Counting Widgets

Programmatically Counting Assets from AutoCAD

Often it is desired to know how many of what parts are used in a given AutoCAD drawing. Such widgets are usually defined as Blocks in AutoCAD and each usage of a Block is called a Block Reference or Block Instance. Each Block Reference can have its own set of data attached to it called Attributes.

Tailor Made Software's LinkList is a command line driven program available on both Windows (32-bit and 64-bit) and Linux (64-bit). It is designed to output information about what is in an AutoCAD DWG/DXF file and can do some data mining processing on AutoCAD files.

The Count function in LinkList can provide the counts of how many of each Block is used in a drawing. The Count is the overall count in the ModelSpace drawing. The output can be to a text, CSV, XML, or JSON file.

Example

Count Processing is controlled with a single parameter, -count.

```
-i="d:\drawings\hq17_w_attr.dwg" -csv -count
```

This produces a CSV (Comma Separated Value, which can be used in Excel) file with the layer, block name and counts defined (abbreviated):

```
"WN","WNH",26
"FN$","SC",20
"FN$","FILE",31
"FN$","WKSRF",10
"FN$","PART",26
"FN$","UNIT",21
"FN$","CHAIR",14
"FN$","WSURF",30
"FN$","CWSURF",16
"EM$","PERSON",26
"FP$","OUTLETW",28
"A-FURN-SEAT-E","SZT-ARM-2D",21
"A-FURN-FREE-E","405_FURN$0$SDTASK",12
```

And the table of those values:

LAYER	BLOCK NAME	COUNT
FN$	FILE	31
FN$	WSURF	30
FP$	OUTLETW	28
EM$	PERSON	26
FN$	PART	26
WN	WNH	26
A-FURN-SEAT-E	SZT-ARM-2D	21
FN$	UNIT	21
FN$	SC	20
FN$	CWSURF	16
FN$	CHAIR	14
A-FURN-FREE-E	405_FURN0SDTASK	12
FN$	WKSRF	10