DraftSight Profiles

Managing Individual and Administrative Profiles

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Executive Summary

This booklet is aimed at CAD Managers or LAN Managers looking for information on deployment/broadcast of DraftSight user settings. Either you are looking for a way to enforce your company's CAD Standards, or want to address specific needs of particular groups of users, this booklet will show how to broadcast different settings to your users.

In addition to individual profiles on local computers, the software allows you to also apply administrative profiles (since Release 2015, Service Pack 1).

Administrative profiles are provided to initially configure the settings for client computers so that they use common configurations and allow workgroups to observe corporate rules.

Once you have identified the common settings you need to deploy across your site or to a specific set of users, you can create a (partial) profile. This profile will override local settings, allowing you to ensure CAD Standards are applied but also that

If you are a CAD Manager, please note that some actions of this process might require that they are performed by the LAN Administrator, or User with special permissions. Also make sure that users and application hold the necessary permissions, or are included in any exclusion list of Security software in place.

Contents

1. Overview

In a quick overview of the process, the broadcast of settings is done following a simple process :

- The Administrator opens the default profile.xml, identifies the common settings that need to be deployed across the site and creates a partial profile, and for this example, we will call it ***Administrative profile.xml***. To re-iterate, this file contains just the settings that need to be broadcasted.
- The Administrator deploys this file either on the users machine at a certain location, say, *C:\ProgramData\Dassault Systemes\DraftSight**Administrative profile.xml*** or other network location.
- The Administrator creates another **Profile Override Specifications** xml file (**profile_overrides.xml file**), a mapping file, which contains a list of these partial profiles along with their locations. This file is installed in a common folder on the users machine :

  C:\ProgramData\Dassault Systemes\DraftSight ***profile_overrides.xml*** *file*

- When Draftsight is launched, first loads the default settings, then looks for the "mapping file" and if found, loads the partial profiles inside it and in the process overrides the default settings.

2. Managing Individual and Administrative Profiles

Individual profiles store configuration settings for the application environment that are not saved with drawings.

In addition, administrative profiles allow workgroups and companies to share common configurations.

2.1. Profile Settings

Profiles save settings and preferences which you can specify on the following sections of the Options dialog box :

File Locations

- Drawing support file locations (such as locations for Drawing Files, Drawing Template Files, External References Files, LineStyle Files, RichLine Style Files, and for the Font Mapping File)
- Interface file locations (such as locations for the Alias File and for the Customization file)The current value of the variable displays as default.
- System file locations and paths (such as Font Files search paths and Support Files search paths)

System Options

- General settings
- Display preferences
- Graphics Area preferences
- Open / Save As preferences
- Printing preferences
- AutoSave & Backup settings
- Drawing File Defaults
- Default Scale List settings
- Macro Recording settings

User Preferences

- Drafting Options
- Mouse Options

Note: The specifications of alias command names (in the **User Preferences** section of the **Options** dialog box) are not stored in profile files. Instead, a specific alias.xml file stores the data.

2.2. Profile Files and Location

Profiles are stored in XML files (*profile.xml*).

Profile files are located in the roaming folder for application data:

%appdata%\<application_name>\<version_id>\Profiles\<profile_name>\profile.xml

Each individual profile is stored in a separate folder with the profile name.

By default, it exists at least one profile: "<<unnamed profile>>". You can rename the unnamed profile.

Active Profile

One of the profiles is the active one. The command variable **GetNmActPrfl** returns the name of active profile.

You can set the active profile on the **Profile** tab of the **Options** dialog box.

Note: When you change the active profile, it comes into effect when you create a new drawing or open an existing one.

Specifying a Profile at Application Startup

When you start the application, the profile that was active when you closed the previous session is used.

You can run the application using a specific profile by adding the /P option in the Target settings of the application shortcut.

To start the application with a specific profile:

1. Create a new shortcut for the application on the desktop.

2. Right-click the shortcut icon on the desktop to open the shortcut settings dialog, and click

Properties.

3. In the **Target** box, add the /P option behind the executable name, followed by a profile name (for example,

"C:\Program Files\<company_name>\<application_name>\<application.exe>" /P

<profile_name>).

The **/P** option argument is case insensitive.

If the user profile name contains spaces, use double quotes: for example,

/P "White background".

If the profile in the argument of the **/P** option does not exist, the default profile is used.

3. Administrative Profiles

In addition to individual profiles on local computers, the software allows you to also apply administrative profiles (since Release 2015, Service Pack 1).

Administrative profiles are provided to initially set up the settings for client computers so that they use common configurations and allow workgroups to observe corporate rules.

The administrative profiles are simple profile.xml files having the same structure as individual profile files but contain only the settings that must be overriden. They provide a subset of settings to be used by all users. The files should not include non-administrative custom preferences and settings.

Administrative profiles are read after the individual profile and act as a patch to the profile. The settings of the administrative profile replace the corresponding settings of the individual profile. The only exception are the multiple paths: For these, the paths from the patches are prepended to the list so that they will be searched first.

Inaccessible folders are merged as well. They could be some network folders that are not available temporarily, but accessible later.

3.1. Sample Administrative profile.xml File

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<settings>
	<group name="current workspace">
		<setting type="QString" name="workspace name" value="Corporate UI"/>
	</group>
	<group name="preferences_display">
		<setting type="int" name="graphicswinmodelbackgrndcolor"
	value="16777215"/>
		<setting type="QString" name="textfont" value="Courier New"/>
	</group>
	<group name="variables">
		<setting type="long" value="15" name="savetime"/>
	</group>
</settings>
```

Administrators can create multiple administrative profile files.

Also, it can be configured that certain administrative profiles are valid only for certain program versions.

3.2. Profile Override Specifications (profile_overrides.xml file)

A file named *profile_overrides.xml* provides the locations of administrative profiles to use and determines for what versions of the software they are used.

To become operative, the file has to be placed on local computers into a specific application related folder.

%programdata%\<company_name>\<application_name>\profile_overrides.xml

The XML file uses a specific syntax as shown in the following example:

Sample profile_overrides.xml File

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<profileoverrides>
    <version build="*">
        <setting type="QString" value="U:\Common\CAD\Shared\profile_1.xml" />
        <setting type="QString" value="U:\Common\CAD\Shared\profile_2.xml" />
    </version>
    <version build="12.0.003">
        <setting type="QString" value="U:\Common\CAD\Shared\profile_3.xml" />
    </version>
</profileoverrides>
```

The **build** parameter of the **version** tag specifies the version for which the settings of subsequent profile files are applied. An asterisk (*) specifies that subsequent profile files are applied for all installed versions of the program.

The **settings** tags specify in the value parameter the profile files (of type XML) to be loaded when the programs starts. These profile files are usually located on a network drive and folder.

The order of the file specifications is important to preserve the intended order of overriding (in the example above, the individual user profile will be overridden by *profile_1* and them by *profile_2*).

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