SolidWorks 2006 API 1

Human Centered CAD Laboratory

About

The Goal

The goal of this course is to introduce you the SolidWorks 2006 Application Programming Interface(API). Using the SolidWorks API is a great way to automate routines. Just about everything a user leverages through the user interface is available in the API.

Course Design Philosophy

This course is designed around a process or task based approach to training. Rather than focus on individual features and functions, a process-based training course emphasizes the process and procedures you follow to complete a particular task.

Getting Started

- For foreign students
 - SolidWorks can be run in English mode.
 - How to change the SolidWorks language Option
 - ▶ '도구'->'옵션'->'시스템옵션'->'일반'->'영어사용'



- For foreign students
 - The VISUAL BASIC .NET Editor will be seen in Korean mode on Microsoft Windows XP Korean edition.
 - You can solve this problem by changing some system language options of Windows XP.
 - First, click '시작' button in the lower-left corner of Windows XP, then select '제어판'.
 - ▶ Click '국가 및 언어 옵션', then select '고급' tap.
 - In '유니코드를 지원하지 않는 프로그램용 언어', change the language from '한국어' to '영어(미국)'.
 - In next page, the entire process will be shown.



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Cautions

- If you changed the Windows non-unicode program language option, you should pay attention to the names of objects in SolidWorks.
- If you use SolidWorks in English Mode, you had better to modify objects' names in English.
- You must change followings in English if you changed the non-unicode program language option.



- A few things to note
 - File types
 - In Solidworks , the macro files we will create are of type: SW VBA Macros (*.swp)
 - In Visual Basic .NET, these files may be necessary: Project Files (*. Vbp), Class Files (*. cls), Resource Files(*.res), Dynamic-Link Library(*.dll)
 - Option Explicit
 - It is strongly recommended that you use the Option Explicit statement in all Visual Basic development. This forces declaration of all variables before use. By doing this, Visual Basic allows you to use error and type checking when debugging applications.

- A few things to note
 - How to set the Option Explicit function in VB Editor
 - 'Tools' -> 'Options' -> 'Editor' -> 'Code Settings' -> 'Require variable Declaration'

Tools Add-Ins Window E References Additional Controls Macros Options Test Prop <u>e</u> rties	Options Editor Editor Format General Docking Code Settings Auto Syntax Check Require Variable Nauto List Mauto List Auto Quick Auto Data Auto Data	Indent th: 4	
	Window Settings ♥ Drag-and-Drop Text Editing ♥ Default to Full Module View ■ Pactor A	Kacro3 - Macro31 (Code) (General) Option Explicit	

Variables

Variables are used to store temporary values during the execution of an application. Variables are made up of two parts : Name and Data Type. You declare a variable with the Dim statement, supplying a name for the variable:

Dim variablename [As data type]

The optional, *As data type*, clause in the Dim statement allows you to define the data type or object type of the variable. Examples are:

- Dim swApp AS object
- Dim swApp AS sldworks.sldworks
- **Dim** dvarArray(2) AS Double

'Generic object 'Specific object 'Set of 3 doubles

Solidworks Constants – swconst.bas

For Solidworks API development, you should always add the Solidworks constant file to each project or macro. In visual basic, select **Project**, **Add Module**, and under the **Existing** tab, browse to the location for this file(it is installed Solidworks):

<install directory>\Solidworks\samples\appcomm

 \science

This file provides definitions to use with Solidworks API functions.

When you make your macro file by macro-recording method which is used in this course, you don't need to mind this work.

SolidWorks 2006 Type Library

- Visual Basic programs are enhanced by creating objects with specific Type Library interface types, rather than the generic object type. In order to do leverage this, we add a reference to the SolidWorks 2006 Type Library. As a convenience, the macro recorder will do this for you by default.
- To make sure the reference is made, in VBA, click Tools,
 References and the option for SolidWorks 2006 Type Library should be checked.



SolidWorks 2006 Type Library(cont')

If it is not checked, browse to its location (installed with SolidWorks):

 $<\!\!install\ directory\!\!>\!\!\backslash SolidWorks \backslash sldworks.tlb$

This file contains the exposed objects, properties, and methods that are available for Solid Works automation. When the type library is referenced, a drop down list after the dot (.) separator (behavior known as IntelliSense) will display SolidWorks objects, properties and methods that the programmer can use.

