Optegra® Interface for AutoCAD User Guide

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Parametric Technology Corporation

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Parametric Technology Corporation, 140 Kendrick Street, Needham, MA 02494-2714
8 January 2001

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Using the Optegra Interface for AutoCAD

Preface

Optegra Interface for AutoCAD User Guide allows you to handle AutoCAD parts using Locator software. This book introduces you to the software and its usage.

This document explains the following in detail:

- Storing an AutoCAD part using Locator
- Checking out a part using Locator

Related Documents

The following documents may be helpful as you use *Optegra Interface for AutoCAD User Guide*:

- *Locator/PC User Guide*

Book Conventions

The following table illustrates and explains conventions used in writing about Optegra applications.

Convention	Example	Explanation
EPD_HOME	`cd` $EPD_HOME`/install` (UNIX) `cd` %EPD_HOME%`\install` (Windows)	Represents the default path where the current version of the product is installed.
Menu selections	Vault > Check Out > Lock	Indicates a command that you can choose from a menu.
Command buttons and options	Mandatory check box, Add button, Description text box	Names selectable items from dialog boxes: options, buttons, toggles, text boxes, and switches.

User input and code	`Wheel_Assy_details`
	
	`-xvf /dev/rst0`
	
	`Enter command>` **`plot_config`**
		Enter the text in a text box or on a command line.
		
		Where system output and user input are mixed, user input is in bold.

System output	`CT_struct.aename`	Indicates system responses.
Parameter and variable names	`tar -cvf /dev/rst0` filename	Supply an appropriate substitute for each parameter or variable; for example, replace filename with an actual file name.
Commands and keywords	The `ciaddobj` command creates an instance of a binder.	Shows command syntax.
Text string	`"SRFGROUPA"` or `'SRFGROUPA'`	Shows text strings. Enclose text strings with single or double quotation marks.
Integer	n	Supply an integer for *n*.
Real number	x	Supply a real number for *x*.
#	`# mkdir /cdrom`	Indicates the root (superuser) prompt on command lines.
%	`%` `rlogin` remote_system_name `-l root`	Indicates the C shell prompt on command lines.
$	`$` `rlogin` remote_system_name `-l root`	Indicates the Bourne shell prompt on command lines.
>	`> copy` filename	Indicates the MS-DOS prompt on command lines.
Keystrokes	`Return` or `Control-g`	Indicates the keys to press on a keyboard.

Online User Documentation

Online documentation for each Optegra book is provided in HTML if the documentation CD-ROM is installed. You can view the online documentation from an HTML browser or from the HELP command.

You can also view the online documentation directly from the CD-ROM without installing it.

From an HTML Browser:

1. Navigate to the directory where the documents are installed. For example,

   $EPD_HOME/data/html/htmldoc/ (UNIX)

   %EPD_HOME%\data\html\htmldoc\ (Windows NT)
2. Click mainmenu.html. A list of available Optegra documentation appears.
3. Click the book title you want to view.

From the HELP Command:

To view the online documentation for your specific application, click HELP. (Consult the documentation specific to your application for more information.)

From the Documentation CD-ROM:

1. Mount the documentation CD-ROM.
2. Point your browser to:

   CDROM_mount_point/htmldoc/mainmenu.html (UNIX)

   CDROM_Drive:\htmldoc\mainmenu.html (Windows NT)

Printing Documentation

A PDF (Portable Document Format) file is included on the CD-ROM for each online book. See the first page of each online book for the document number referenced in the PDF file name. Check with your system administrator if you need more information.

You must have Acrobat Reader installed to view and print PDF files.

The default documentation directories are:

- $EPD_HOME/data/html/pdf/doc_number.pdf (UNIX)
- %EPD_HOME%\data\html\pdf\doc_number.pdf (Windows NT)

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Chapter 1

Introduction to Optegra Interface for AutoCAD

This chapter introduces you to the Optegra Interface for AutoCAD for Windows. It also discusses the features and limitations of the Interface.

- Overview
- Features
- Limitations

Overview

The Optegra Interface for AutoCAD allows you to handle AutoCAD data using Locator. You can use Vault commands like `Store`, `Get`, `Replace` as well as perform other Optegra functions on AutoCAD parts.

Features

Using the Interface, you can store objects with the following extensions as AutoCAD parts.

