Learning Objectives

After completing this chapter, you will be able to:

✓ Explain the features of the Customize User Interface dialog box.
✓ Describe partial CUIx files.
✓ Create custom commands.
✓ Create new toolbars, ribbon tabs, and ribbon panels.
✓ Customize ribbon tabs and panels with submenus and drop-down lists.
✓ Explain how to customize menus.

One of the easiest ways to alter the AutoCAD environment is by customizing interface elements. Interface elements are graphic command-entry components of AutoCAD, such as the ribbon, toolbars, and menus. They can be quickly modified by removing and adding commands. New commands can also be created and assigned to an existing ribbon panel, toolbar, or menu or to new interface elements. The most powerful aspect of customizing ribbon panels, toolbars, and menus is the ability to quickly create entirely new functions to help you in your work. The key to good customization can be broken down into four simple rules:

- Always make a backup of the original files, such as the acad.cuix file, before customizing.
- Do not over-customize your work. Plan your customization in steps to minimize confusion and maximize productivity. Anticipate workflow and where needs exist.
- It is best to locate customized files in folders other than the default AutoCAD folders. This makes it easier to upgrade AutoCAD in the future.
- Thoroughly test your customizations before implementing them. This will save many headaches for you and the end user.