Early vs. Late Binding

- Binding is simply a verification process that Visual Basic uses to search through an object-type library (in our case, the SolidWorks 2006 Type Library) make sure an object exists, and that any properties or methods used with it are correctly specified. There are two types of binding:
- Late Binding

Dim swApp As Object Dim swModel As Object

Sub main() Set swApp = Application.SldWorks Set swModel = swApp.ActiveDoc End Sub Early Binding

Dim swApp As **SldWorks.SldWorks** Dim swModel As **SldWorks.ModelDoc2**

Sub main()

Set swApp = Application.SldWorks Set swModel = swApp.ActiveDoc End Sub

It is best to use early binding because it makes your code more efficient and your application faster!

Using the Macro Recorder

Macro Recording

 You can record operations performed with the SolidWorks user interface and replay them using SolidWorks macros. A macro contains calls to the Application Programming Interface(API) that are equivalent to operations performed in the user interface. A macro can record mouse clicks, menu choices and keystrokes.

Macro Toolbar

The macro toolbar contains shortcuts to the macro recording commands. You can also access these commands from the Tools, Macro menu.

Macro Toolbar(cont')

By default, the Macro toolbar is turned off. To create and use your macros, it is best to view and dock the macro toolbar at the top of the SolidWorks Window. From the View menu, select Toolbars, Macro.





First try to make an own macro

- 1. Start Solidworks and create new part.
- 2. View Macro toolbar and click 'Record' no button.
- 3. Select the Front plane.



First try to make an own macro(cont')

- 4. Click Sketch 💒 and click Circle 🔅 .
 - Use an approximate radius of 40 millimeters, then enter the exact value of 40mm in the PropertyManager.



First try to make an own macro(cont')

5. Click Extruded Boss/Base

6.

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- Drag the extrude path approximately 15 mm, then enter the exact value of 15mm in the PropertyManager. Click OK.



- First try to make an own macro(cont')
 - 7. 'Save' macro.
 - In the Save As dialog, save the macro as Macro1.swp.
 - 8. Delete all features.
 - Remove the extruded base and sketch created previously.
 - 9. Click 'Play' **>**.

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- Select Macro1.swp from the previous step.



Automation Review

- Click1 : Select a plane.
- Click2 : Insert sketch command.
- Click3 : Create circle command.
- Click4 : Center of circle
- Click5 : Approximate 40mm radius of circle.
- Keyboard Entry1 Exact radius : 40 mm.
- Click6 : OK button
- Click7 : Extruded boss/base function
- Click8 : Approximate 15mm depth of extrusion
- Keyboard Entry2 Exact depth : 15mm.
- Click9 : OK button.

Visual Basic for Applications editor

- Click the 'Edit' button from the Macro toolbar.
- Select Macro1.swp.



Understanding How Macro Code Works

- Variable Declaration
 - The macro recorder declares(or dimensions) a number of variables by default. You can comment out or delete variables not utilized in the entry point procedure.

- Understanding How Macro Code Works
 - Entry Point Procedure
 - This is the beginning of our functionality. Every macro must establish an entry point procedure.

Sub main()

- SolidWorks Application Object
 - This line of code will start an instance of SolidWorks or connect to a running instance of SolidWorks. Without it, your program will not run.

Set swApp = Application.SldWorks

- SolidWorks Documentation Object
 - In order for us to work within the application, top-level document objects are accessed and made active. This allows the ability to program document specific functionality.

Set Part = swApp.ActiveDoc

Understanding How Macro Code Works

- SolidWorks API Calls
 - An API call allows the macro to perform certain tasks. This is where we see our recorded steps taking shape:

□ Selecting an plane / Inserting a sketch

□ Creating a circle / Extruding a feature

Set SelMgr = Part.SelectionManager boolstatus = Part.Extension.SelectByID2("Front", "PLANE", 0, 0, 0, False, 0, Nothing, 0) Part.InsertSketch2 True Part.ClearSelection2 True Part.CreateCircle 0, 0, 0, 0.0317373, -0.0224536, 0 Part.ShowNamedView2 "*Trimetric", 8 Part.ClearSelection2 True boolstatus = Part.Extension.SelectByID2("Arc1", "SKETCHSEGMENT", 0, 0, 0, False, 0, Nothing, 0) Part.FeatureManager.FeatureExtrusion2 True, False, False, 0, 0, 0.015, 0.01, False, False, False, False, 0.01745329251994, 0.01745329251994, False, False, False, False, 1, 1, 1, 0, 0, False Part.SelectionManager.EnableContourSelection = 0



End Sub

- Understanding How to Call Methods
 - 1. The SldWorks object(declared *swApp* by default), the highest level object in the SolidWorks API, is accessed by implementing the following lines :

Dim swApp As Object Set swApp = Application.SldWorks

2.