File Extensions	Description
.dwg	An AutoCAD-generated drawing
.pcx	Paint File
.wmf	Windows Metafile
.tif	Tiled Image Format File
.dxf	DXF Formatted File
.gif	GIF Format File
.sat	ACIS Formatted File
.3ds	3D Studio File
.eps	Encapsulated Postscript File

When an AutoCAD file with a `.dwg` extension is stored, the Interface searches the directory for any related exported files. Related files have the same drawing name, with one of the following extensions:

File Extensions	Description
.wmf	Exported Windows Metafile
.dxf	Exported DXF Formatted File
.sat	Exported ACIS Formatted File
.eps	Exported Encapsulated Postscript File
.bmp	Exported Bitmap File
.dxx	Exported Extract Formatted File
.3ds	Exported 3D Studio File
.dat	Data generated by running the `extract.lsp` routine

For example, if you store the file `jane.dwg`, the Interface checks for the presence of any exported files, such as `jane.dxf` or `jane.wmf`. If any such files are found, they are stored.

All related files are transferred, when you `Check Out`, `Update`, `Replace`, or `CheckIn` a drawing to the Vault. Specify the drawing name to do this.

If you configure AutoCAD for locking a object, the Interface recognizes that an object is being worked on and does not allow a `Store`, `Update`, or `Replace` to be performed until the drawing is released by AutoCAD.

Before storing an imported file, the Interface checks to see if a drawing of the same name exists either in the Vault or locally. If one already exists, the transaction is terminated.

The Interface has been fully globalized for Wide Word and Error handling.

Limitations

The limitations of the Interface are as follows:

- Attribute information is stored only during a `Store` or `Replace` command
- This software is available only in English
- This interface works only with Locator/PC

Chapter 2

Pre-requisites of Optegra Interface for AutoCAD

This chapter specifies the pre-requisites of the Optegra Interface for AutoCAD.

- Default Settings and Configuration
- Accessing Vault From an AutoCAD Application

Default Settings and Configuration

To setup and configure the interface:

1. Enter the following in the `$EPD_HOME/data/EDM.DEFAULTS` file, for Vault to interpret the custom build client rulebases.

   ```
   selscope(ACAD)=F,P
   object-class(ACAD)=ACAD
   ```

2. Configure the environment variables in the `acad.ini`file, for AutoCAD rulebase to pick up appropriate language message files.

   The `acad.ini` file is located under `$EPD_HOME/lrb/acad.ini`. A typical ACAD initialization file is listed below:

   ```
   [lrb]
   description=ACAD Part
   selscope=P
   store=filebrws
   store_prompt=Select a ACAD PART to store
   checkout=chkout-f
   AWLANG=C
   ```

3. Set the $EPD_HOME and $AWLANG variables. $EPD_HOME is the Optegra home directory and $AWLANG the native operating system language specification.

   Valid keywords for $AWLANG are:

Keywords	Language
C	English
french	French
german	German
japanese	Japan

   The default settings of $EPD_HOME and $AWLANG are:

   ```
   set EPD_HOME=c:\Epd\dm\v60
   set AWLANG=C
   ```

   By default, the AutoCAD rulebase message file, `acadrb.msg`, is installed in the $EPD_HOME`/data/reposit/`Language`/ directory.` Language is the value set by $AWLANG.

For more information, refer to *Locator/PC User Guide*.

Accessing Vault From an AutoCAD Application

The Optegra Interface for AutoCAD allows you to perform Vault file transfer commands on AutoCAD drawings.

Setting Up Vault Access

To access Vault from an AutoCAD application, perform the following post-installation steps:

1. Add the $EPD_HOME directory in the PATH system environment variable.
2. Copy the following files from the `$EPD_HOME\data\acad` directory to the `win\support` subdirectory of the AutoCAD `install` directory.
   - `optegra.mnu`
   - `optegra.mnl`

   For example, if AutoCAD is installed in the `c:\r14` directory, copy these files to the `c:\r14\win\support` directory.

Adding the Vault Menu to the AutoCAD Top Menu

To add the Vault menu to the AutoCAD Top menu bar, use one of the following methods.

Using Menu Customization: Start AutoCAD and perform the following steps at the application's command prompt:

1. Type **`menuload`**. The Menu Customization dialog box appears.
2. Type **`c:\r14\win\support\optegra.mnu`** in the File Name field.

