



Maxsurf Version 12 Released

Formation Design Systems is pleased to announce the release of version 12 of Maxsurf. Our product development program of enhancements and additions is continuing to expand with all major modules having substantial additions in this release. All members of the Maxsurf subscription program will be sent Maxsurf version 12 over the coming weeks.

User Productivity Enhancements

Our main focus for Maxsurf version 12 has been to enhance user productivity. To this end we have added capabilities so that it is now possible to customise the user interface of all Maxsurf applications. You can now create and customise your own toolbars and toolbar buttons and give yourself instant access to your most commonly used commands. For example, you can create your own toolbar so that switching precision and turning trimming on and off can be done with a single mouse click. The icon for each toolbar button can also be fully customised making it easier and faster to recognise your most commonly used commands.

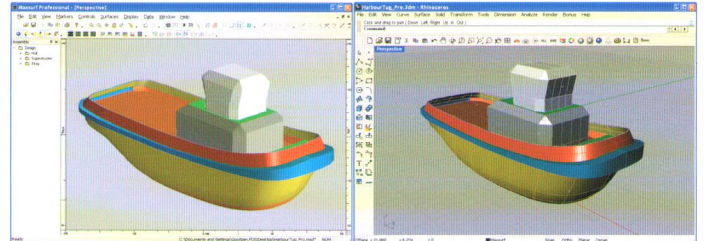
Another enhancement to the Maxsurf user interface is the option to be able to either dock, auto hide or float the Maxsurf Assembly window. The Assembly window was introduced in version 11 and has significantly improved user's productivity through its right-click user interface features and the drag and drop organisation of surfaces into assemblies.

Maxsurf Links with Rhino

In response to the fact that more and more of our users are using Rhino in conjunction with Maxsurf, we are now providing complete round-trip data exchange with Rhino. This allows both import and export of Rhino models and preserves information like surface names and colours and surface trimming.



Rhino is a very useful software tool to complement Maxsurf. Our recommended approach is to use Maxsurf for the major hull surfaces which require highest fairness, and then to use Rhino for superstructure modelling and for modelling of other features like fillets or deck features. We recommend starting



Tug model in Maxsurf and Rhino

designs in Maxsurf in order to use its comprehensive fairness evaluation tools and in-built hydrostatics. This also ensures these surfaces are well suited to using Maxsurf's parametric transformation capability for matching your hull model to desired hydrostatics characteristics.

The Maxsurf/Rhino combination allows you to take advantage of the strengths of both programs. More information on Rhino can be found at www.rhino3d.com.

Expanded Automation/VBA/Macro support

The ability to write scripts using a Visual Basic programming language and control Maxsurf from applications that support scripting such as AutoCAD, Word and/or Excel was introduced in version 11. Now, in Version 12, this Automation function is also available for the analysis programs in the Maxsurf suite: Hydromax, Seakeeper and Hullspeed.

A wide range of applications can benefit from Automation. One example would be writing a script to automatically generate NACA profile appendages where you specify the dimensions, taper and aspect ratios and sweep angle in Excel and save as a Maxsurf surface. With Hydromax Automation you could simulate a truck driving on to a car deck and evaluate the longitudinal strength analysis results by writing a simple script in Excel. Another simple example is preparing your company's stability booklet format and layout in Word and then use Automation to do a "Get latest Hydromax results" for any project.

The combination of Maxsurf, Hydromax, Seakeeper and Hullspeed Automation can also be useful for parameter optimisation studies. Using the Automation on the Maxsurf