

1. General Information

1.1 What is AutoCAD 2005?

Creating a single drawing as efficiently as possible is important. Delivering a coordinated set of drawings in a timely manner directly benefits your bottom line. With AutoCAD® 2005 software you can do both. Everyday tools like the table object and tool palettes boost productivity, and the new Sheet Set Manager helps you control content across entire sets of related drawings, enabling you to lower the risk for errors. Then, in a single view, you can compose and collate sheet sets and share them with your project team using plots, eTransmit, or DWF files.

Whether you use AutoCAD for 2D drafting, detailing, design documentation, or introductory 3D design, you can personalize or program the software to meet your specific design needs or add an industry-specific application built to work with AutoCAD. AutoCAD software is a worldwide standard in computer-aided design (CAD). More people use AutoCAD than any other CAD software.

1.2 Who uses AutoCAD software?

AutoCAD is used to create technical drawings and documentation in many industries. Designers, architects, engineers, land planners, contractors, facility managers, and educational institutions and students are examples of customers who currently use AutoCAD.

AutoCAD is a foundation technology that supports other Autodesk industry-targeted applications, as well as hundreds of third-party applications. It fits into any design solution that requires a general, customizable drafting and design tool.

1.3 What are the main benefits of AutoCAD 2005?

AutoCAD 2005 provides significant benefits to both small and large organizations in creating, managing, and sharing project information, a process often complicated by the dispersed and fast paced nature of team-based work. To remain competitive, companies must reduce errors and omissions, guard against complacency and improve the overall quality of their deliverables. The new features in AutoCAD 2005 were developed to address these requirements.

Organizations that implement and fully exploit the powerful functionality of AutoCAD 2005, especially the new Sheet Set Manager, will realize the benefits of more accurate project deliverables. They can efficiently and confidently respond to project changes and increase their productivity. The new Sheet Set Manager in AutoCAD 2005 offers superior benefits when compared to the traditional methods of managing individual drawings as separate files. By utilizing the Sheet Set Manager, both small and large organizations can efficiently and accurately create, compose, collate, update, publish, distribute, archive, and manage sheet sets.

For more details on the benefits AutoCAD 2005 refer to the Features web page for more information – www.autodesk.com/autocad-features.

2. Availability and Pricing

2.1 When is AutoCAD 2005 available?

AutoCAD 2005 is available worldwide in English, German, and Japanese in March 2004.

2.2 When can I expect localized versions of AutoCAD 2005 to ship?

Within 30 days after the English version ships, you can expect the following localized versions:

- French
- Spanish

- Simplified Chinese
- Chinese (Taiwan)
- Korean

Within 60 days after the English version ships:

- Italian
- After 90 days:
- Eastern European languages
- European Nordic Regions
- Brazilian Portuguese

2.3 Can I try AutoCAD 2005 before I buy it?

Yes. You can try it by requesting the AutoCAD 2005 Trial version. This full-functioning version of AutoCAD 2005 is available as a free, 30-day trial version. You can order the trial CD from your Autodesk Authorized Autodesk Reseller or online at <http://www.autodesk.com/autocad-ordertrial>. A streaming version of AutoCAD 2005 will also be available to customers in North America and Canada.

2.4 What are the purchasing options and pricing for AutoCAD 2005?

AutoCAD 2005 is available to you through your local reseller, the Autodesk Store at www.autodesk.com/store, or through Autodesk® Subscription, where available. If you need help finding a reseller, please refer to www.autodesk.com/reseller. Consult your local reseller or the Autodesk Store for pricing information.

2.5 What are the benefits of an Autodesk® Subscription?

Autodesk® Subscription is a complete software, support, and training offering that gives you easy access to the latest Autodesk® product releases and upgrades with expert technical support, self-paced e-Learning, and a range of exclusive community resources such as product webcasts and weblogs. Autodesk Subscription helps you extend the power of your design technology to the fullest. For an annual fee, Autodesk Subscription gives you a complete solution to software upgrades that simplifies your license management, improves your budgeting, and minimizes disruptions to your workflow.

