TommySoftware® T3L->T4L Version 1.10

1. Usage

1.1 Execution

A TommySoftware® file converter can be started either directly or from within a TommySoftware® application. The usage is equal in both cases.

The program does not require any parameter, but optionally, a path can be supplied, that will be used as the standard setting in the file selector boxes. The TommySoftware® applications automatically pass the current standard path for drawings (e.g."C:\WINCAD3\DRAWING").

To be able to call the converter from within a TommySoftware® application, it has to be copied into a specific directory. This is, depending on the application, the directory "SYSTEM\CONVERT" oder "CONVERT" inside the applications's directory. You can call the convert afterwards using the CONVERT DRAWING command in the FILE menu of the application.

Otherwise, you can start the program from within the File Manager or the Program Manager of Windows.

1.2. Handling

To convert a single file, select the CONVERT FILE command in the FILE menu or press the key F2. First a file selector box appears, where you have to enter the name of the T3L file to be converted. Then another file selector box appears, where you must enter the name that the produced T4L file shall receive.

After the file name input, the conversion starts. In the lower right corner of the window, the number of converted lines of the T3L file is displayed. A short beep sounds when the conversion is finished.

To convert a complete directory, select the CONVERT DIRECTORY command in the FILE menu or press the key F3. First a file selector box appears, where you have to select the directory that contains the T3L files to be converted. Then another file selector box appears, where you must select the directory into which the produced T4L files shall be stored.

ATTENTION! When converting a complete directory, files within the target directory might be overwritten without warning! In order to avoid trouble, create a new directory to be used as the target directory.

After the directory name input, the conversion starts. In the lower right corner of the window, the number of converted files and, separated by a slash, the number of converted lines of each T3L file is displayed. A short beep sounds when the conversion is finished.

2. Conversion features

All T3L files can be converted to T4L files without loss of accuracy or any other limitation. All structures and element names are maintained.

3. Important file formats

The TommySoftware® conversion programs can handle several different file formats, that can normally be distinguished by their file name extension. Following a short description of the most important file extensions:

DXF   The DXF-Format was initially used by the CAD-System AutoCAD® (registered trademark of AutoDesk Inc.). It became a standard and can be read and/or written by most of the CAD and graphic applications.
DXF files cannot handle filled area that are more complex than quadrangles. Due to this reason, most applications do not export any fillings, or they have to "emulate" complex areas using triangles and quadrangles.
The DXF file format is frequently changing, because each new release of the CAD system stated above results in more or less extensive changes in the file format. Although this change is necessary for progress, it makes it nearly impossible to be up-to-date.

MPG   The format MPG 1.0 is used by all graphical applications of TommySoftware®. It is compact and easy to read. Complex filled areas can be described using lines and Bézier curves. The only restriction is the lack of block definitions.

TVG   The format TVG 1.0 is used by TommySoftware® WINCAD® Release 1. It is mainly aquivalent to the MPG format, so both can be converted to each other without any loss of information.

TVL   The format TVL 1.0 is used by most of TommySoftware®'s applications for storing libraries. Its

internal structure is similar to MPG and TVG.

T2G   The format TVG 2.0 is used by TommySoftware® WINCAD® Release 2. Is is the successor of the TVG format and was extended by block definitions and external references. Furthermore, filled areas can now also be described using circular arcs in addition to lines and Bézier curves.
T2G files are more compact than TVG files. Having the same information content, T2G files use only 70% of the storage in average.

T2L   The format TVL 2.0 is also used by TommySoftware® WINCAD® Release 2. It is used to store libraries. Its internal structure is similar to T2G.

T3G   The format TVG 2.0 is used by TommySoftware® WINCAD® Release 3. Is is the successor of the T2G format and was extended by erasers and groups.
T3G files are even more compact than T2G files.

TAX   The format TAX 3.0 is also used by TommySoftware® WINCAD® Release 3. It contains the same information as TVG 3.0 does, but instead of binary data, it uses a textual representation that can be viewed and changed with any text editor. As a result, a drawing in TAX format is normally slightly larger than an equivalent T3G file.

T3L   The format TVL 3.0 is also used by TommySoftware® WINCAD® Release 3. It is used to store libraries. Its internal structure is similar to T3G.

VEK   The format VEK 1.0 is used by the vector graphic program MegaPaint® ST since Version 2.3 on the Atari ST. It features complex areas and groups similar to the MPG format.

We wish you success using our applications and this conversion program!

Your TommySoftware® Team.

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