

# Questions and answers from Autodesk tips and tricks webinars run on 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017

## PowerMill

**Question** - 'how did you thicken those lines?'

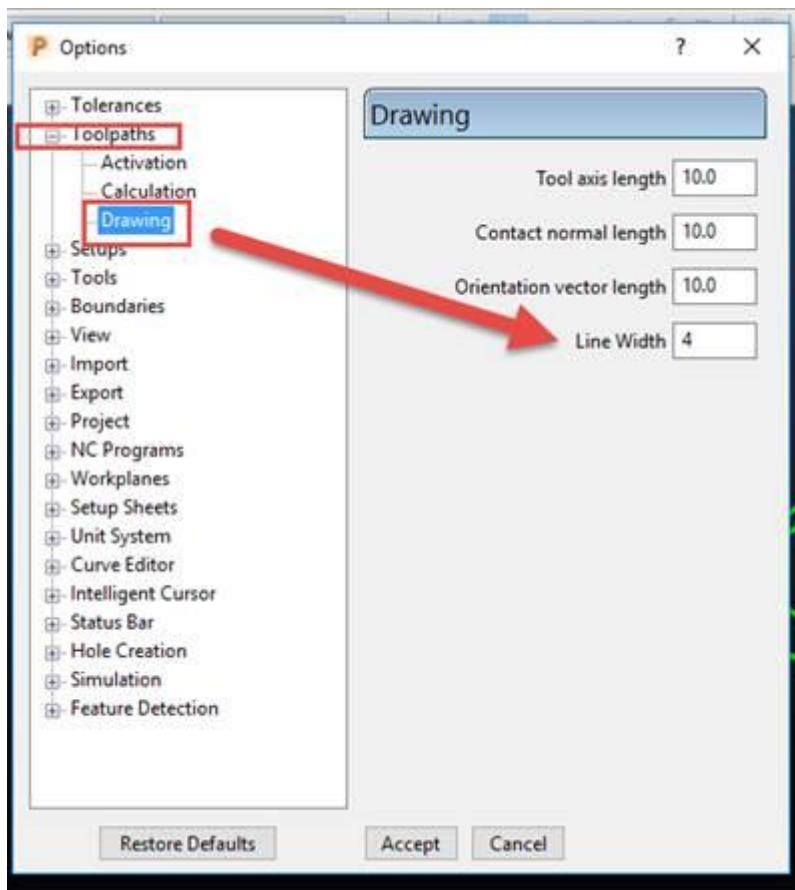
**Chris's answer** - I have a customised set of buttons on a toolbar to issue the command - *EDIT PAR 'powermill.Options.ToolpathOpts.Drawing.LineWidth' 4*

With '4' being the line width – 1 is default.

I plan on a short webinar to introduce users to basic customising, toolbars, capturing commands and parameters, getting started with macros, shortcut keys etc. look out for it!

