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Shane Panter was talking about COM Automation last friday. The topic ‘COM Automation’ was interesting because I have never heard about them. Shane’s lecture was easy to understand what COM Automation is, and how they work on software.

COM is component Object Model is the basis of a whole bunch of technologies. It is a platform-independent, distributed, object-oriented thing. When COM in English Attempt, COM provides a cross language/cross platform Application Binary Interface, and allows you to write/compile an object in any language/platform that can be consumed by any language/platform that has COM. COM developed by microsoft but not specific to windows. Although in practice rarely seen outside the microsoft tool set. All COM calls are done through an Interface. COM is also the foundation technology for microsoft OLE, ActiveX, as well as others. It deeply embedded in a lot of legacy software that is used everyday. The COM website straight out of the 1995, it is not dead, but not the recommended way to develop NEW software.

Engineer builds plot file prints all prints once using autocad. Engineer assistant takes prints and makes extra copies for each manufacturing center. Assistant to the assistant separates out all copied prints and sends out to shop floor for the build. Leverage COM technology in AutoCAD to have the correct package printed directly. It eliminate steps and print packages are now more accurate.

I think that we need COM more because AutoCad does not support this model out of the box. When faced with a legacy project/process, people need to check if the applications supports COM. If it does, people may be able to write a bit of code to automate the process. I always think the new, and latest one is the best than previous version, or item. His lecture makes me change a lot. The best thing I like about his lecture is that “Keeping older technologies running may not be glamorous but it pays well.”