For the latest information on Autodesk Subscription, including availability and purchase requirements, visit <http://www.autodesk.com/subscription> or contact your local authorized representative. AutoCAD subscriptions are sold by Autodesk Authorized Autodesk Resellers on behalf of Autodesk.

3. Compatibility

3.1 Can I run AutoCAD 2005 side-by-side on my computer with AutoCAD® 2004, 2002, 2000i, or 2000?

Yes, AutoCAD 2005 is designed to run side-by-side with the AutoCAD 2000/2000i/2002/2004 versions, enabling you to make a smooth transition to the new release of AutoCAD. AutoCAD 2005's migration feature helps you make a smooth transition to the new release by automatically migrating customized menus, hatch patterns, linetypes, command short cuts and AutoCAD profiles.

3.2 Has the AutoCAD 2005 drawing file format (DWG) changed from the AutoCAD 2004 file format, as it did between AutoCAD 2002 and AutoCAD 2004?

No, the new features and functionality developed in AutoCAD 2005 maintain DWG and DXF™ file compatibility between the AutoCAD 2004 and AutoCAD 2005 software versions. You can directly and easily share files between different design teams using AutoCAD 2004 and AutoCAD 2005. In addition, AutoCAD 2005 has a built-in SaveAs function to save drawings in AutoCAD 2000/2000i/2002 format.

3.3 Does AutoCAD 2005 read and save drawings created by earlier releases of AutoCAD?

Yes, AutoCAD 2005 reads drawing files from all previous versions of AutoCAD software.

AutoCAD 2005 has a built-in SaveAs function so you can save and safely round-trip drawings to and from AutoCAD releases 2000/2000i/2002 and 2004 DWG formats. In addition, you can use the SaveAs AutoCAD Release 12 DXF command to support releases prior to AutoCAD 2000.

Also, the Autodesk® Batch Drawing Converter 2005 can be used to convert any AutoCAD or AutoCAD-based drawing file to AutoCAD Release 14, AutoCAD 2000, AutoCAD 2000i, AutoCAD 2002, and AutoCAD 2004 file formats. The Autodesk Batch Drawing Converter 2005 is a free download available at www.autodesk.com/migrationtools.

3.4 Is AutoCAD 2005 compatible with AutoCAD LT 2005?

Yes, AutoCAD 2005 software is fully DWG-compatible with AutoCAD LT® 2005 software. It can read files from all older versions of AutoCAD LT and can save to the AutoCAD LT 2004 and 2002/2000i/2000 DWG file formats for compatibility with older products.

3.5 Do AutoCAD 2000/2000i/2002/2004 customized files work in AutoCAD 2005?

Yes, with some modifications. AutoCAD 2005 includes a migration feature that will automatically migrate customized AutoCAD 2000/2000i/2002/2004 menus, hatch patterns, linetypes, command short cuts and AutoCAD profiles. This feature can migrate your customizations at install time or after you have installed AutoCAD 2005. For more information on migrating your customized files, please consult the AutoCAD online Help.

3.6 How are AutoLISP programs affected by changes in AutoCAD 2005?

AutoLISP® routines, linetype files, hatch patterns, PGP files and other customizations that have been written for AutoCAD 2000/2000i/2002/2004 releases should work in AutoCAD 2005; no changes have been made that would affect them.

3.7 Will my third-party application that runs on AutoCAD 2004 be available for AutoCAD 2005?

Yes, AutoCAD 2005 is both DWG and application compatible with AutoCAD 2004. Applications from third parties—whether they are based on ObjectARX®, COM Automation, VBA/VB, or Visual LISP®—that support either product do not require an update. Autodesk has been providing prerelease software and technical guidance to members of the Autodesk Developer Network to ensure that their applications will work for you. You should contact your application developer/supplier if you have any questions regarding your application.

