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# Activity 4.1d Software Modeling Introduction (Digital STEAM)

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## Introduction

3D modeling is a powerful tool for engineers. It allows an idea to be translated into a model that can communicate the concept, adapt to changes, and even create a physical model with devices such as a prototype or a mill.

In this activity you will learn the basic Autodesk® Inventor® software interface and file management. This orientation is important to allow efficient modeling of your own ideas.

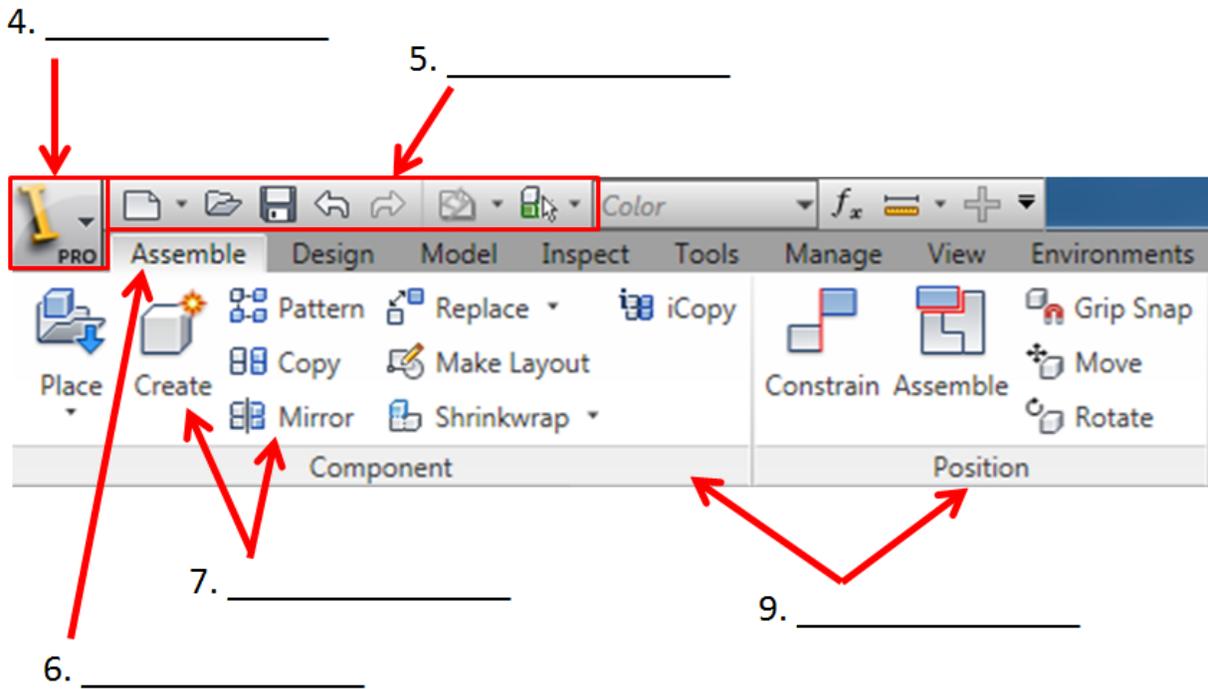
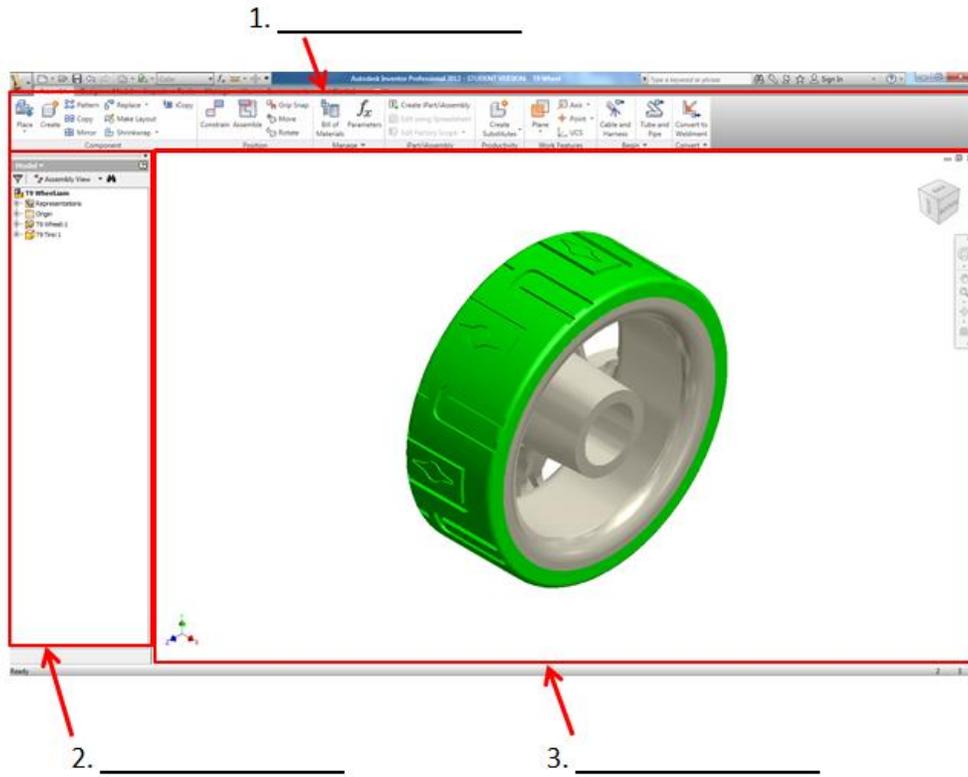
## Equipment

