

August 2012

Setting Up and Using Xzibitware's Automatic Drawing Title Block Load Feature

Xzibitware supports the automatic transfer of information kept in an Exhibit Project Information Table record to the user's drawing title block. Up to 8 fields of information may be transferred.

The drawing title blocks are AutoCAD block symbols consisting of a border and gridded information areas inside that border that utilize text or attributes. These information areas display things such as drawing date, name of designer/detailer, drawing description, project name, work order number, and so on. Some of the information may come from RText and AutoCAD Diesel expressions while the remainder is provided through AutoCAD Text or Attributes that use specific Attribute Tag Names. While originally meant for Letter-size, 11 by 17, and Architectural D size title blocks, other sizes may be created as needed. The title blocks are inserted in Paper Space for different layout tabs. They are most suitable for default drawing setups.

The title block names are hard-coded and must be one of the following: **TBLK-Letter**, **TBLK-1117**, or **TBLK-ArchD**. The names of the Attribute Tags are hard-coded as well. Each Tag must be created by the user using the **AttDef** command in AutoCAD (**see form below**). Use of the automatic load feature is not mandatory. It is included as a convenience. The user also does not have to utilize all 8 attributes. The automatic load feature (autoload pretagged attributes) will only use any that are present in the block definition of TBLK-Letter, TBLK-1117, or TBLK-ArchD. And this happens only when the user has decided to load the Title Block Attributes with information found in the record displayed as the Exhibit Project Information form is being closed (see information form and load control checkbox on the next page).

AutoCAD's Attribute Definition Dialog Box

Predefined Tag Names used by AutoTBlock

XZ_COMPANY Project Name/Client Name
XZ_EVENT Event Name or Project description
XZ_JOBCODE Project identifier (from accounting)
XZ_BOOTH Booth or Stand number for exhibit
XZ_VENUE Name and Location of Event
XZ_WORKORDER Work Order# for Project
XZ_AE Name of salesperson/account executive
XZ_DRAWNBY Name of person creating drawing

