWAYS follow these steps.

- Whenever a macro causes a serious error that results in the command option area posting the Continue or Abort options, ALWAYS select Abort to end the macro.
- Immediately run the CLOSE MACRO OPEN FILES/LOG program.
- Open windows file explorer and browse to your Ideas scratch directory, which will be C:\TEAM_SCRATCH (TEAM will be ADMS, FERMI, or PPD). Select View – Details and sort the list by Date Modified to get the latest files listed at the top of your list.
- All macros generate .log files that contain a replay of every command executed. These are the only way to quickly debug and fix a problem. Select the log file from the macro that caused the error, zip the file and email it to me at awparker@fnal.gov. NOTE: When releasing drawings there will also be a .lis file which will contain the failed archive file commands. If the error happened during a release include this .lis file in the error email.
- Unless you are sure it was a user error, DO NOT continue to run the process since it will most likely generate additional problems.

Since iplot will no longer be used, changes were required to the drawing format symbol geometry to adjust sizes and line thickness. The following standard symbols were affected and versioned up to TITLEBOX05A.SYM, TOLERANCEC5.SYM, and the actual border symbols (AV, AH, B, C, D, E) BORDER05.SYM the database symbol IDM_TITLE05.SYM was not affected. The individual macros will check for old version 05.SYM symbols and run DRAWING FORMAT SETUP to replace each symbol with the new version, also populating the new instance with all attribute data. This is a necessary annoyance and I will provide a program to allow batch processing of known existing files. In the mean time PLEASE do the following.

1. If you open an existing attributed drawing run DRAWING FORMAT SETUP from the icon panel. It only takes a few seconds, and it will not cause any problem if the drawing has the current version of the symbols.

2. You should also use FV-File Clean 2D, P-Purge Sym to purge all old symbols so you will not continue to be nagged.

There is also a potential problem with SDI plotting failing to create a PDF file. This appears to be caused by possible old settings, and corrects itself after one failure. To avoid having this happen during a drawing release, please go to the Tools icon panel with any drawing open and run the PDFOUT program. If it fails, try it again, if it still fails contact Larry to get the problem solved. Once it correctly creates a PDF for you it should be OK in the future.

Idea 12 introduced a feature that looked very promising, but turned out to be another potential huge problem. You can now use special character codes to display certain TDM values in notes. These are all codes that begin with \$] and documented in the online help. **DO NOT USE THESE CHARACTERS IN ATTRIBUTES**; they are only useful in actual text notes on your drawing. I have submitted a problem report to UGS and it has been entered as a program enhancement so maybe it will be fixed in the near future. Example: You can enter \$]P and a text note will display the TDM Project name, problem is if it's an attribute then the value that shows in TDM will be \$]P, NOT GOOD.

The macro distribution has undergone major modifications. Functionally they will continue to work the same, but since they seem to continue on, maintenance had become a real chore. With the four distributions there were 83,172 lines of macro code, 11,124 of c code, and 4 copies of all error files to maintain. I have combined all of the code into a single distribution located on the I:\FERMI_IDM, which cut the total by almost 75%. This will affect a couple things for administrators, and allows for some additional functionality.

1. There is a new directory I:\FERMI_IDM\global_lists that can be used to contain a single file for all teams. I have initially place a single cad_user.lis file there so this will be for all teams. This file was created by combining all current cad_user.lis files, so it should contain all users; any new additions are to be added to this file. This is the list that determines the correct value to insert in the title block for each user's name, and the CAD group.
2. The I:\FERMI_IDM\local_prg directory contains a single copy of the TCL programs that are called from all teams.
3. The I:\FERMI_IDM\error_files directory contains all the .err files displayed in the macros by the TCL programs.
4. There is a sub directory under FERMI_IDM for each team. These directories contain the only team specific programs, which are currently set_globals.mac and *TEAMappendCADREC.exe* which creates the web query log.
5. The individual TEAM\proj directories are still used since they contain files specific to each TDM.
6. I have created a web area I:\Internet\DWGS where all TDM web files will be written to a single query log. In the interim the existing web logs, cgm, and pdf files will be written to their current locations and duplicated into the new area. As soon as the site wide query capabilities are refined the old locations will be discontinued. This area only became available Tuesday June 6th so I haven't had

time to refine a web query and allow for filtering by team. We will also be working on getting ALL electronic drawing data included in this query area, including all DCS and scanned files.

7. I will update the online IDM administrator guide to reflect the changes; in the mean time you can contact me with any questions.