The document object, PartDoc(Part) is accessed by implementing the following lines which calls a property on the application object:

Dim Part As Object Set Part = swApp.ActiveDoc

- Understanding How to Call Methods(cont')
 - 3. Once the application and document objects are set, events, properties and methods on those objects are called. To access these functions the object name is written first, separated by a period, and followed by the full name of the API call:

Part.InsertSketch2 True

Some APIs require additional parameters

Part.CreateCircle 0, 0, 0, 0.0317373, -0.0224536, 0

- Understanding How to Call Methods(cont')
 - Some APIs require additional objects :

Part.**FeatureManager**.Feature**Extrusion2** True, False, False, 0, 0, 0.015, 0.01, False, False, False, False, 0.01 745329251994, 0.01745329251994, False, False, False, False, 1, 1, 1, 0, 0, False

Some APIs utilize return values (called *retval* in the API help file) :

Dim boolstatus As Boolean boolstatus = Part.Extension.SelectByID2("Arc1", "SKETCHSEGMENT", 0, 0, 0, False, 0, Nothing, 0)

Passing Parameters

FeatureManager::FeatureExtrusion

pFeat = FeatureManager.FeatureExtrusion2 (sd, flip, dir, t1, t2, d1, d2, dchk1, dchk2, ddir1, ddir2, dang1, dang2, offsetReverse1, offsetReverse2, translateSurface1, translateSurface2, merge, useFeatScope, useAutoSelect, t0, startOffset, flipStartOffset)

- Parameter details:
 - Let's see SolidWorks 2006 API Help
 - Click Help -> SolidWorks API Help Topics
 - The file is also located in:
 - <install directory>\SolidWorks\lang \apihelp.chm

	<u>H</u> el	p
	?	SolidWorks <u>H</u> elp Topics
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		What's <u>N</u> ew Manual
	7	Interactive <u>W</u> hat's New
		Ser <u>v</u> ice Packs
		SolidWorks <u>R</u> elease Notes
		About SolidWorks
		Customize <u>M</u> enu

Cleaning Up native macro code

- Lines in red can be deleted(unnecessary).
- Lines in blue can be modified(better API calls exist).

Option Explicit
'C:\DOCUME~1\sontg\LOCALS~1\Temp\swx2380\Macro1.swb - macro recorded on 04/14/08 by HCCL '***********************************
Dim swApp As Object
Dim Part As Object
Dim SelMgr As Object
Dim boolstatus As Boolean
Dim longstatus As Long, longwarnings As Long
Dim Feature As Object
Sub main()
Set swApp = Application.SldWorks
Set Part = swApp.ActiveDoc
Set SelMgr = Part.SelectionManager
boolstatus = Part.Extension.SelectByID2("Front", "PLANE", 0, 0, 0, False, 0, Nothing, 0)
Part.InsertSketch2 True
Part.ClearSelection2 True
Part.CreateCircle 0, 0, 0, 0.0317373, -0.0224536, 0
Part.ShowNamedView2 "*Trimetric", 8
Part.ClearSelection2 True
boolstatus = Part.Extension.SelectByID2("Arc1", "SKETCHSEGMENT", 0, 0, 0, False, 0, Nothing, 0)
Part.FeatureManager.FeatureExtrusion2True, False, False, 0, 0, 0.015, 0.01, False, False, False, False, 0.01745329251994,
0.01745329251994, False, False, False, False, 1, 1, 1, 0, 0, False
Part.SelectionManager.EnableContourSelection = 0
End Sub

Cleaning Up native macro code(cont')

- Never be satisfied with results the SolidWorks macro recorder returns. Always look to improve and clean up your code. We can use the online API help file in SolidWorks to search out new, improved or just alternative API calls for our needs.
- There is another way to create a circle. CreateCircle requires six parameters: xc, yc, zc, xp, yp, zp. This method creates a circle based on a center point and a point on the circle. That is not exactly what we performed with the user interface.
- We can replace this function by CreateCircleByRadius2, and only requires these parameters: xc, yc, zc, radius.

Adding Forms to a Macro

 One of the easiest ways to get someone launch your code is to add a form (called userforms in VBA) to the macro.

• Where to Find it

- In VBA, click Insert, UserForm.
- In VBA, within the Project Explorer window, right-click the macro and select Insert, UserForm.





The VBA Toolbox is displayed along with the form by default. If it does not appear click View, Toolbox.

Add form to macro.

In VBA, click Insert, UserForm.

• Edit form properties.