   OR

   Select `optegra.mnu` from the support directory using the Browse button.
3. Click Load. This adds OPTEGRA to the list of Menu Groups.
4. Click OPTEGRA in the Menu Groups list.
5. Click Menu Bar at the top of the dialog box.
6. Click Help in the Menu Bar list.
7. Click Insert. This adds the Vault menu to the Top menu bar.
8. Click Close to quit the dialog box.

Using the Command Line: Start AutoCAD and execute the following at the application's command prompt:

```
> setvar
> filedia
> 0
```

Please note: The preceding command is a zero.

```
> menuload
> optegra
```

The Vault menu is added to the Top menu bar.

Chapter 3

Using the Optegra Interface for AutoCAD

You can perform Vault operations on AutoCAD parts using Locator. This chapter explains how you can store and check out AutoCAD parts.

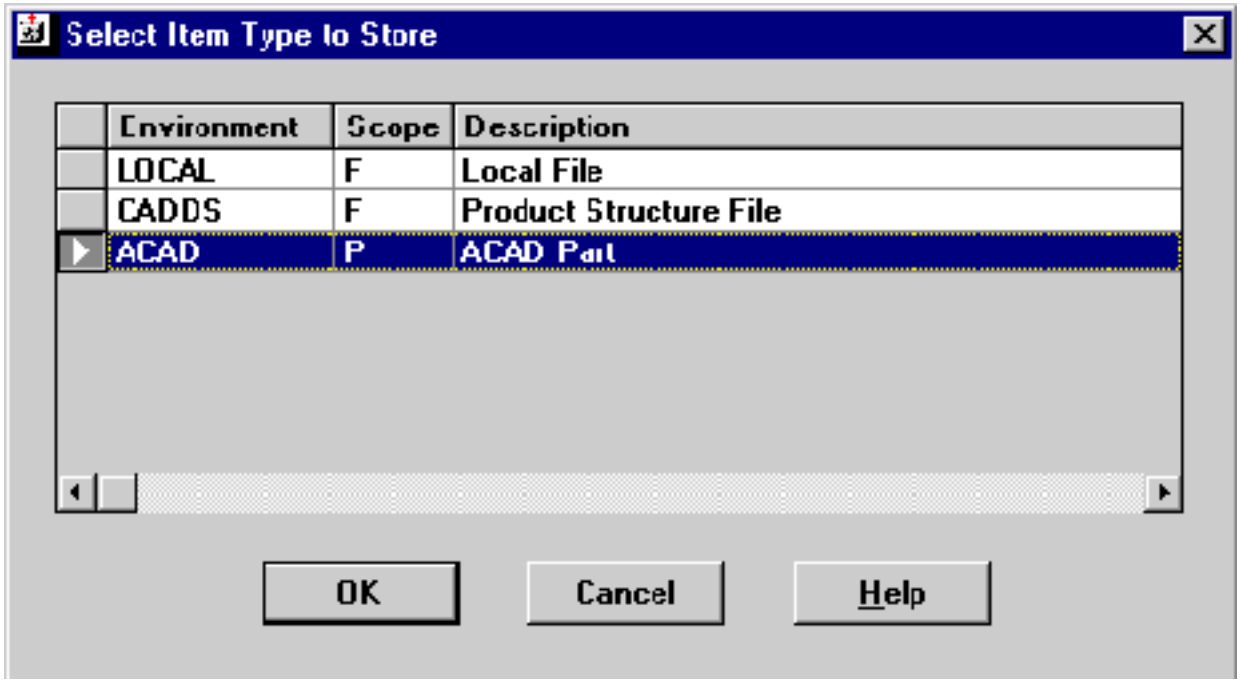
- Storing an AutoCAD Part Using Locator
- Checking Out A Part Using Locator

