
AGILE ENGINEERING COLLABORATION

RELEASE NOTES FOR MCAD CONNECTORS

RELEASE 2.3

October 20, 2006

Introduction

These release notes apply to the following Agile Engineering Collaboration MCAD Connectors: Pro/Engineer, SolidWorks, Solid Edge, Unigraphics, CATIA V4, and CATIA V5.

Release 2.3 is the first MCAD Connector release to support the new EC 1.2 platform. Since EC 1.2 is a new architecture and requires changes to the connector installation, release 2.3 also supports the existing EC 1.1 architecture. By supporting both architectures in parallel for this release, existing customers will have more flexibility in making the transition.

Customers with questions about moving to the new EC architecture should contact their Agile solution delivery representative.

New Connector Release Numbering

In order to clarify the point that the CAD Connector releases are independent of the EC Client and Agile 9 releases, the numbering scheme has been changed with this release. This release is designated as 2.3, and will progress upward from there. The full release designation is in the format 2.3.0.0, where the first digit is the major release, the second is the minor release, the third is the service pack, and the fourth is the hotfix. The CAD Connector release level can be determined by using the “Agile > About” command from the CAD system. Also note that each separate CAD Connector (Pro/E, SolidWorks, etc.) may have independent releases going forward, so you cannot assume that the latest version of each connector has the same number. The latest release of each Connector will always be available through Agile Software Operations.

Agile Version Support

Release 2.3 of the MCAD Connectors support the following versions of Agile PLM:

Using EC 1.1:

- Agile 9.0 (SP4 HF2 or higher)
- Agile 9.2
- Agile 9.2.1

Using EC 1.2:

- Agile 9.2.1

New CAD Connectors

Connectors are now available for the following CAD systems. For a full list of all supported CAD systems, versions, and operating systems, see the document “EC System and Version Support”.

- CATIA V4, version 4.2.x
- Solid Edge, versions 17 and 18

New CAD System Versions Supported

The following CAD system versions are now supported. For a full list of all supported CAD systems, versions, and operating systems, see the document “EC System and Version Support”.

- ❑ Pro/Engineer Wildfire 3
- ❑ SolidWorks 2007
- ❑ Unigraphics NX4
- ❑ CATIA V5 R15 and R16

Connector Naming Standardized

The naming of the Connector installation directories has been standardized to reflect the name of the Connector, as follows:

- ❑ ACP – Agile Connector to Pro/Engineer
- ❑ ACW – Agile Connector to SolidWorks
- ❑ ACE – Agile Connector to Solid Edge
- ❑ ACU – Agile Connector to Unigraphics
- ❑ ACC – Agile Connector to CATIA (both V4 and V5)

Using EC 1.1 vs. EC 1.2

Release 2.3 Connectors can run using either the EC 1.1 or EC 1.2 platform. At a feature level within the EC Client, these two versions are virtually identical, but the following architectural changes have been made in EC 1.2:

- ❑ New web services based API provides improved performance over WAN connections.
- ❑ The EC Client is now installed and configured on the Agile PLM server, and installed automatically on the CAD client using Java web start.
- ❑ The files used to configure the EC Client have changed since EC 1.1, but provide more flexibility.

Since the functionality is the same, we recommend that existing EC customers use these new Connectors with the EC 1.1 platform. The best time to migrate will be when functionality improvements are provided, in the next EC release.

For new customers, or where WAN performance is a key concern, then EC 1.2 should be considered. However, customers currently running EC 1.1 on Agile 9.0 should be aware that significant performance gains can be achieved just by moving to Agile 9.2.x, while staying on the EC 1.1 platform.

The following chart shows how to set each Connector to use either EC 1.1 or EC 1.2.

Table 1: Connector Settings

Connector	File to be modified	Setting for EC 1.1	Setting for EC 1.2
SolidWorks Solid Edge	3DCADMapping.ini	[EC_CLIENT_URL] ; 0 ;	[EC_CLIENT_URL] ; http://servername/EcpClient/start.html ;
Pro/Engineer	Acp.cfg	# #EC_CLIENT_URL # EC_VERSION=1.1 #	# EC_CLIENT_URL=http://servername/ EcpClient/start.html # EC_VERSION=1.2 #
CATIA	Acc.cfg	# #EC_CLIENT_URL # EC_VERSION=1.1 #	# EC_CLIENT_URL=http://servername/ EcpClient/start.html # EC_VERSION=1.2 #
Unigraphics	acu_start.bat	# #set EC_CLIENT_URL # set EC_VERSION=1.1 #	# set EC_CLIENT_URL=http://servername/ EcpClient/start.html # set EC_VERSION=1.2 #

Installing and Configuring the EC 1.1 Client

The EC 1.1 client is contained within the Connector installation packages, as it has been in past releases. A later hotfix version of EC 1.1 SP1 is provided, compared to what was provided in the initial EC 1.1 SP1 release. When updating to these new Connectors, following the installation instructions provided in the EC 1.1 documentation. Note that there are minor updates to the CaxClient.xml file, so copy and paste your specific configuration changes into the new version of this file.

Installing and Configuring the EC 1.2 Client

Starting with EC 1.2, the EC client is no longer bundled with the CAD Connectors, it must be downloaded from Agile separately. Follow the instructions in the EC 1.2 documentation to install the EC platform and client software on the Agile PLM server. Then install the necessary CAD Connectors on the client CAD workstations. When the user starts the EC client from his CAD system, it will automatically download the EC client to the user's machine via Java web start.

Change to SolidWorks Installation Process

In order to better standardize the installation process with the other CAD Connectors, the SolidWorks Connector no longer uses InstallShield as part of the installation. The process is now to simply unzip the Connector files and run a Windows command script to register the Connector program. See the Connector documentation for full details.

The new Solid Edge Connector is structured very similar to the SolidWorks Connector and also follows this new installation process.

Bug Fixes

The following bugs have been fixed in Release 2.3:

Error with “CAD Revision” Field on Save

When saving an assembly that includes a sub-assembly that is not at its latest released revision, the “CAD Revision” (CAX_TRANSFORM) BOM attribute was not being set correctly. This is now fixed.

Files being incorrect marked as out-of-date in Manage Change

In some situations it was possible that the Manage Change dialog would indicate a file being out-of-date compared to Agile, when it was not. This is now fixed.

New Capabilities

Release 2.3 is geared primarily towards supporting the new EC 1.2 platform and providing backward compatibility to EC 1.1. In addition, the following new capabilities are provided:

Improved SolidWorks “Save” Performance

The **Agile > Save** command within the SolidWorks Connector has been improved with a new “Quicksave” algorithm. This provides much faster response time during the Save command, when the Connector is querying the structure of the SolidWorks model. This is more noticeable with large models.

Agile Toolbar added in SolidWorks

The SolidWorks connector now includes a toolbar for easy access to the Agile EC commands.