- Engineering notebook
- Pencil
- PC with Autodesk Inventor Software

## Procedure

1. Go to the **Autodesk Digital STEAM** site at the link below.  
<http://curriculum.autodesk.com/student/public/index/index>
2. Click Level 1, Digital Study Packet, then Inventor.
3. Under User Interface click Primary Environments and view the tutorial. Answer the questions below. Note: Move the cursor away from the video window for a clear view.
  - a. What are the four Inventor base environments and file extension names?
    - i. \_\_\_\_\_
    - ii. \_\_\_\_\_
    - iii. \_\_\_\_\_
    - iv. \_\_\_\_\_

4. View the tutorials listed under UI Navigation – UI Navigation 1, UI Navigation 2, and Graphics Window Display. Answer the questions below.
  - a. Label the features of the user interaction images below.



b. Label the Assembly environment below.

The image shows two CAD software browser trees. The left tree is for a part named 'T9 Wheel' and the right tree is for an assembly named 'T9 Wheel.iam'. Red boxes and arrows point to specific items in both trees, labeled 1 through 4.

**Part Environment (Left Tree):**

- 1. Revolution2
- 2. Sketch1 (under Revolution3)

**Assembly Environment (Right Tree):**

- 3. T9 Tire:1
- 4. Flush:1

c. How do you display the browser if it has disappeared?

d. How do you edit the display of items in your Quick Access Tool Bar?

5. View the tutorial listed under Navigation Control. Answer the questions below.

a. Label the navigation control image to the right.

The image shows a 3D model of a rectangular block with 'BACK' and 'BOTTOM' labels. Below the model is a vertical navigation control toolbar. Red arrows point to specific icons in the toolbar, labeled 1 through 3.

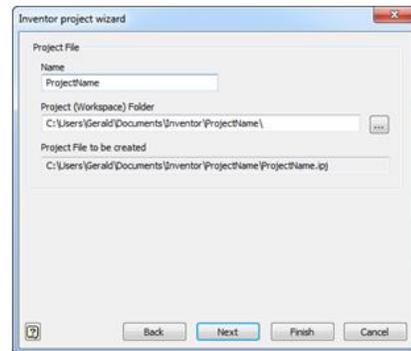
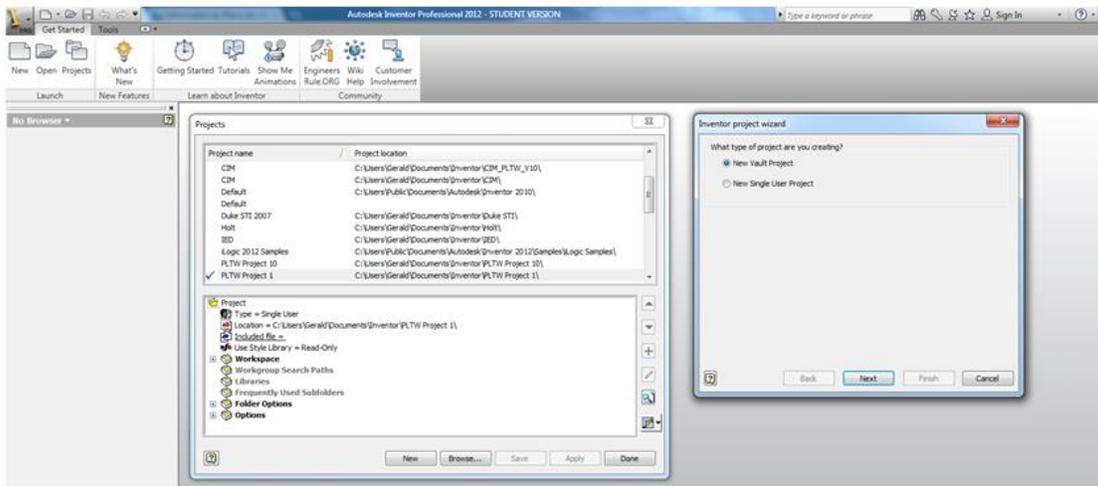
- 1. Home icon (top of toolbar)
- 2. Rotate icon (middle of toolbar)
- 3. Hand icon (bottom of toolbar)

b. Describe the functions available with each of the following function keys.

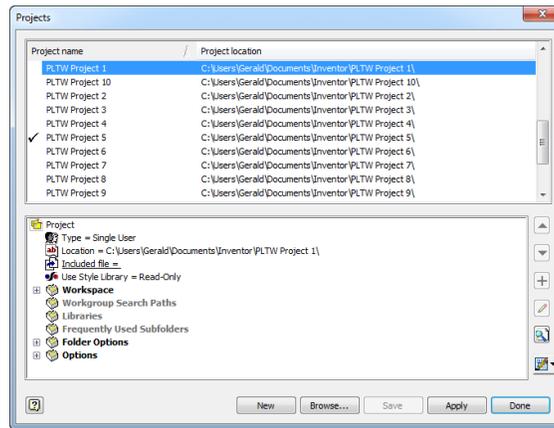
- F2 \_\_\_\_\_
- F3 \_\_\_\_\_
- F4 \_\_\_\_\_
- F5 \_\_\_\_\_
- F6 \_\_\_\_\_

6. View the Project Files tutorial. Answer the questions below.

a. Label the images below with the steps needed to set up a project without Libraries



b. What is the active project in the images below?



c. How would the PLTW Project 3 be made the active project?

## Conclusion

1. Why is using the vocabulary presented in the tutorials important?
2. Why is it important to properly select the project each time a model is created?