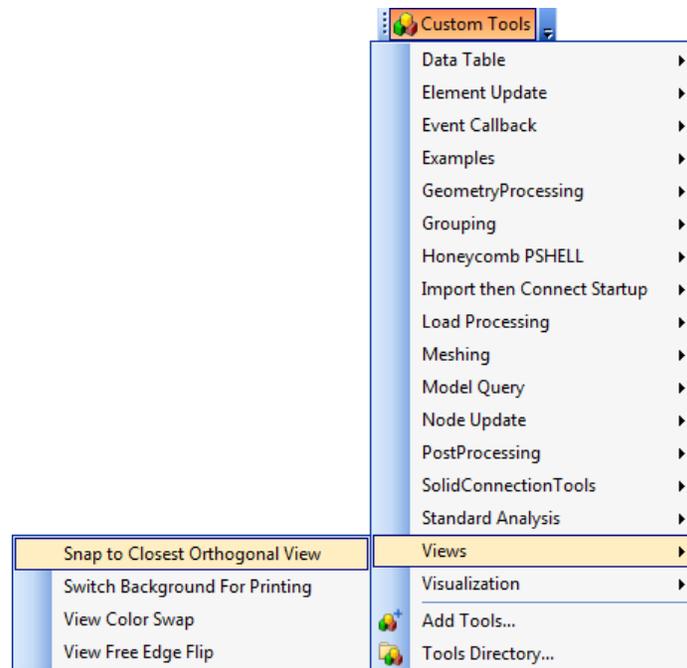


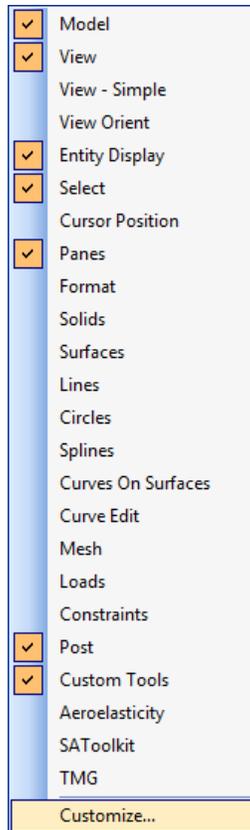
## Femap Tips and Tricks: Assign Shortcut Key to Custom Program

In Femap it's possible to assign a shortcut key to a particular command, which makes it very convenient to repeat the command particularly when you are performing a series of actions where the command is used over and over again. However, you can go even further than this, and assign a shortcut key to a custom program, allowing the key to potentially perform repeated sequences of commands. Let's see how to set this up.

First of all let's select a custom program file to assign as a shortcut. If you click the **Custom Tools** icon, you'll see a list of all of the custom programs that are delivered with Femap. In the **View** section, you'll see one entitled **Snap to Closest Orthogonal View**. When you execute this program, the Femap view will shift to the closest orthogonal view, which is very helpful when you require exact views of the model to be activated easily.



To assign this program to a shortcut key, right click in the toolbars area of the Femap screen, and scroll down to select **Customize...**

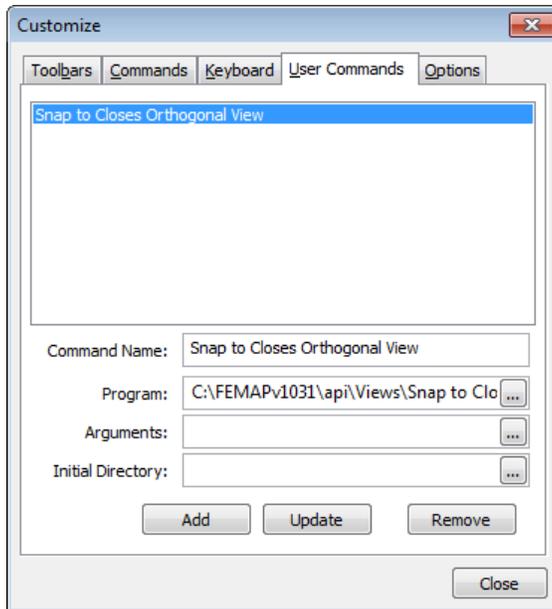


In the resulting *Customize* dialog, select the **User Commands** tab, and click the ... icon next to the *Program* field. In the **Command Name** field, enter a suitable name for the command to be selected.