OR to set it manually each time -

Tools > options > toolpaths > Drawing > Line width



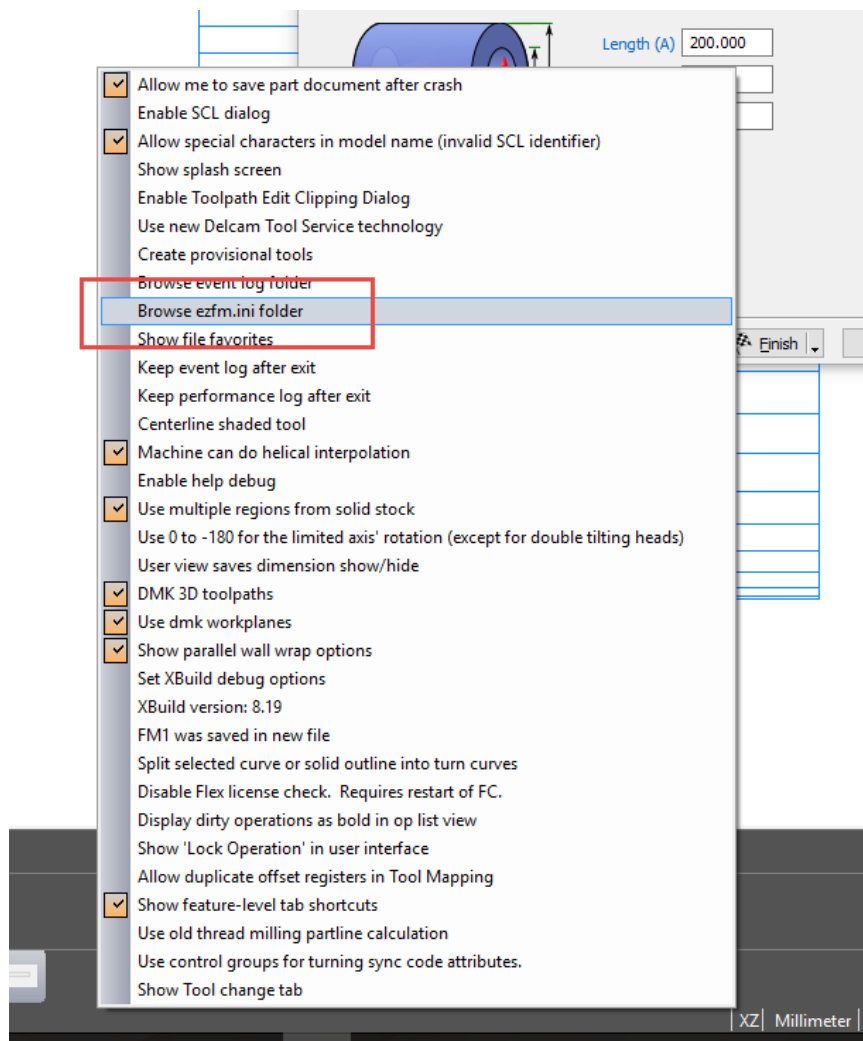
## FeatureCAM

**Question:** “can you export custom toolbars in FeatureCAM?”

**John’s answer:** yes you can, but it is not a straightforward ‘export’ option as you have in PowerMill.

What you need to do is:-

1. create your toolbar, save your part and exit and re-enter FeatureCAM. This updates the ezfm.ini – the text file that holds many FeatureCAM settings.
2. Locate your ezfm.ini file by ctrl+rh-click on the bottom status bar of Featurecam (this brings up the ‘hidden’ menu):-



- When this folder is open, look for the file called EZFM\_ui.ini

Name	Date modified	Type	Size
AutoSave	21/07/2016 09:55	File folder	
FeatureCAM	21/10/2016 08:31	File folder	
FeatureCAM 2017	26/01/2017 08:07	File folder	
FeatureCAM 2018	09/01/2017 13:39	File folder	
FeatureCAM22.4	04/12/2015 08:10	File folder	
FeatureCAM-test	19/12/2014 12:14	File folder	
safe ini	25/07/2016 16:26	File folder	
ezfm.mac	09/03/2017 15:08	MAC File	1 KB
EZFM_mfg.INI	17/05/2016 20:29	Configuration sett...	35 KB
<b>EZFM_ui.INI</b>	09/03/2017 15:09	Configuration sett...	37 KB
ezfm_ui.XML	09/02/2017 11:36	XML Document	87 KB
Probing.ini	11/07/2016 11:01	Configuration sett...	1 KB
SetupSheet.ini	29/09/2016 10:55	Configuration sett...	1 KB
XBuild.ini	10/02/2017 16:02	Configuration sett...	1 KB

- Right-click on the file and select edit. Find the name of your toolbar ('johns faves' in my case) and copy the section from [Toolbars19.000-Bar26] right down to MfgVis=1 (the start of this section will vary depending on how many toolbars you have already...)

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826 Buttons=CGDIAAAAACDGDIAAAAJIDIAAAAAEEJGDHMHMBGJHNEFMHGEHJGEFFHCHCHFGEHOEDEPEPGEFGJEOGIEEFNEMEGEPGCHNGBC
827 MfgVis=1
828 [Toolbars19.000-Bar26]
829 BarID=59426
830 Visible=0
831 XPos=1459
832 YPos=28
833 MRUWidth=217
834 Docking=1
835 MRUDockID=59419
836 MRUDockLeftPos=1459
837 MRUDockTopPos=28
838 MRUDockRightPos=1693
839 MRUDockBottomPos=67
840 MRUFloatStyle=8196
841 MRUFloatXPos=-2147483648
842 MRUFloatYPos=0
843 Style=12212
844 ExStyle=131852
845 PrevFloating=0
846 MDIChild=0
847 PetWidth=492868
848 MRUFloatCX=231
849 MRUFloatCY=39
850 MRUHorzDockCX=234
851 MRUHorzDockCY=39
852 MRUVertDockCX=39
853 MRUVertDockCY=231
854 MRUDockingState=0
855 DockingStyle=61440
856 TypeID=14946
857 ClassName=CMfgCustomToolBar
858 WindowName=johns faves
859 ResourceID=0
860 AutoHide=0
861 AutoHidePinned=0
862 LastAlignedDocking=0
863 Title=johns faves
864 Buttons=DABOAAAAAAAALCBOAAAAAAAAMCBOAAAAAAAAADNAIAAAAAAEDBIAAAAAAFDBIAAAAAAGEAIAAAAAA
865 MfgVis=1
866 [Toolbars19.000-Summary]
867 Bars=27
868 ScreenCX=1920
869 ScreenCY=1080
870 [Recent File List]
871

```

5. This can now be pasted into the same location in any other users EZFM\_ui.ini

It may be easier at the moment to recreate the toolbar for other users rather than go through this method.

An option to export has been requested.

## PowerInspect

**Question:** *“Is it okay to set up datum planes as un-probed features? i.e plane:point vector instead of a probed plane?”*

**Stefano’s answer:** Yes it is ok to set up datum planes as un-probed features, but you need to be aware that if you are projecting features onto an un-measured reference plane, and the reference plane is not exactly parallel or at the same height as the nominal plane, then your measurement results will be inaccurate. In some cases there may not be any measurable planes on a part, an impeller blade for example. In these cases the only solution is to create a nominal plane.

**Question:** *“How do you automatically renumber in a geometric group the same as in a surface group?”*

**Stefano’s answer:** There is currently no way to automatically renumber all the items in a geometric group, as in most cases geometric features are normally given a more descriptive name during the programming phase so they can be recognised easily on the report. If you have a specific need for this functionality, then we can create a custom add-in that does this using the automation functionality within PowerInspect.