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Newsletter Introduction

Welcome to the first issue of the *Fermilab CAD-PLM Newsletter*! This newsletter will be published and distributed to all CAD users at Fermilab on a regular basis. It is created and maintained by the Lab CAD Manager and a new issue will be created monthly with this first issue done for January. The intent for maintaining this newsletter (along with hosting upcoming user group meetings) is to better facilitate communication among all of the CAD users at Fermilab and to keep you all informed of what's going on as we march towards consolidating our various division level CAD environments into a single unified "Fermilab" CAD environment.
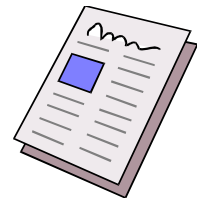
Since this is the first issue, there isn't any useful stuff this time. Future issues will focus on various topics such as tips and tricks, known issues, and upcoming events.

Upcoming User Group Meeting

Announcing the first Fermilab I-DEAS Users Group Meeting! Currently, only I-DEAS user group meetings are planned. If you would like to start another user group, let me know.

I-DEAS User Group Meeting
Thursday, January 19, 2006, 9:00-11:00 AM
Hermitage Conference Room – ICB 2nd Floor East
Agenda: Introduction, Open Forum, General I-DEAS Q & A

CAD Environment Update

Over the past several months, there have been many changes to the I-DEAS CAD environment. Some of these changes were transparent to users and others were not. These changes are necessary to accomplish our mission of unifying the CAD/PLM environment at Fermilab. Currently, each group is decentralized and has its own method of authoring and maintaining engineering data. We are currently in the process of combining these separate CAD/PLM environments into a single CAD/PLM environment using I-DEAS for CAD and Teamcenter Engineering for PLM. Before we can make this transition, there is preparation to be done. The CAD environment needs to be standardized, our CAD data needs to be cleaned up, and our workflow processes need to be re-examined. This will take time, but it will get done eventually.

CAD-PLM Website Update

The www-cad web site is being revamped. Some of the new stuff is already there. The CAD-PLM web site will be the future repository for everything CAD/CAE/CAM/PLM related at Fermilab. Even this newsletter will be posted there for your reference.

Questions or Problems with I-DEAS?

If you have I-DEAS questions or problems, you should first contact your Group CAD Administrator as listed below. If they cannot help, then they will call me to help them. Since I do not have remote or local administrative access to everyone's PC, I am severely limited in my ability to assist you.

The Group CAD Administrators are:

Group	Primary Contact	Ext.	Secondary Contact	Ext.
ADCS	Dave Richardson	3354	--	--
ADMS	Tony Parker	4476	Stewart Mitchell	2981
PPD	Don Friend	2029	Vivian Villegas	4161
TD	Bob Andree	3703	Jeff Brandt	4732

I-DEAS 12

There have been questions as to when I-DEAS 12 be rolled out. This is not an easy question to answer. There are many things to be taken into account with this next upgrade.

First, the currently changing I-DEAS 11 environment needs to be completed and stabilized. Then, an I-DEAS 12 environment needs to be set up and tested. Finally, every division within Fermilab and any partner institution (DESY is one) must agree on an upgrade date since data is not backward compatible. We also need to take into consideration the compatibility between different versions of I-DEAS and Teamcenter and their release dates.

If you have an urgent need or desire to upgrade to I-DEAS 12 sooner rather than later, please contact your Group CAD Administrator (see above) or myself and explain why.

Lab CAD Manager's Background

Since most of you know very little about my background and how it applies to what I am doing here at Fermilab, I will give you a short summary.

I have worked in various industries since 1990 including aerospace/defense, automotive, & medical. I also wore multiple hats during that time. I worked as a Draftsman, an Engineer, an FE Analyst, and a Project Manager using different CAD/CAE/PLM programs which gave me a lot of insight as to how these programs are used by people in different roles in various companies. During that same time, I became proficient at using and administering I-DEAS which eventually led me to work for SDRC/EDS/UGS. I expanded my knowledge of I-DEAS and their other software (Teamcenter, UG, etc.) while I worked there consulting for many different companies. After tiring of the relentless travel required, I started my own engineering contracting/consulting business and continued working with companies in a similar manner until I came to Fermilab this year as the Lab CAD Manager. Although my job at Fermilab is technically a Computer Professional position, I believe that my experience as an engineer and long time user of the software gives me an edge that a regular IT person cannot match.