Attribute Definition

Mode

Invisible

Constant

Verify

Preset

Lock position

Multiple lines

Insertion Point

Specify on-screen

X: 0.0000

Y: 0.0000

Z: 0.0000

Attribute

Tag: XZ_COMPANY

Prompt: Project or Client Name

Default: Project

Text Settings

Justification: Left

Text style: Standard

Annotative

Text height: 0.2000

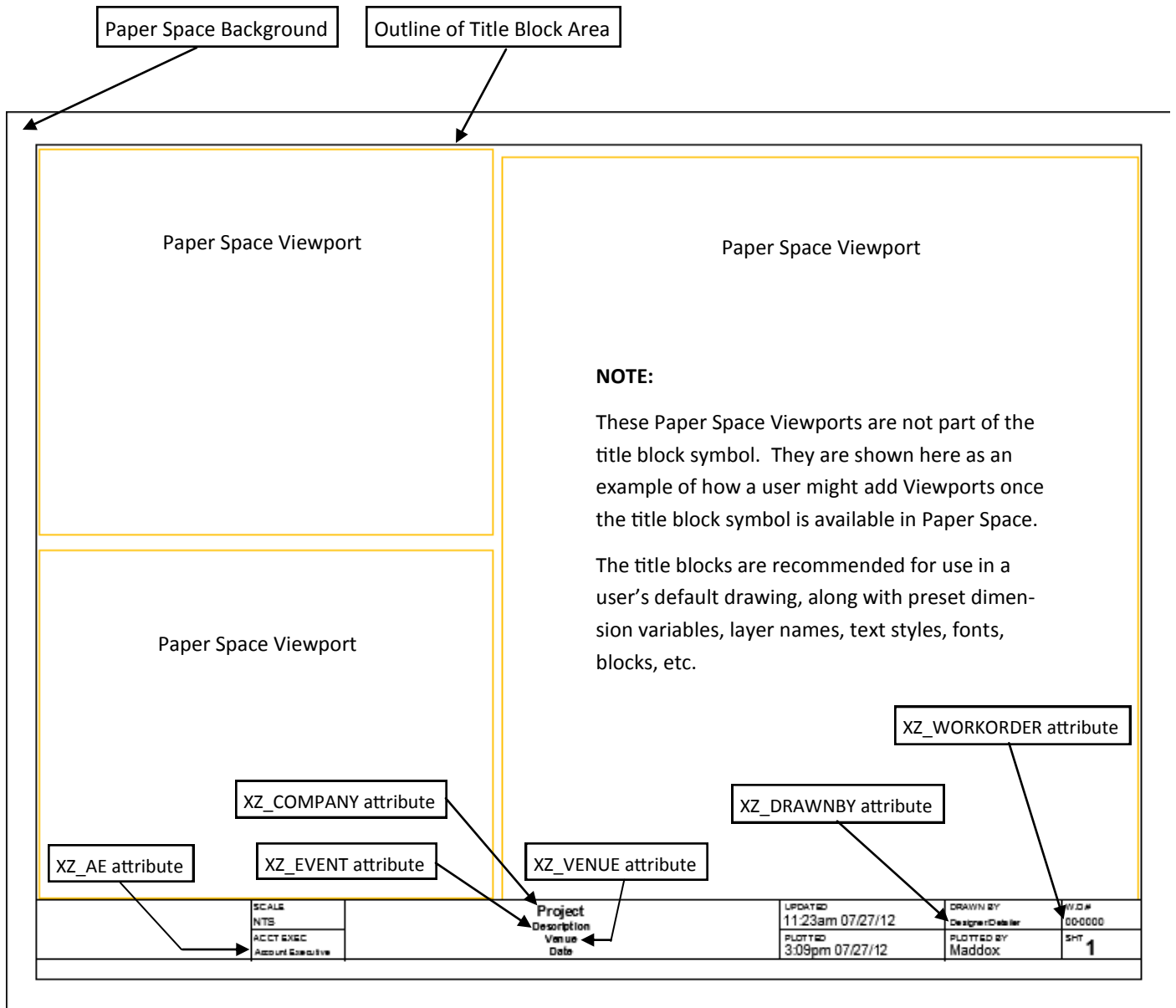
Rotation: 0

Boundary width: 0.0000

Align below previous attribute definition

OK Cancel Help

Adding Attributes to a Title Block Structure



The user first creates (in Paper Space) a title block symbol named **TBLK-LETTER** (or TBLK-1117, TBLK-ArchD) containing a page border, gridded information areas, and a set of Attributes as needed. In the example shown here, RText is used to show drawing update date and time, plot date and time, and name of the person generating a plot of drawing. The **ATTDEF** command has been used to create attributes and place them as shown. Note that attributes XZ_JOBCODE and XZ_BOOTH were not used in this example. The other 6 attributes will be loaded with data (if a record is selected by user) from an Exhibit Project Information record for the user's particular project.

The AutoCAD Block command is used to create a block symbol containing the border, info areas and attributes. Once the symbol is available, the user selects a Paper Space Layout Tab and inserts the title block into that space.

Once an Exhibit Project Information record has been created, the data it contains is used to automatically load report headings for materials use, labor codes, cost codes, project summaries, and exhibit information reports (includes all data shown here). Up to 8 fields of record information may also be used to populate attributes contained in the user's drawing title block.

The user only has to check the "Transfer Data to Drawing Titleblock Attributes" checkbox shown here before they close this data entry form. As the form closes, the data transfers into the user's drawing Title Block attributes. This feature is called AutoTBlock. If the checkbox is left unchecked, there is no change to the Title Block attributes when the form closes.

Not only does this feature help reduce typing errors, for large projects with many drawings in a project documentation package, it saves time by automatically placing data from a single project information record into each drawing's title block. If a project record changes, the user can quickly update Title Blocks automatically at any time using this automatic load feature.

The screenshot shows a software window titled "Exhibit Project General Design Information". At the top, there are navigation buttons (back, forward) and action buttons (New, Save, Cancel, Delete, Find, Records List, Close). The form fields are as follows:

Company:	Project Name/Company Name	Booth:	0000000	Job Code:	0000_00000000000000
Event Name:	Description/Event	Project Status:	T	Design Due:	1/22/2012
Venue:	Venue, City and State			Work Order#:	00-0000000
Salesperson:	Account Executive	Designer:	Designer/Detailer	Turnkey Budget:	\$15,525.00

Below the fields is a text area for "Project Notes/General Comments for Selected Client Company:" and a checked checkbox labeled "Transfer Data to Drawing Titleblock Attributes...". At the bottom left, it says "Default Sort Order: Job Code + Company + Event Name + Booth Use 'Find' Button above to change this record Sort Order." and "Available Records: 2". At the bottom right, it says "Copyright © 2003-2012 MALEKKO Software Systems".

The user signifies that project record information is to be automatically transferred to a drawing Title Block by just checking this box before closing the data entry form.