CAD Chronicle

Workstation computing

HP Canada has announced four Intel-based workstations. The desk-side HP xw6400 and xw8400 feature dual-core Intel Xeon processors along with expandability, while the HP Compaq nw8440 and nw9440 mobile units offer the power of a workstation with the convenience of a notebook. The xw6400 desk-side workstation features Intel's dual-processor/dual-core technology with the Intel 5000X chipset. The xw8400 Workstation incorporates up to two dual-core Xeon processors. The nw9440 incorporates a NVIDIA Quadro FX 1500M graphics controller and 17-in. display. The nw9440 is packaged in a form factor starting at 7.5 lb and 1.3 in. thin. The nw8440 has a starting weight of 6.0 lb. It features Intel Core Duo processors, ATI Mobility FireGL V5200 graphics and a 15.4-in. display.

hp.com   Info Card 330

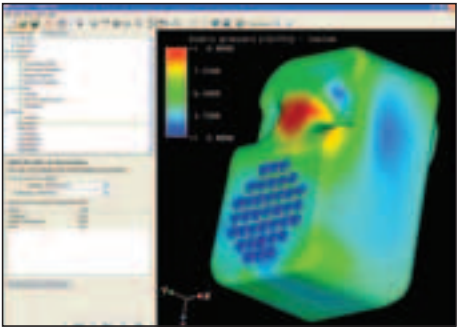## 3D modeling with True Type fonts support

VX Corp. has introduced 3D modeling support for True Type fonts. Any True Type Font found on a user's computer is transparently converted by VX into a vector format for 3D modeling. Users select the font desired and then type text straight into the VX Sketcher. A variety of tools then produce solid or surface geometry from the text. The sketch can also be wrapped around any surface.

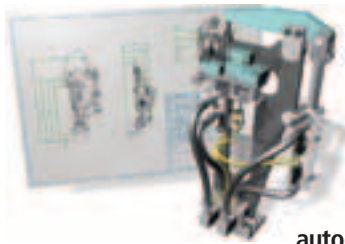**vx.com**   Info Card 331

Rapid flow modeling

Fluent Inc. has released Flo Wizard V2.1 computational fluid dynamics (CFD) software. CAD connections for Pro/ENGINEER, SolidWorks, and UGS NX allow users to send their models to Flo Wizard with the click of a button. The connections include model preparation and model checking tools that assist users in efficiently transforming their CAD models into CFD results. The software also includes a new rotating machinery model to predict the flow and pressure field in pumps, fans, turbines, and impellers.

flowizard.com   Info Card 335
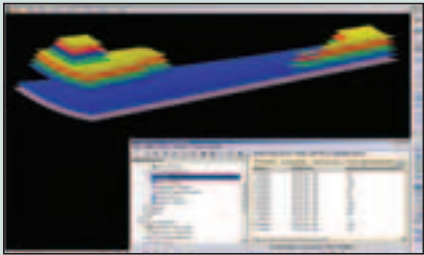
3D software embraces large assemblies

Autodesk, Inc. has announced the release of Autodesk Inventor 11, 3D mechanical design software. Features and enhancements include: Dynamic Simulation to help designers predict dynamic performance and peak stress without physical prototypes; Large Assembly Management to provide greater control in configuring how much model data is loaded into memory; Assembly Configurations for designing and documenting families of related products in a single assembly file; and, Advanced Shape Description for creating cast and molded parts.

autodesk.com/inventor   Info Card 332
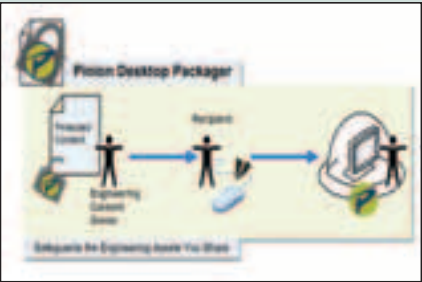
Composite product development

Vistagy, Inc. has released of FiberSIM 5.1, the latest version of its design environment for composite products. FiberSIM 5.1 provides specialized tools that enable engineers working in commercial CAD systems to design and validate laminates, zones, layer and ply sequences. The Automated Deposition Design option automates the creation of composite product geometry that is specific to manufacturing processes such as tape-laying or fibre placement.

vistagy.com   Info Card 333

Engineering data protection

Pinion Software has announced Pinion Desktop Packager v3.0, a product that sets standards for safeguarding proprietary engineering data that is being delivered via email, business portals, or document management systems. Users of Pinion Desktop Packager can implement time-based access to files, impose an automatic shred date to self destruct files, and prevent recipients from using Cut, Copy, Paste, and Print functions, as well as screen grabber tools.

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