Storing an AutoCAD Part Using Locator

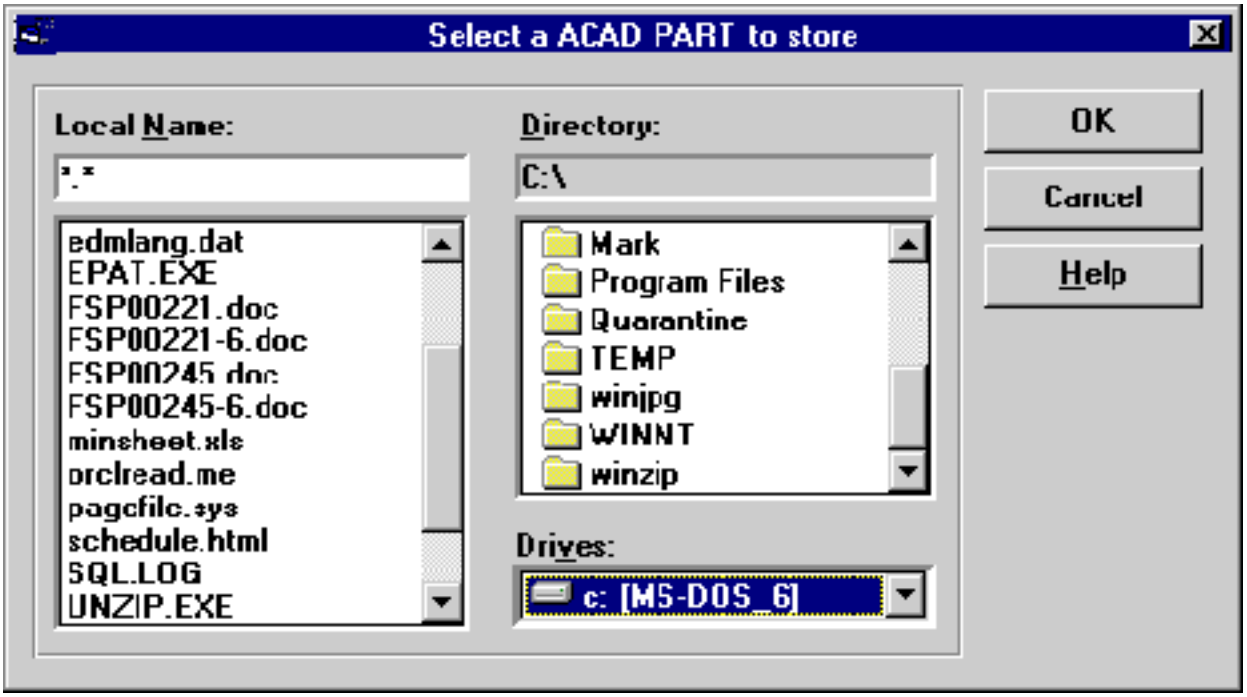
To store an AutoCAD drawing/part using Locator:

