

Horror in AutoCAD

The Final Conflict

On-line version: <http://www.nyacad.com/HorrorInAutoCAD4.htm>

Three years ago in [Horror-2.Dangerous variables](#) I wrote about **FILEDIA** variable (section '**My best friend gone**'): if it was accidentally changed to 0, the work in AutoCAD, without Open-Save dialog window became a pain. Simple solution was recommended: using AutoLISP to restore **FILEDIA** as well as other important variables in normal state.

Three years ago, when current version of AutoCAD was 2005, that solution worked fine: just invoke AutoLISP command couple of times a day to restore variables, not a big deal.

The things changed when AutoCAD2007 was released. This version of AutoCAD brought revolution in 3D and worst and slowest performance of AutoCAD VBA. I used to loose normal state of **FILEDIA** 10-15 times a day. Mainly accidental changing of **FILEDIA** happened after implementing of VBA procedures, even without changing **FILEDIA** in VBA code.

In order to fix the problem I invite you to try two ways...

Solution 1 (elegant and dangerous) or ...Shouldn't you be using PLINE?

If you are not happy with the command, you can redefine it. This is the first solution. The most popular illustration of this procedure found in AutoCAD AutoLISP Help or on the Internet is redefine the **LINE** command. By using the sample of code:

```
(COMMAND "_UNDEFINE" "LINE")  
(DEFUN C:LINE ()  
(princ "Shouldn't you be using PLINE?\n")  
(COMMAND ".LINE")  
(PRINC)  
)
```

every time you are performing **LINE** command, the prompt displays an attentive reminding:

Shouldn't you be using PLINE?

Take your time, think twice, remember, right at this moment you have to make a critical decision: what to draw - line or polyline? That's the question.

Alternatively you may change this line of AutoLISP code:

```
(princ "I will go to the gym three times a week. I swear!\n") or  
(princ "On Friday do not forget to buy flowers for Tania. Friday is the 55th day since our first  
date\n")
```

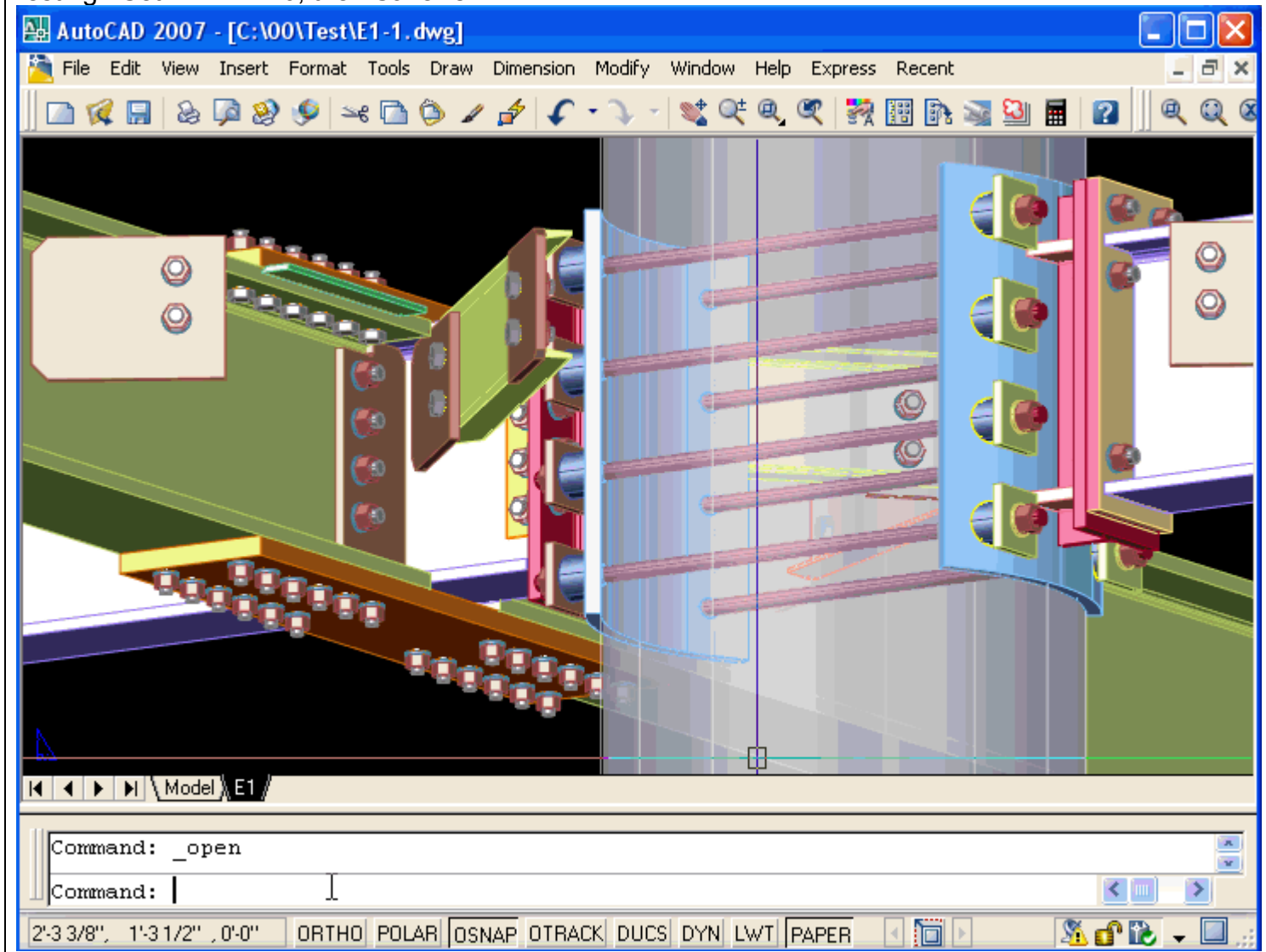
So AutoCAD will remind you about practical and important things dozens or even hundreds times a day, every time you are invoking the **Line** command.