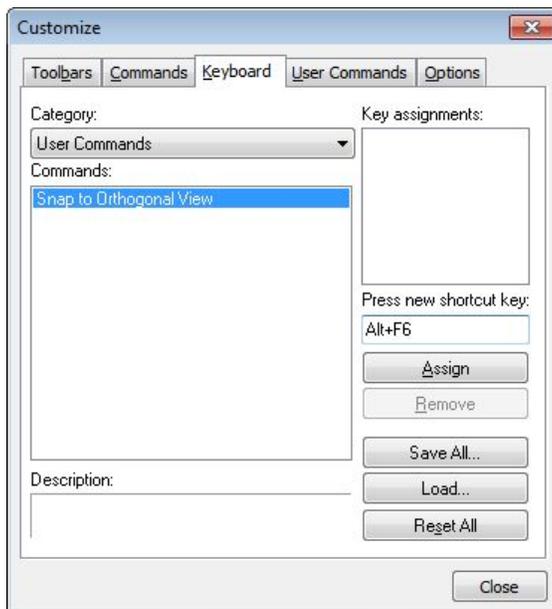
You'll then be prompted to navigate to a program file in the *Open* dialog. All of the program files that are delivered with Femap are added to the *api* directory below the Femap install directory. In this case we wish to select the program **Snap to Closest Orthogonal View.BAS** in the *Views* directory. For the default Femap installation location, the pathname is:

C:\FEMAPv1031\api\Views\ Snap to Closest Orthogonal View.BAS

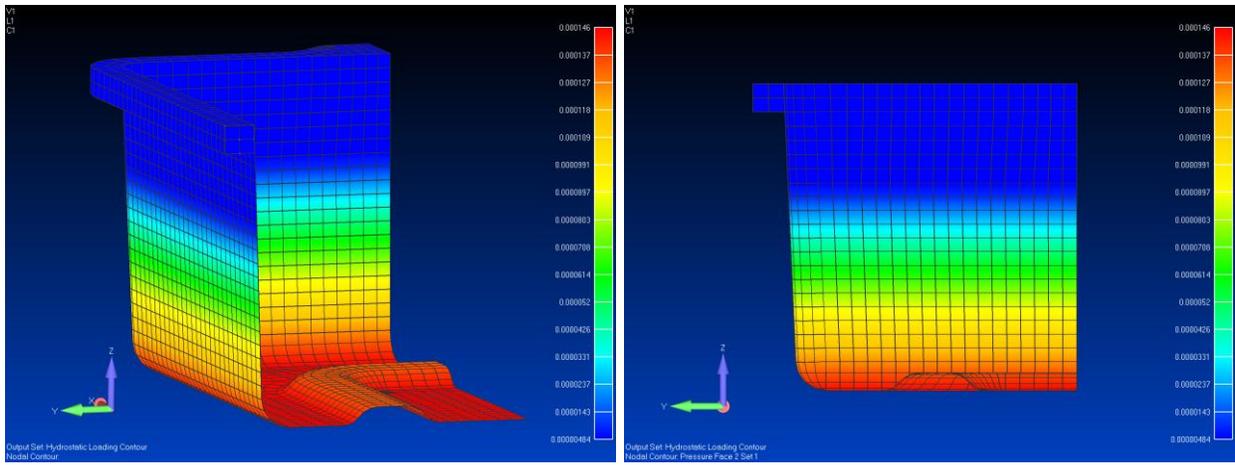
Select the program and click **Open**.



Now click **Add** then **Close** to finish the program file selection. The next step is to assign the program to a shortcut key. Go back and right click in the toolbars area of the Femap screen, scroll down and click **Customize...** as before. This time pick the **Keyboard** tab of the *Customize* dialog. Under *Press a New Shortcut Key*, enter an unassigned shortcut key, **Alt+F6** for example, and then click **Assign**.



The shortcut key should then appear up in the *Key assignments* box. Click **Close** to complete the key assignment. Now when you enter the shortcut key, the custom program will be executed. In this example, the view will shift to the closest orthogonal view.



You can watch the video of this Femap tip on [YouTube](#).