With the form highlighted, enter the following property values:

UserForm1: (Name): frmMacro1a Caption: Cylinders ShowModal: False Startup Position: 2 - centerScreen

Properties - frmMa	cro1a 🗙		
rmMacro1a UserForm			
Alphabetic Categorized			
(Name)	frmMacro1a		
BackColor	8H8000000F&		
Border⊂olor	8H800000128		
BorderStyle	0 - fmBorderStyleNon		
Caption	Cylinder		
Cycle	0 - fmCycleAllForms		
DrawBuffer	32000		
Enabled	True		
Font	Tahoma		
ForeColor	8H80000012&		
Height	180		
HelpContextID	0		
KeepScrollBarsVisible	3 - fmScrollBarsBoth		
Left	0		
MouseIcon	(None)		
MousePointer	0 - fmMousePointerDe		
Picture	(None)		
PictureAlignment	2 - fmPictureAlignmer		
PictureSizeMode	0 - fmPictureSizeMode		
PictureTiling	False		
RightToLeft	False		
ScrollBars	0 - fmScrollBarsNone		
ScrollHeight	0		
ScrollLeft	0		
ScrollTop	0		
ScrollWidth	0		
ShowModal	False		
SpecialEffect	0 - fmSpecialEffectEla		
StartUpPosition	2 - CenterScreen		
Tag			
Тор	0		
WhatsThisButton	False		
WhatsThisHelp	False		
Width	240		
Zoom	100		

Add controls to form.

From the toolbox, drag and drop one label and five command buttons onto the form. Use the following as a guide for each control:



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Add click event to each button.

Double-click each button control to set up an empty click event procedure. The VBA editor automatically adds the necessary entry point and end to each event.



- Move code from module to buttons
 - At this point the entire macro file should contain one module and one form. We want to keep both, but move code to different locations.
 - Cut everything within the module leaving only an empty entry point procedure (*Sub main End Sub*). Paste the code in the click event for each command button (except the Exit button).
 - Look closely at the code below. Only one parameter (shown in **bold**) is changed to account for the different extrusion depths of each button.

Move code from module to buttons(cont')



Dim Part As Object Dim boolstatus As Boolean 'connect to solidworks

Set swApp = Application.SldWorks Set Part = swApp.ActiveDoc

'Create a cylinder on the front plane
boolstatus = Part.Extension.SelectByID("Front", "PLANE", 0, _
0, 0, False, 0, Nothing)
Part.InsertSketch2 True
Part.CreateCircleByRadius2 0, 0, 0, 0.04
Part.FeatureManager.FeatureExtrusion2 True, False, False, 0, 0, _
0.1, 0.01, False, False, False, False, 0.01745329251994, 0.01745329251994, _
False, False, False, False, 1, 1, 1, 0, 0, False
End Sub

Move code from module to buttons(cont')



- Add code to module.
 - Switch back to the module. In order for the macro to run in SolidWorks, the entry point procedure on the module needs to show the userform. Enter the following line of

code:

Save and Run macro.

Sub main() frmMacro1a.Show End Sub

Save the macro. With SolidWorks open and a new part file created, run the macro either from the Macro toolbar or from the VBA editor.

Exit macro.

Click the Exit button to end the macro and return to VBA..

- Add second form.
 - Click Insert, UserForm. Enter the following property values (next page).
- Add user interaction controls to second form.
 - To capture input from a user, we add textbox controls that ask the user to specify the depth and diameter rather than hard-coding the values.
 - Drag and drop the necessary labels, text boxes and com mand buttons onto frmMacro1b using the followings as a guide for each control :

Continue...

UserForm2: (Name): frmMacro1b Caption: Custom cylinder Startup Postion: 2 - Centerscreen ShowModal: False

TextBox1: (Name): txtDiameter Text: <leave blank>

TextBox2: (Name): txtDepth Text: <leave blank>

CommandButton1: (Name): cmdBuild Caption: Build

CommandButton2: (Name): cmdExit Caption: Exit



- Add code to each button.
 - We want each string value in the text boxes to be converted to a double value for diameter and depth. Make a copy of the working code you already have from one of the buttons on frmMacro1a and paste into a click event for cmdBuild on frmMacro1b. Then make the adjustments to the code:



Add code to each button.(cont')

Build

'Connect to Solidworks Set swApp = Application.SldWorks Set Part = swApp.ActiveDoc

\blacktriangleright Also remember to program $\operatorname{cmdExit}$ to terminate the

macro



Modify code of module

In order for macro to show userform frmMacro1b instead of frmMacro1a, the entry point procedure on the module needs to show the userform frmMacro1b.



