

## Xtracta Frequently Asked Questions

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### 1) What can Xtracta do for me?

Xtracta allows you to easily extract block attribute values from AutoCAD drawings release 2000 and greater. These values can then be exported to a medium of your choice: text file (TXT), comma separated values file (CSV), Clipboard, Excel, Access, or Word. Xtracta requires that AutoCAD 2000 or greater be installed on the machine you are running Xtracta from.

### 2) I am having problems with Xtracta. What are some things I can check?

a) Make sure AutoCAD 2000 or above is installed on the machine you are running Xtracta from.

b) Make sure that file ACAD.TLB exists in your Window's System directory. On most machines it can be found in directory C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM32

c) Make sure that all DLL files in directory C:\Program Files\ACAD2000 are registered. After registering try running Xtracta again. If the problem still persists see d) below

d) Keys in your Window's registry may be missing or corrupted. Re-installing AutoCAD should fix any registry problems. You may also manually edit the registry using REGEDIT.EXE (Start -> Run...) but unless you are familiar with the registry this is not recommended. Below are the registry keys required for AutoCAD automation.

KEY:

HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Classes\AutoCAD.Application

VALUE:

AutoCAD Application

KEY:

HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Classes\CLSID\{8E75D911-3D21-11d2-85C4-080009A0C626}

KEY:

HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Classes\CLSID\{8E75D911-3D21-11d2-85C4-080009A0C626}\LocalServer32

VALUE:

C:\Program Files\ACAD2000\acad.exe /Automation

KEY:

HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Classes\CLSID\{8E75D911-3D21-11d2-85C4-080009A0C626}\ProgId

VALUE:

AutoCAD.Application.15

KEY:

HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Classes\CLSID\{8E75D911-3D21-11d2-85C4-080009A0C626}\VersionIndependentProgId

VALUE:

AutoCAD.Application

e) If you have checked all of the above and still can't resolve the problem please email Frank Kusluski at kusluski@mail.ic.net with a description of your problem.

3) What is a DLF File?

DLF stands for Drawing List File which is nothing more than a text file which contains paths to drawing files and template files. You can use any text editor to create them. Just remember to save the file with an extension of ".dlf", such as "MyDrawings.dlf". Using a DLF allows you to run multiple drawings (thousands if you want) at a time. Any errors encountered while processing a DLF file are written to an error log file named ERR.LOG in the application's directory.

Below are some examples of what can be included in a DLF File:

'This is a comment. Comments are preceded by a single quote (').

Use just one of the items below

FullDwgName - Include full drawing name  
NoDwgName - Don't include the drawing name  
DwgName - Include drawing name  
DwgNameTS - Include drawing name with timestamp  
FullDwgNameTS - Include full drawing name with timestamp

c:\Program Files\Xtracta\Drawing1.dwg,c:\Program File\Xtracta\template1.txt  
c:\Program Files\Xtracta\Drawing2.dwg,c:\Program File\Xtracta\template2.txt  
c:\Program Files\Xtracta\Drawing3.dwg,c:\Program File\Xtracta\template3.txt

Be sure to separate the drawing file and template file with a comma. To send the extracted data to a specific medium use the following commands in the DLF file:

When extracting to a File you can specify a specific text file to write to.  
For example:

Extract to File,c:\Program Files\Xtracta\File.txt

If you want to append data to the file simply add the word "Append":

Extract to File,c:\Program Files\Xtracta\File.txt,Append

When extracting to Excel, if you wish to send data to a specific workbook, worksheet, row, and column use a command line similar to this:

Extract to Excel,c:\Program Files\Xtracta\MyWorkbook.xls,MySheet,2,4

If you want the data transposed simply add the statement "Transpose":

Extract to Excel,c:\Program Files\Xtracta\MyWorkbook.xls,MySheet,2,4,Transpose

When extracting to Accesss you must specify a database and table. If you want to keep the existing records in the table then add the statement "Append":

Extract to Access,c:\Program Files\Xtracta\test.mdb,table1,Append

To extract to a specific Word document use a statement similar to this:

Extract to Word,c:\program files\xtracta\test.doc,append,table,tags

Also, if you want to terminate Xtracta after the extraction add this command:

End

#### 4) How do I load a DLF file in Xtracta?

A sample DLF file named "template.dlf" is included in the Xtracta Setup for your convenience. To access this file select the File Button.

#### 5) How do I pass a DLF (Drawing List File) file to Xtracta?

Click Window's Start Button then select "Run...". Next, type in "C:\Program Files\Xtracta\xtracta.exe [DLF file path]".

For example:

```
"C:\Program Files\Xtracta\xtracta.exe C:\ACAD2000\file.dlf"
```

#### 6) How do I run Xtracta from a batch file?

A batch file named "x.bat" is included in the Xtracta Setup for your convenience. View the contents of this file then run it.

#### 7) How do I add Xtracta to the "Send To" menu item in Window's Explorer?

To add Xtracta to your SendTo folder follow the steps below:

- a) Create a shortcut to Xtracta on your desktop.
- b) Copy this shortcut to the Window's Clipboard. To do this select the shortcut, click the right mouse button, and select "Copy" from the drop down menu.
- c) Fire up Window's Explorer and open directory "\\Windows\SendTo" if you're using Window's 95 or 98 else if you're using NT open the directory "\\Winnt\Profiles\\SendTo".
- d) Paste the shortcut into the directory by selecting "Paste" from the Edit Menu.

Now when you're using Window's Explorer you can launch Xtracta by selecting a DLF file, clicking the right mouse button, selecting "Send To" from the drop down menu, and finally selecting "Xtracta".

#### 8) What block fields may be added to the template text file?

These fields should be added immediatelay after the \*OUTPUT section of the template file:

\*OUTPUT

BLOCK\_NAME

BLOCK\_LAYER  
BLOCK\_SPACE  
BLOCK\_OWNERID  
BLOCK\_OBJECTID  
BLOCK\_OBJECTNAME  
BLOCK\_HANDLE  
BLOCK\_COLOR  
BLOCK\_LINETYPE  
BLOCK\_ROTATION  
BLOCK\_VISIBLE  
BLOCK\_XSCALE  
BLOCK\_YSCALE  
BLOCK\_ZSCALE  
BLOCK\_LINETYPESCALE  
BLOCK\_LINEWEIGHT  
BLOCK\_HASEXTENTIONDICTIONARY  
BLOCK\_X  
BLOCK\_Y  
BLOCK\_Z

9) How do I create a comma seperated values File (CSV) with Xtracta?

A CSV file is a text file which you can easily import into Excel. To create a CSV file with Xtracta:

- a) Select a drawing to extract attributes from
  - b) Select a template file
  - c) Click the button "Extract Attributes"
  - d) Click the button "Select All"
  - e) Select "Text File" option
  - f) Type file.csv in the text field "New File Name"
  - g) Make sure that a file is not selected (if a file is selected change the directory)
  - h) Click the button "GO!" to create the CSV file
  - i) The file should appear in the file list. Double-click on the file to load in Excel.
- (Note: If CSV files are not associated with Excel you may need to load Excel first then open the CSV file).

10) How do I purchase Xtracta?

After purchasing Xtracta an email is sent to you indicating the URL where the registered version of Xtracta may be downloaded from. At the present time methods of payment include credit card with RegNow ([www.regnow.com](http://www.regnow.com)) and PayPal ([www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com)), check, money order, or wire transfer of funds to my bank account (Please email me for instructions). Pricing