## CAD-LINT FAQ

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2009-11-22

Revision 1.0

*This is an FAQ for a product that is yet to be created. So you can think of it as an outline specification for the product. Please feel free to ask more questions or ask for more detail in a question that has already been asked.*

***What is CAD-Lint?***

CAD-Lint is a suite of software tools to help large teams collaborate on the design and engineering of complex projects. CAD-Lint provides applications that can search through thousands of design documents; locate errors, missing, incorrect data; and then provide scripts to rectify those errors.

***What is special about CAD-Lint?***

CAD-Lint is Free Open-Source Software with virtually no learning curve.

***How does the CAD-Lint organization survive?***

Large design and engineering organizations contribute to the development costs of applications they need urgently. Once the utility is developed it becomes part of the toolkit and available to everybody.

***How can CAD-Lint have no learning curve?***

CAD-Lint is not a design tool. It's a management or housekeeping helper application. Once CAD Lint discovers an error it sends an email (or displays a dialog box or whatever you wish) to the designer or engineer notifying them that it has uncovered an issue. CAD-Lint provides a link in the message so that the user can see the error in their browser. CAD-Lint, where possible, offers a link to a script that can rectify the error.

***What kind of errors can CAD Lint find?***

Using AutoCAD files as an example, CAD-Lint can find errors with entities on incorrect layers, external reference with incorrect links, paper space / model space issues,

***Are there any competitors or alternative solutions?***

Not that we know of. Certainly not products that can sift through thousands of documents prepared by a variety of applications from different vendors

***Why don't Autodesk or Dassault Systeme produce products like this?***

Because error trapping utilities like CAD-Lint could severely cannibalize sales of their flagship products.

***Will the big vendors try to compete with CAD-Lint?***

Since the big vendors have no products in this category and CAD-Lint is a FOSS product, the big vendors can only attempt to spread fear and loathing. Also CAD-Lint is addressing the needs of very large design and engineering organizations. The existing CAD vendors have traditionally been very inadequate at servicing this market sector - preferring to give discounts over giving support.

***Are there other reasons why a product like CAD-Lint is needed?***

The traditional PC based designed and engineering applications are based on one person working on one drawing at a time. They are simply not architected to handle designs with thousands of drawings, let alone data created by products fron a variety of vendors

***Why can CAD-Lint succeed at this?***

CAD-Lint is based on algorithms that are similar to animation techniques. These techniques can deal with thousands of entities because If an entity has been drawn this once then it doesn't need to be drawn it again. The application only needs to deal with the much fewer entities that are not repeated, the entities that are different from the rest. It is within these entities that mistakes are far more likely to be found,

***Will CAD-Lint try to supplant existing formats or techniques?***

CAD-Lint is not a universal database. On the contrary, CAD-Lint deals with design and engineering data in its original industry standard formats. Of course CAD-Lint may create a temporary file in its own format for displaying the changes it proposes in the user's browser. CAD-Lint may also keep other data files for record keeping purposes but the are in addition to the drawing files and not as a replacement.

***Why is it called CAD-Lint?***

In computer programming, "lint" was the name originally given to a particular program that flagged some suspicious and non-portable constructs (likely to be bugs) in C language source code. The term is now applied generically to tools that flag suspicious usage in software written in any computer language. We are calling the application CAD-Lint as the suite is designed to accomplish much the same benefits as lint but now with CAD drawing data files.