Zd Macro

If you find any of my macros useful then a contribution towards the cost of their development and distribution is expected and would be appreciated.
Contributions can be made using Paypal at www.dhsoftware.com.au/contribute.htm, or Australian users can make a contribution using my PayID of 'contribute@dhsoftware.com.au' using the New Payments Platform supported by most Australian banks (please email me after contributing if you require a receipt).

Purpose

This macro will display the current Z distance (i.e. the distance between Z-Base and Z-Height for the current layer). This is displayed in DataCAD's error message area.

Once the distance is displayed the macro terminates without requesting any user input.

Suggested Use from a Keyboard Shortcut or Toolbar Icon

Although the macro can be called by selecting it from the Toolbox option in the Edit menu, it is suggested that you invoke it from a keyboard shortcut or a toolbar icon. You could also configure the Toolbox menu at the top of the DataCAD window to include this macro.

Keyboard Shortcut

If you have the Pro version of DataCAD then you can define keyboard shortcuts which are invoked using an Alt-Key combination (instructions on how to do this are included in the Appendix of the DataCAD Manual: Search for 'Creating Keyboard Shortcuts').

If you are already using all the possible Alt-Key combinations the you could combine this command with an existing one if desired.
For example the default action for Alt-Z is to display DataCAD's Display Scale menu, but you could change that to call the zd macro (to display the Z distance in the error area) *as well as* going to the Display Scale menu. A modified entry for Alt-Z in your dcadwin.mcr file to do this is shown below:

```
Z^;^S9^zd$^19#^
//display scale and z distance
```

Toolbar Icons

You can add the zd macro to a new icon in a custom toolbar, and suitable icon images are included in the icons folder in the distributed zip file.

Instructions for creating Custom Toolbars are included in the Appendix of the DataCAD Manual (Search for 'Creating Custom Toolbars'), but I also recommend some more extensive notes on the matter at Josh Huggin's web site.

If you are using a version of DataCAD greater than 21.03.03.00[1] then I recommend using the 'M' action code to call the macro in your dtb file. An example entry is shown below:

```
[Zd]
Hint=Display current Z-Distance
Icon=zd32.png
M=zd
```

If you are using a version of DataCAD up to and including 21.03.03.00 then you will need to use the 'A' action code to call the macro. (This has the disadvantage that DataCAD will return you to the Edit menu after displaying the Z-Distance; the 'M' code leaves DataCAD in the current menu but unfortunately it is not supported for this macro in these versions of DataCAD).
An example dtb file entry using the 'A' action code is shown below:

```
[Zd]
Hint=Display current Z-Distance
Icon=zd32.png
A=^;^S9^zd.dmx$^
```

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[1] At the time of writing, 21.03.03.00 was the latest Beta version of DataCAD. I am told that the 'M' code for this macro will be supported in the next build but have not actually been able to test that.