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Continued from previous At a later time, a modeling change is made. In this case, *C'Bore* depths were modified.

Open the *Modeling* Spreadsheet and Save it to update the spreadsheet. Now, when entering Drafting, the *Tabular Note* is updated.

Since the *Tabular Note* is reading from the imported Spreadsheet it is necessary to update that spreadsheet. Once this is done the *Tabular Note* will automatically update its values.

After the Modeling update, updating the spreadsheet changes the values as follows:



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And, when entering the Drafting application, we see the *Tabular Note* now reads:

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Julie Josias	AREA	VOLUME	MASS	
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Setting up UDF Libraries in NX I and NX 2

The method of storing UDF's in the NX versions of Unigraphics has changed. The *library_dir.txt* has been replaced with *udf_database.txt* and the file that used to define multiple libraries (pointed to using Solids_UdfLibraryFile) has been replaced with *dbc_udf_ascii.def*. Note, however, that **Solids_UdfLibraryFile** has not been removed and can still be used to some extent (explained later).

It is still advisable to create a separate UDF folder, for example, C:\nx_udfs\ and this folder will contain the udf_database.txt and dbc_udf_ascii.def files.

igraphics NX 2.0.2.2 - Drafting - [mass3d.prt (Modified)]

The only difference between the udf_database.txt and the old library_dir.txt files is that the udf_database.txt has a library path appended to each entry, for example, "/Metric;" or "/UNC;". An example is given below:

standard_thread_inch;standard_thread_inch.prt; standard_thread_inch.cgm; /English/Standard_Holes;



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The library path defines where the UDF is listed in the UDF hierarchy when the UDF dialog is displayed. The hierarchy is defined by the **dbc_udf_ascii.def**; each branch has its own class definition in this file. In the above example, the standard_thread_inch will be found under English Standard_Holes in the UDF Hierarchy.

A class definition for the above would appear in the dbc_udf_ascii.def as:

```
CLASS English
{
      TYPE English
        QUERY "[DB(udf lib name)] &= [English]"
        FILE "$UGII_UDF_LIBRARY_DIR"
        DIALOG udf name
      RSET udf file name
      CLASS Standard_Holes
      {
             TYPE Standard Holes
             QUERY "[DB(udf_lib_name)] &= [Standard_Holes]"
             FILE "$UGII_UDF_LIBRARY_DIR"
             DIALOG udf name
             RSET udf_file_name
      }
}
```

Once you have decided which UDF's you want to add to your database, you can add your own classes to define them by editing the dbc_udf_ascii.def. You can position them in this file relative to the existing UDF hierarchy. The above example was taken from the default dbc_udf_ascii.def. Note that the **path defined for FILE is using the variable** *"\$UGII_UDF_LIBRARY_DIR"*. By default this points to the default installation path *"%UGII_BASE_DIR%/ugii"* and then to the following directory *"/udf/resource/english"*.

Defining the location of your UDF files.

By default the UDF definition files reside in the Unigraphics installation folder where you do not have write access. As soon as you attempt to create UDF's in this location you will be informed that you do not have necessary permissions to do so, hence you need to define your own location for these files.

Before you start creating UDF's you need to define the location of the *dbc_udf_ascii.def* and the *udf_database.txt* files. Choose *Tools => User Defined Feature => Configure*. You will be prompted to define the locations of these files. Use your folder *C:\nx_udfs*\ for this purpose.

Once you have specified the location for these files, you can redefine or reload them at any time by choosing **Tools** => **User Defined Feature => Configure**. Once defined or reloaded, the following summary dialog is displayed. Note the third line, the *Default file directory*. This is where your UDF files (.prt and .cgm) will be placed when creating new UDF's using the UDF wizard and this is defined based on the locations of the database files.





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If the summary (see above image) contains a fourth line *Other library list file*, this means that the setting *Solids_UdfLibraryFile* has been defined in the customer default file (ug_English.def/ug_metric.def). This can be used to set the path to legacy libraries and points to the pre-NX library file that was used to define the locations of the UDF libraries. Ideally, you have already defined your pre-NX UDF's in the udf_database.txt file and edited the dbc_udf_ascii.def file to add new branches to the hierarchy to accommodate them.

It should be pointed out at this time that if you have set Solids_UdfLibraryFile to point to a legacy file, then you will not be able to create UDF's using the old method; selecting a library. Using the new hierarchal method, a branch should be selected to define where the UDF is to be referenced. If Solids_UdfLibraryFile is undefined, then "*No library*" is an option when creating UDF's – this will

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create a pre-NX style library_dir.txt in the users home directory along with the .prt and .cgm files. If the setting is defined then although legacy libraries can be accessed, the only way a UDF can be created is by inserting it into the hierarchy and the relevant files are placed in the Default file directory (in this case, C:\nx_udfs).

If you have created UDF's using the No Library option and then decide that you want to add these to the hierarchy follow these steps.

- 1. Copy the .prt and .cgm files for each UDF to the Default file directory (in this case C:\nx_udfs).
- 2. Edit the dbc_udf_ascii.def file if a new class is to be created, for example:

```
CLASS My_UDFs (The name as it appears in the hierarchy) {
    TYPE my_udfs
    QUERY "[DB(udf_lib_name)] &= [my_udfs]"
    FILE "Z:\nx_udfs\" (path to the .prt and .cgm files)
    DIALOG udf_name
    RSET udf_file_name
```

```
}
```

3. Edit the udf_database.txt file and add a new line for each UDF making sure that you add the correct library path to identify its position in the hierarchy.

2x1_boss;2x1_boss.prt;2x1_boss.cgm;/my_udfs;

- 4. Select **Tools => User Defined Features => Configure Library => Reload** to reload your user defined UDF's from the hierarchy.
- 5. Delete the library_dir.txt file and original .prt and .cgm UDF definition files.

This method also applies for legacy, pre-NX UDF's.

If you choose to define a location for standard UDF's on your network for users to point to then consider the following variables:

UGII_UDF_DATABASE_FILE => Points to the dbc_udf_ascii.def UGII_UDF_DEFINITION_FILE => Points to the udf_database.txt UGII_UDF_LIBRARY_DIR => Points to the directory containing the .prt and .cgm files.

Ben Broad