You can find more information on the availability of third-party applications compatible with AutoCAD 2005 at www.autodesk.com/partnerproducts.

3.8 Do AutoCAD 2000/2000i/2002 third-party applications work with AutoCAD 2005?

Maybe. Some AutoCAD 2000/2000i/2002 third-party add-on applications based on Visual LISP and VBA may be compatible with AutoCAD 2005. Third-party applications based on ActiveX and ObjectARX will require upgrades to be compatible with AutoCAD 2005. There are numerous compatible applications available for AutoCAD 2005. Check with your application developer/supplier regarding availability of applications built for AutoCAD 2005.

3.9 Will the AutoCAD 2000i/2002/2004 extensions work with AutoCAD 2005?

All the modular functionality delivered in the AutoCAD 2000i/2002/2004 extensions has been built into AutoCAD 2005. Therefore, the AutoCAD 2000i/2002/2004 extensions will not install on AutoCAD 2005 and are not necessary.

3.10 Is AutoCAD 2005 interoperable with other Autodesk products?

AutoCAD 2005 is the foundation for an interoperable family of Autodesk products. Sharing the same database framework component—ObjectDBX™ for reading and writing drawing files—ensures that the next generation of Autodesk products is interoperable with AutoCAD 2005. These products include 3ds max® and Autodesk® VIZ 4, Autodesk® DWF™ Viewer, Autodesk® Raster Design, Autodesk® OnSite View, and the AutoCAD industry-specific desktop products, including Autodesk Map™, AutoCAD® Mechanical, Autodesk® Mechanical Desktop®, Autodesk® Architectural Desktop, Autodesk® Land Desktop, and Autodesk® Civil Design.

3.11 When will the AutoCAD 2005-based industry-specific applications be available?

Autodesk applications built on the AutoCAD 2005 foundation that will be available 15-120 days after AutoCAD 2005 include Autodesk Architectural Desktop, AutoCAD Mechanical, AutoCAD® Electrical, Autodesk Map™, Autodesk Land Desktop 2005, Autodesk Civil Design 2005, Autodesk® Survey 2005, Autodesk Raster Design 2005. AutoCAD® OEM 2004 and the updated ObjectDBX will be released about 90 days following after the AutoCAD 2005 software's March ship date.

3.12 Can I run AutoCAD 2005 side-by-side with other AutoCAD platform-based applications?

Yes, AutoCAD 2005 can be installed side-by-side with any other AutoCAD or AutoCAD-based product versions—including AutoCAD 2005-based versions. These products include Autodesk Mechanical Desktop, AutoCAD Mechanical, Autodesk Architectural Desktop, Autodesk Land Desktop, Autodesk Civil Design, Autodesk Map, and AutoCAD LT software.

4. Platforms and System Requirements

4.1 What are the system requirements for AutoCAD 2005?

The system requirements for AutoCAD 2005 are as follows:

- Intel® Pentium® III or later, with 800 MHz or faster processor, or compatible
- Microsoft® Windows® XP (Professional, Home Edition, or Tablet PC Edition), or Windows® 2000 Professional
- 256 MB RAM
- 300 MB free disk space for installation
- 1024x768 VGA with true color
- Microsoft® Internet Explorer 6.0
- CD-ROM drive
- Mouse, trackball, or compatible pointing device

4.2 Is AutoCAD 2005 certified for Microsoft® Windows® XP?

Yes, AutoCAD has received “Designed for Windows XP—Optimized for Enterprise” logo certification. This is the highest level of logo certification that Microsoft offers. The logo certification program ensures that software runs smoothly and reliably in the Windows operating system environment. Several fundamental changes have been made to AutoCAD to ensure its robust performance when running on the latest version of the Windows operating system. These changes include the ability to run AutoCAD as a limited rights user, making it easy for multiple AutoCAD-based products to be run on the same computer, and changes to the file structures and use of the registry that support roaming user profiles.