1. Sign on to Locator. The main toolbar appears.

2. Click Store Item from the main toolbar. The Select Item Type to Store dialog box appears.

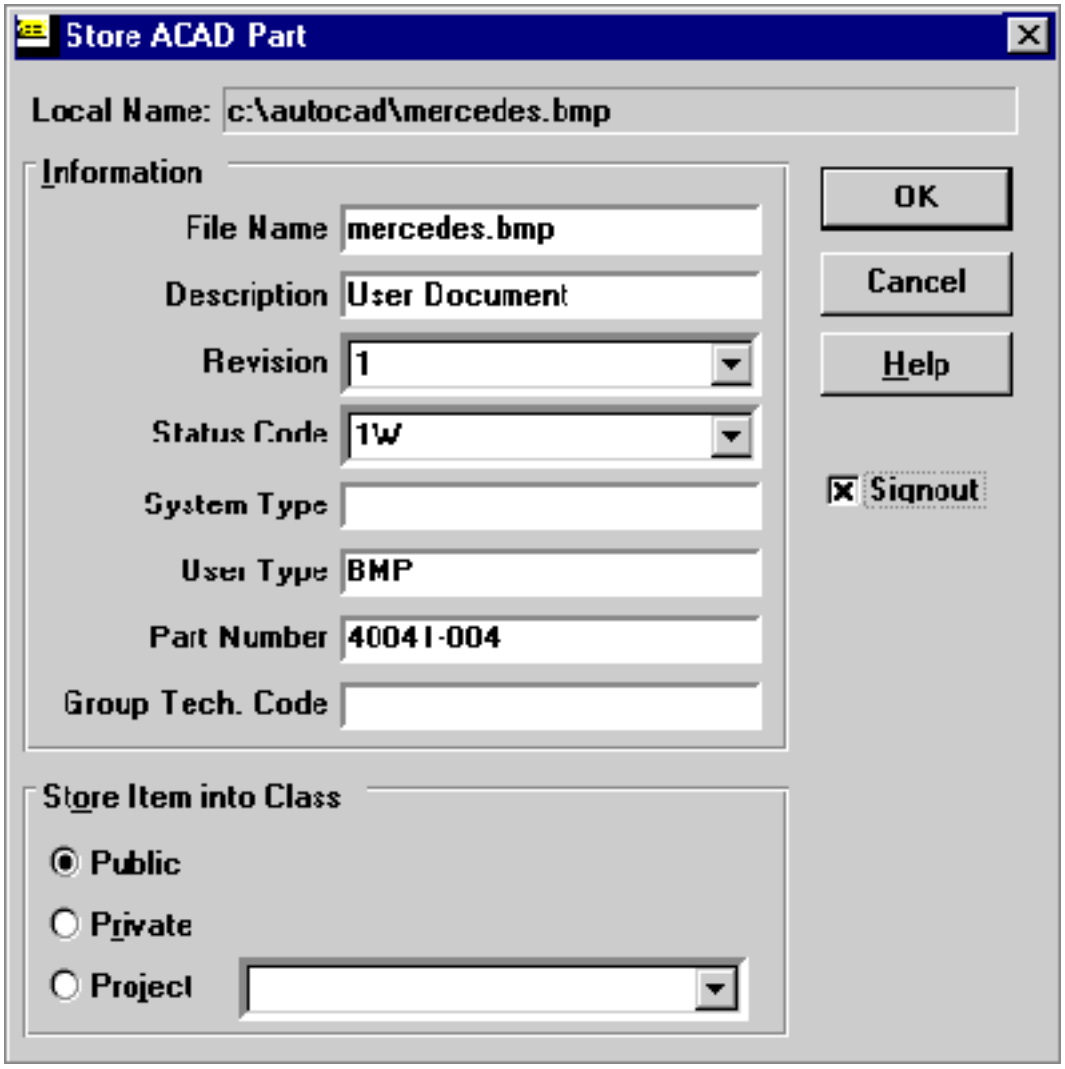


3. Select ACAD Part and click OK. The Select a ACAD Part to store dialog box appears.



4. Select the AutoCAD drawing you want to store.

5. Click OK. The Store ACAD Part dialog box appears.



6. Fill in the following information about the file.
   - File Name: Specifies the name of the file. The maximum length can be 80 characters. The specified Vault name must not already exist in the Vault. The default is the local file name.
   - Description: Specifies the description of the file. The maximum length can be 25 characters.
   - Revision: Specifies the revision number of the file. The applicable revision codes are determined by the file classification. If this field is blank, Locator assigns the default value of the first revision code.
   - Status Code: Specifies the Status code for the stored file. If this box is blank, then Locator uses the default of the initial in-work status code.

- System Type: Specifies the system type. The maximum length can be 8 alphanumeric characters.
- User Type: Specifies the user type. The maximum length can be 8 alphanumeric characters.
- Part Number: Specifies the part number.The maximum length can be 20 alphanumeric characters.
- Group Technology Code: Specifies group technology code (GTC). The maximum length can be 32 alphanumeric characters.

