TRAK ®MACHINE TOOLS
SOUTHWESTERN INDUSTRIES, INC.

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White Paper

How to Open that Problematic DXF or DWG File

This white paper addresses the DXF converter's ability to open different versions of DXF and DWG files.

DXF files – a quick fix

Newer DXF files may have a problem opening in our DXF converter. The reason for this is because our software is only designed to read simple objects: lines, arcs, and circles. Any other types of objects or entities are more than likely not supported. A good example would be a spline. Since no such event type exists on our control, the spline would have to be broken down into lines before converting.

The easiest fix is to save the DXF as an older version (such as version 12), which separates all complex events into individual lines and arcs automatically.

DWG files – a simple conversion

The DXF converter does not support DWG file versions 2004, 2006, or 2007. Luckily, AutoDesk's website contains a free file converter (DWG TrueConvert 2007) that converts any DWG file to version 14, which we fully support.

Pursuing a long-term solution

Engineering requests everyone in the field to send them any problematic DXF or DWG files, even if the fix was a simple polyline explosion or file conversion. Along with the file, please send:
1. Type of software used (AutoCAD, Master CAM, ProE, etc.)
2. What format/year/version they saved it as
3. What method they used to solve the problem (if the problem has been solved)