INDUSTRY SURVEY INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

I. General Company Information
   a. Size of company/division (based on sales, # employees?)
   b. Specialization (i.e., performance apparel, childrenswear, outerwear, etc.)
   c. Market (meaning price point: bridge, high fashion, etc.)
   d. What is your job description/title (Design or Product Development?)

II. General technology information
   a. How dependent is your company/division on computer technology in the areas of design and product development? Please be specific.

III. What software/hardware are you currently using?
   a. Please circle one: Office Systems, Cad Systems, or Tech Pack Systems
   b. Why did you choose it? Was your decision based on recommendation, personal experience, or demonstration?
   c. How significant was cost or functionality in the decision-making process?
   d. Who made the final decision? What voice did the design/development staff have in making the decision?
   e. Does it do what you need it to do? Are there enhancements, which you would like but which are not available? Is its functionality limited?
   f. Does it do more than you expected it to? Have you found other features that have become useful to you over time?
   g. Are you satisfied with your decision? Would you make the same decision if you had it to do all over again, or would you choose something else? If so, what else?
   h. Have you rejected certain technology? If so, what and why?
i. If using proprietary software packages, do you adopt systems upgrades immediately? What is your upgrade policy?

j. Any predictions about future technology migration?

IV. System Interface

a. Are your systems stand-alone, or do they interface with other corporate systems? What level of involvement does your design/development staff need to have with these other systems?

b. Do you use a web-based product life cycle system? Lectra? Gerber's Web PDM?

c. How has technology impacted your interface to makers/vendors? Do you rely on printed documents, or do you share information with them electronically? If so, how is this information shared?

V. Hiring/training

a. What technology is a requirement for new hires in design/product development? What technology is a plus?

b. If you use proprietary cad or tech pack systems, do you provide training for new hires? Or is experience with generic systems ok for new hires? Do you find that experience with off-the-shelf products such as Illustrator and Photoshop is sufficient?

c. Do you have experience with ePortfolios? Reactions?

d. Have you noticed any shortfall in the technology skills of recent graduates? What can FIT do to train their students so that they would be best prepared for your workplace?

VI. Any additional comments?