7. Click OK. The AutoCAD drawing is now stored in the Vault.

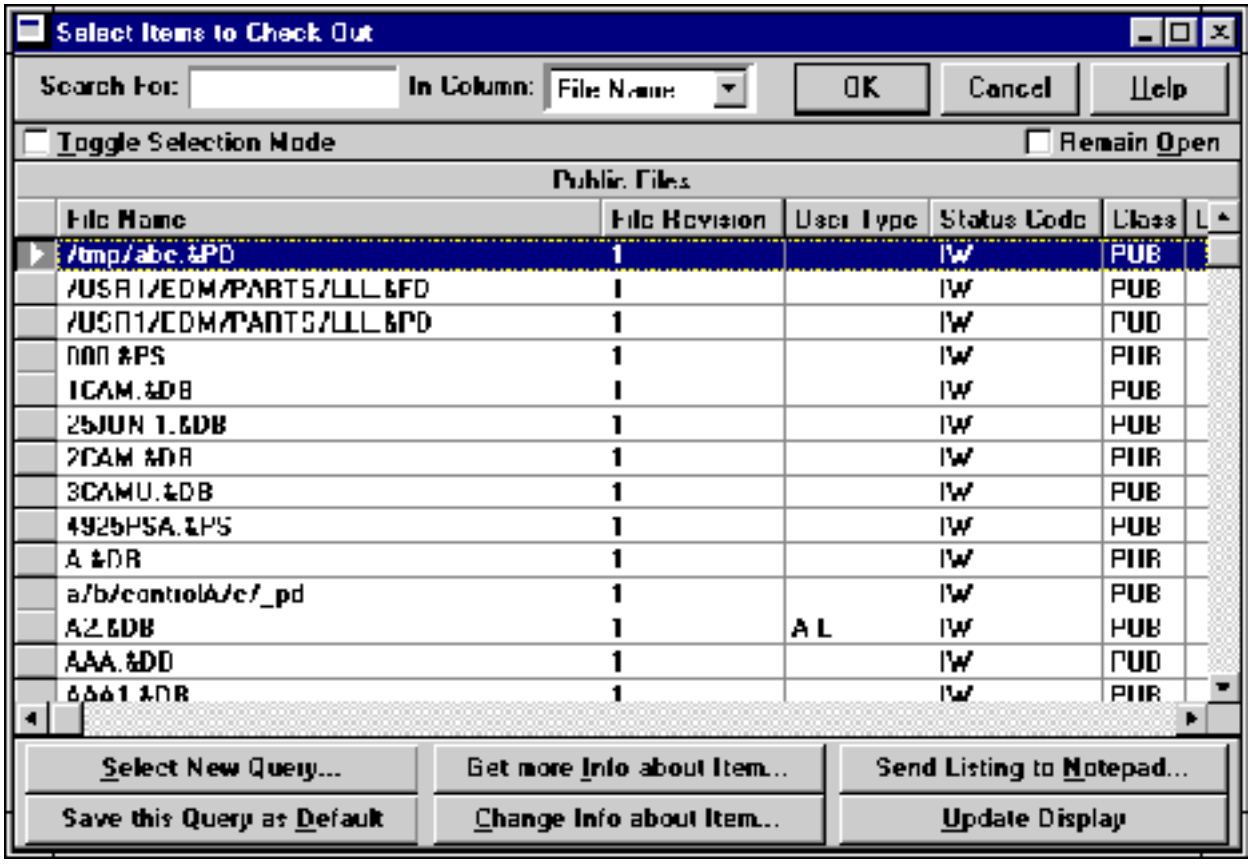
For more information, refer to the `Store` command described in *Locator/PC User Guide*.

Checking Out A Part Using Locator

To check out an AutoCAD part using Locator:

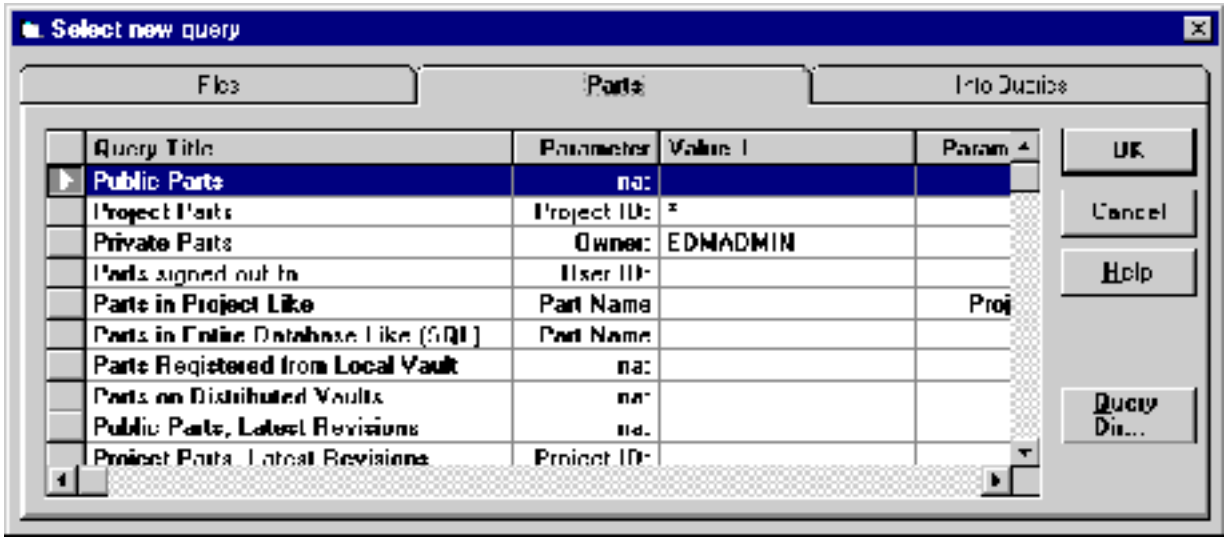
1. Sign on to Locator. The main toolbar appears.