Save and run macro





SolidWorks API Object Model

- SolidWorks API Object
 - The following diagram is a general depiction of the SolidWorks API Object Model



SolidWorks API Object Model – conť

SIdWorks Object(swApp)

The SIdWorks object (declared swApp by default), the highest level object in SolidWorks, provides access to all other objects exposed in the API. It is also referred to as an interface that provides a general set of functions that allow application level operations. Use the following two lines of code to connect to the SIdWorks object:

Dim swApp As SldWorks.SldWorks Set swApp = Application.SldWorks

- The variable, swApp, is arbitrary and is declared using a generic type, Object, rather than a specific type, SldWorks. SldWorks. This is discussed in Early vs. Late Binding.
- As we progress, it is better practice to use early binding tech niques when programming with the SolidWorks API.

SolidWorks API Object Model - cont'

SIdWorks Methods and Properties

```
.NewDocument (TemplateName, Papersize, width, Height)
.RevisionNumber ()
.DisplayStatusBar (Onoff)
.SolidworksExplorer()
.OpenDoc6 (FileName, Type, Options, Config, Errors, Warnings)
.LoadFile3 (FileName, ArgumentString, ImportData)
.CreateNewWindow()
.Arrangewindows (Style)
.ActiveDoc()
.ActivateDoc2 (Name, silent, Errors)
.CloseDoc (Name)
.QuitDoc (Name)
.ExitApp()
.DocumentVisible (visible, Type)
.SendMsgToUser (Message, Icon, Buttons)
```

SolidWorks API Object Model – cont'

ModelDoc2 Object

The ModelDoc2 object (swModel) contains functions that are common to all three document types: parts, assemblies and drawings. Use one of the following methods below on the SIdWorks object (also known as accessors) to connect to the ModelDoc2 object:

```
'option 1
Dim swModel As sldworks.ModelDoc2
set swModel = swApp.ActiveDoc
'option 2
Dim swModel As Sldworks.ModelDoc2
set swModel = swApp.NewDocument (TemplateName, Papersize, _ width, Height)
'option 3
Dim swModel As sldworks.ModelDoc2
Set swModel = swApp.OpenDoc6 (FileName, Type, Options, _
Config, Errors, Warnings)
```

SolidWorks API Object Model – conť

ModelDoc2 Methods and Properties

```
.InsertSketch2 (updateEditRebuild)
.InsertFamilyTableNew ()
.InsertNote (Text)
.SetToolbarvisibility (Toolbar, Visible)
.AddCustomInfo3 (Config, FieldName, FieldType, Fieldvalue)
.CreateCircle2 ( xc, yc, zc, xp, xp, xp )
.EditRebuild3 ()
.FeatureManager ()
.InsertFeatureShell (Thickness, Outward)
.SaveAs4 (Name, Version, Options, Errors, Warnings)
.ViewZoomtofit2 ()
```

SolidWorks API Object Model – conť

Documents Objects(Part, Assembly, Drawing)

Document objects are derived from ModelDoc2, therefore, they have access to all of the functions residing on the ModelDoc2 object. To connect to a Document object use one of the ModelDoc2 accessors and perform an a simple error check to validate the file type.

```
Dim swModel As Sldworks.ModelDoc2
Dim swPart AS SldWorks.PartDoc
Dim swAssy As SldWorks.AssemblyDoc
Dim swDraw As SldWorks.DrawingDoc
set swModel = swApp.ActiveDoc
If (swModel.GetType = swDocPART) Then
  Set swPart = swModel
End if
If (swModel.GetType = swDocASSEMBLY) Then
  Set swASSy = swModel
End if
If (swModel.GetType = swDocDRAWING) Then
  Set swDraw = swModel
End if
If swModel Is Nothing Then
  swApp.SendMsgToUser "Open a part, assembly or drawing!"
End if
```

SolidWorks API Object Model - cont'

PartDoc Methods and Properties

.EditRollback() .MaterialPropertyValues() .CreateNewBody() .MirrorPart()

AssemblyDoc Methods and Properties

 AddComponent4 (CompName, ConfigName, X, Y, Z)
 AddMate3 (MateType, Align, Flip, Distance, dUpperLimit, dLowerLimit, RatioNumerator, RatioDenominator, Angle, aUpperLimit, aLowerLimit, PositioningOnly, ErrorStatus)
 InsertNewPart2 (FilePathIn, face_or_Plane_to_select)
 ToolsCheckInterference2 (NoComp, LStComp, Coincident, Comp, Face)

DrawingDoc Methods and Properties

.GetFirstView

.InsertModelAnnotations (option, AllTypes, Types, AllViews) .NewSheet3 (Name, Size, In, S1, S2, FA, TplName, *W*, *H*, PropV)

