

Knowledge Base

Information



Abaqus/CAE plug-in to save sketch background images

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QUESTION

I have images displayed in the background of some sketches. Is there an option in Abaqus/CAE to save the positioning information of these images so that it can be loaded in the next Abaqus/CAE session?

ANSWER

(The following applies to Abaqus/CAE 6.7 and higher)

An Abaqus/CAE plug-in application for this purpose is attached below. The plug-in allows you to save the sketch background information for all sketches into XML format and import it back in a later Abaqus/CAE session. The plug-in internally stores the sketch name, filename for the background image, and positioning settings in XML format. Therefore, if you rename sketches or rename/delete image files from your computer after exporting the sketch information, the sketch backgrounds may not be imported correctly. If your current model already has a few sketches with background images, then this plug-in can overwrite those backgrounds with the imported sketch backgrounds.

Installation

Important: The latest XML core module must be installed before this plug-in can be used. Please refer to Answer [Abaqus/CAE plug-in for XML-based save and import of session-specific settings](#) for details about obtaining and installing the XML core module.

When the XML core module is installed, one of the following directories is created:

`abaqus_dir\abaqus_plugins\caeXML` where `abaqus_dir` is the Abaqus parent directory

`home_dir\abaqus_plugins\caeXML` where `home_dir` is your home directory

`current_dir\abaqus_plugins\caeXML` where `current_dir` is the current directory

Save the attached archive files in the caeXML directory where the XML core files have been saved.

On Windows platforms, right click on the archive file and select **WinZip** → **Extract to here**. On Linux platforms, type **unzip sketchBackground.zip** at the command prompt. A folder, named sketchBackground, and sub-folders will be extracted. Note that the plug-in will not function properly if this procedure is not followed.

Usage

- While creating a sketch in your model, use the **Image** tab of the **Sketcher Options** dialog to modify the sketch background. We recommend that you exit the Sketcher before exporting or importing sketch background information.

- From any module, select **Plug-ins ? Export/Import XML...** to receive the following dialog:



-

In the **File name:** field enter the name of the file where the definitions will be exported. If the file does not exist, it will be created in the directory from which you launched Abaqus/CAE. If you wish to save the definitions in the current model database then select the **MDB** radio button. Or if you wish to save the settings in any currently open output database then select the **ODB** option and choose appropriate ODB from the combo box.

4.

Select the **Sketch Background** tree item on the left if it is not already selected.

5.

Press **Export** to receive following dialog:



6.

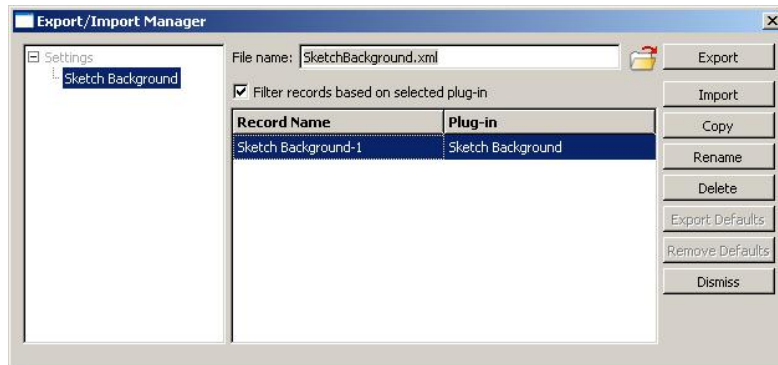
Specify the **Record Name** as desired. For details on records and record names, please see [Answer Abaqus/CAE plug-in for XML-based save and import of session-specific settings](#).

7.

Press **OK** to export

8.

To load previously saved sketch background images, select **Plug-ins** → **Export/Import XML...** from any module to receive following dialog:



9.

Enter the appropriate **Output** and select the **Sketch Background** tree item on the left. Select the record that you wish to import and press **Import** Button. Sketch background images information for all sketches will be imported.

10.

11.

Notes

The XML schema used when storing object information may change in future releases of Abaqus/CAE. Thus, future versions of this plug-in may not be able to import XML files created from previous versions. Also, during export you may see a warnings of the form:

Type information missing for the object: mdb.models[modelName].sketches[sketchName].imageOptions

This warning is due to bug v68_0926 and the plug-in is designed to workaround the bug. The bug will be resolved in Abaqus/CAE 6.9-1.

Go to the [Status Reports Utility](#) and search for the following status reports:

v68_0926

Disclaimer

The attachments to this article are subject to certain usage conditions. Please [click here](#) for details.

KEYWORDS **plug-in, plugin, Sketch, Background, Image, plug-in, persistent, load, import, export, display, xml**

ATTACHMENT [sketchBackground.zip](#) [Answer_3896_Fig2.jpg](#) [Answer_3896_Fig1.jpg](#) [Answer_3896_Fig3.jpg](#)

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UNCLEAR MISSING INFO DUPLICATE OUT OF DATE ERROR DETECTED

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