2. Click Check Out Item. The Select Items to Check Out dialog box appears.

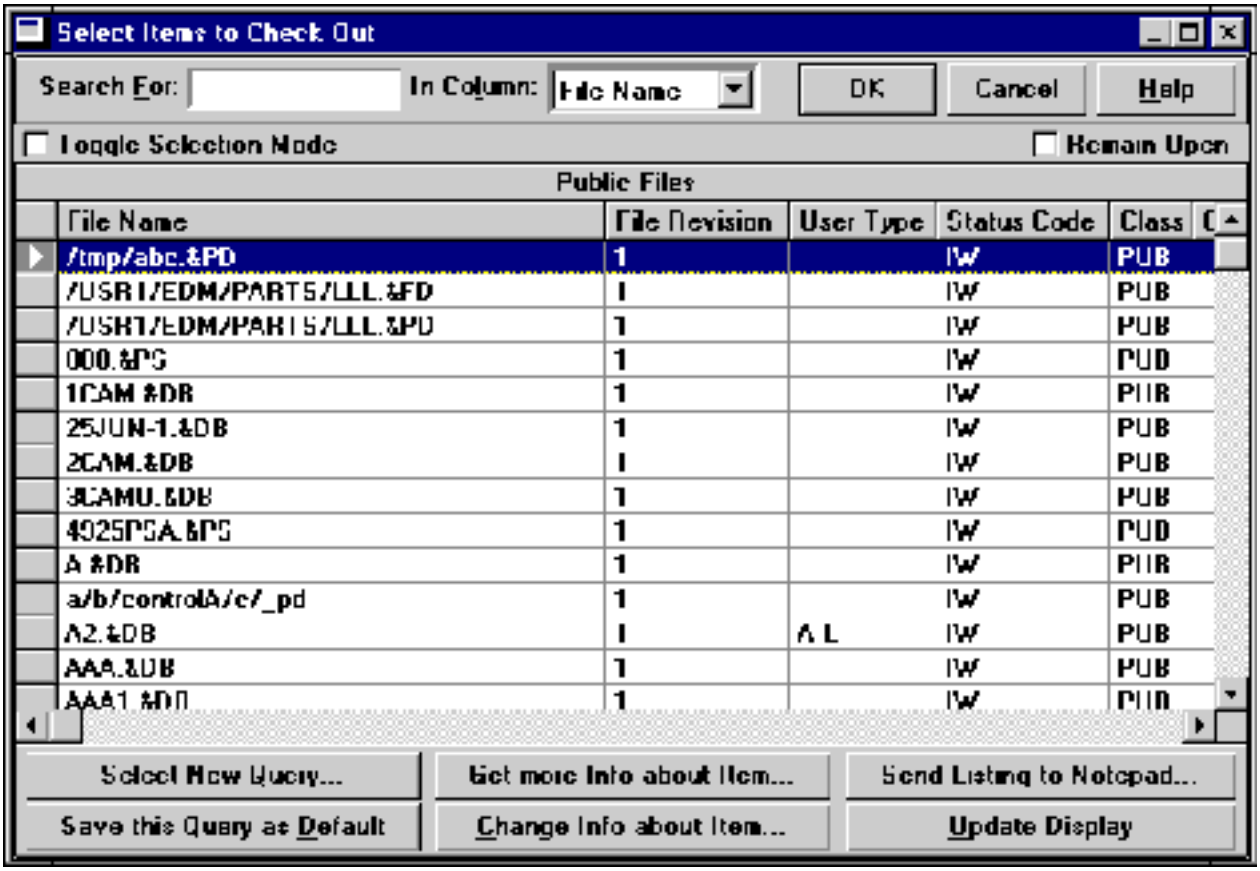


3. Click Select New Query. The Select New Query dialog box appears.

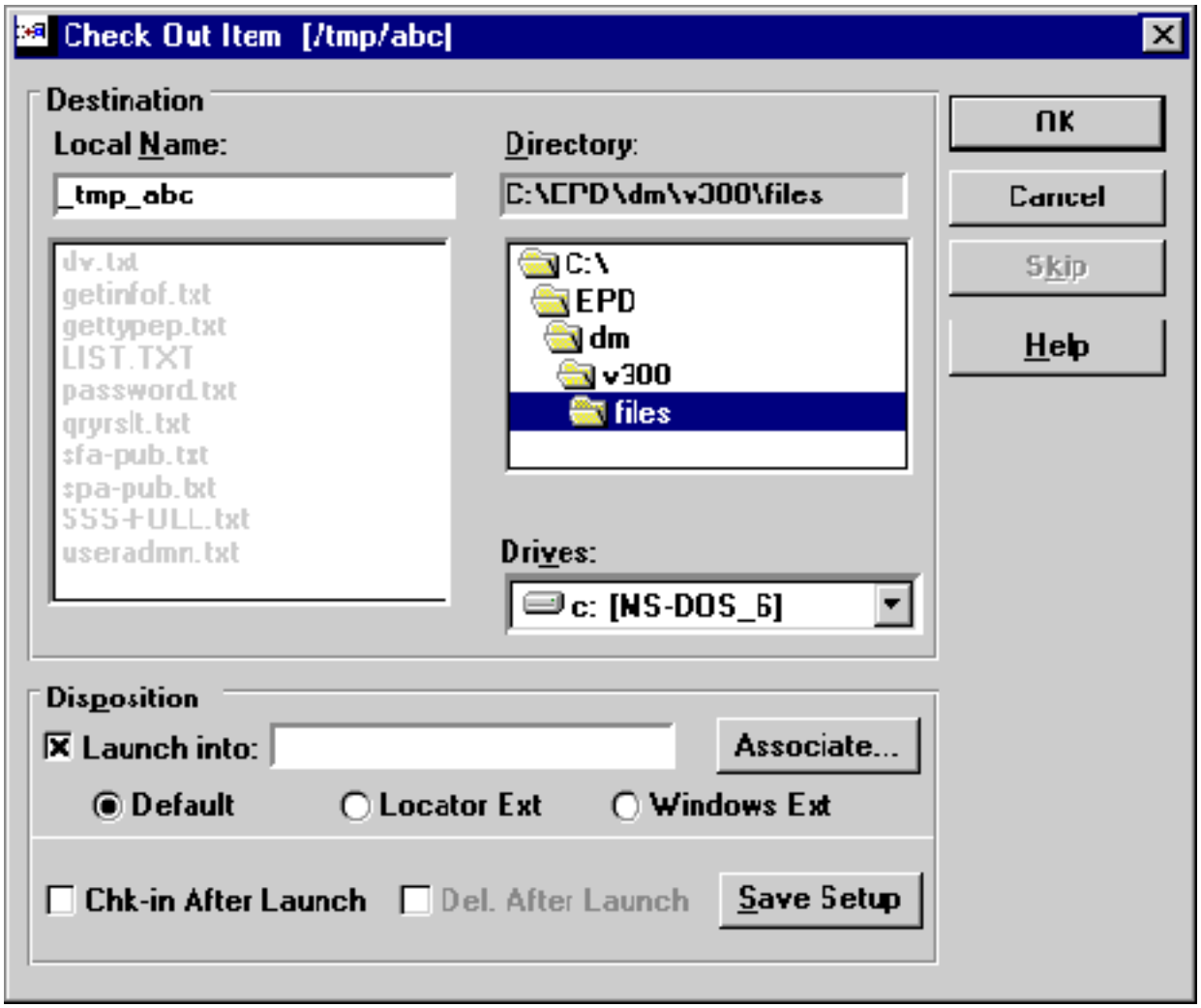
4. Click Parts.



5. Click OK. The Select Items to Check Out dialog box appears displaying Public Parts. A list of all the drawing/parts appears.



6. Select the item you want to check out and click OK. The check out item dialog box appears displaying the specified drawing part name.



7. Specify the local AutoCAD drawing name and directory in the Destination fields. Click OK.

The part is now checked out. You can lock the part, for security purposes, using a password.

Please note: If Launch into is checked, Locator starts the AutoCAD application and opens the checked out file. However, if AutoCAD is already running, the checked out file is opened automatically.

For more information, refer to the `Check Out` command described in the *Locator/PC User Guide*.

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