Now back to our problem: we always need Open-Save dialog Window for **Open**, **Save** or **SaveAs** commands. LISP for **SaveAs** command:

```
(COMMAND "_UNDEFINE" "SAVEAS")  
(DEFUN C:SAVEAS ()  
(INITDIA)  
(COMMAND "_SAVEAS")  
(PRINC))
```

INITDIA function forces the display of the dialog box.

Testing...Set **FILEDIA** 0, then SaveAs...



OK, works! Apply similar code to command **Save**:

```
(COMMAND "._UNDEFINE" "SAVE")
(DEFUN C:SAVE ()
(INITDIA)
(COMMAND "._SAVE")
(PRINC)
)
```

Save new lines of AutoLISP code as a separate file and add it in StartUp suite. All done?
- Not yet...There is a problem with **Open**.

For some reason redefining using similar to above-shown code doesn't work with this command. Even worse! The horrible thing happens - the AutoCAD is not responding to **Open** command.

WARNING! If you already made a poison injection in AutoCAD (saved and used AutoLISP with redefine **Open** command), here is an antidote: type **REDEFINE**, Enter, **Open** and finish by pressing Enter. Close AutoCAD, open AutoLISP file and remove code for redefining of **Open** command. Save and close AutoLISP. Start AutoCAD, try **Open**.

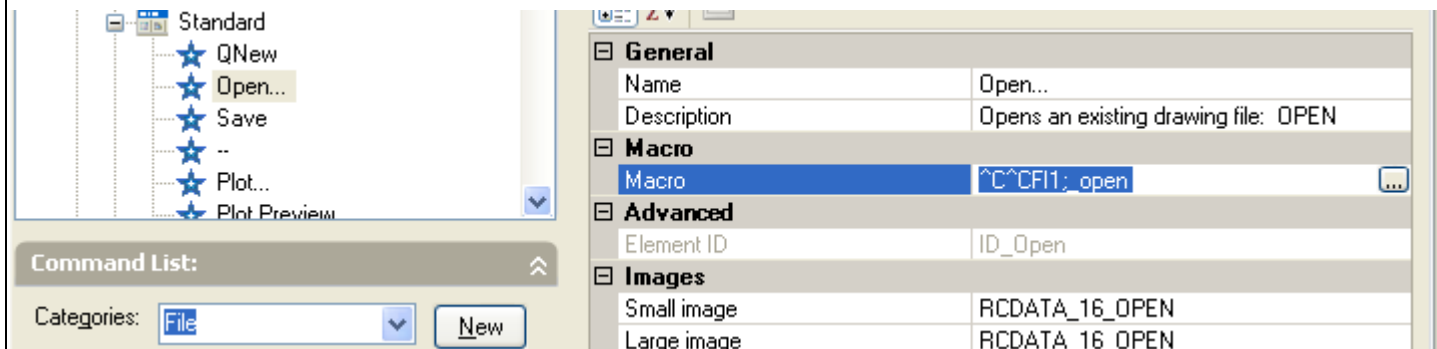
We shouldn't be worried, that solution 1 is not working with **Open** command, because we have

Solution 2 (primitive and safe)

I would recommend this solution. Short AutoLISP:

```
(defun C:F11()
(setvar "CMDECHO" 0)
(setvar "FILEDIA" 1)
(setvar "CMDECHO" 1)
(PRINC)
)
```

plus modified macro **^C^CF11;_open** associated with **Open** button does the thing.



When you try **Open**, AutoLISP command **F11** first changes **FILEDIA** to 1, after that Open-Save dialog window appears, **always!**

And you will **never** get

```
Command: open
```

```
Enter name of drawing to open <.>:
```

If you are not comfortable with AutoLISP, you can use macros:

^^^CFILEDIA;1;_open

^^^CFILEDIA;1;_qsave

^^^CFILEDIA;1;_saveAs

.....
Hopefully it was **THE FINAL CONFLICT** with **FILEDIA**, the end of war!

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