4.3 Does AutoCAD 2005 support Tablet PCs running Windows XP?

Yes, AutoCAD 2005 software supports Microsoft Windows XP for Tablet PC operating system functionality, including the ability to specify landscape or portrait orientation as well as right- or left-handedness, enabling you to take full advantage of the portability that the Tablet PC offers.

4.4 Which new plotters are supported by AutoCAD 2005?

AutoCAD 2005 includes updated HDI drivers for the Océ® and Xerox® devices and updated Hewlett Packard® Windows system drivers that support Microsoft Windows® XP Professional/Home and Windows 2000. For more details on AutoCAD 2005 plotter support, please consult your plotter manufacturer.

5. Licensing

5.1 Does AutoCAD 2005 use product activation for stand-alone licenses?

Yes, with AutoCAD 2005 the authorization process now includes product activation.

5.2 What is product activation?

Product activation is a software-based license management technology incorporated into many Autodesk products. It is a secure and trouble-free process that authenticates licensed users running Autodesk software. The process verifies that the serial number is legitimate and has not been activated on more computers than are eligible. It does not affect the ability of licensed users to operate their software the way they have always done. It is similar to the authorization mechanism in Autodesk products in the past but provides additional capabilities for security and special product versions (such as student and trial versions).

5.3 Why is Autodesk requiring Autodesk customers to activate their software?

Product activation is a simple way to reduce and deter unauthorized use and casual copying of Autodesk products, with little to no impact on our loyal customers.

5.4 Which Autodesk products use this activation technology?

Almost all Autodesk products use or will use this technology, with the exception of Discreet® Advanced Systems products, some Discreet new media products, and VISION* products.

5.5 How do I activate my software?

Through the activation and registration interface, you can activate your product 24 hours a day, seven days a week over the Internet or via email. Either option takes only a few steps to complete and requires your product serial number and registration information.

5.6 What if I have more than one computer? Will product activation let me use the software on multiple machines?

Autodesk recognizes you may sometimes need to operate the software when you are away from your usual work location, such as while working from home. To accommodate this need, product activation lets you install and activate the software on a second computer you own or control. Please note that the software may be used by only one person and that only one of the two copies may be used at a time. Consult your AutoCAD Software License Agreement for complete details regarding installation and use of the software on a second computer.

5.7 Where can I find more information about software activation?

More information on product activation can be found at www.autodesk.com/activation.

6. Consulting, Training, and Support

6.1 What consulting services are available for AutoCAD 2005?

Autodesk Professional Services provides customer consulting offerings for project assessments, process audits, opportunity assessments, networking setup, application porting and other custom services to help you get the best possible return on your investment in Autodesk technology. AutoCAD users planning to migrate to AutoCAD 2005 can take advantage of these services. For more information on Autodesk Professional Services, contact your Autodesk Account Executive or your local Authorized Autodesk Reseller; or visit www.autodesk.com/professionalservices.

6.2 Where do I find training courses for AutoCAD 2005?

Training courses are available from both Autodesk Professional Services as well as through the Autodesk Authorized Training Center (ATC®) network.

Training courses through Autodesk Professional Services include Autodesk Virtual Classroom Training (online, instructor-led) or custom training to match your organization's specific needs, and Autodesk Classroom Training. To obtain more information about Autodesk's training services, visit www.autodesk.com/autocad-training.

You can also enroll in instructor-led training at Autodesk Authorized Training Centers around the world. These training centers use Autodesk Official Training Courseware (AOTC) created by Autodesk to deliver comprehensive courses for new and intermediate AutoCAD 2005 users. Autodesk Authorized Training

Centers also deliver custom courses on AutoCAD 2005 and other Autodesk products. To learn more, visit <http://www.autodesk.com/autocad-atc>.

6.3 How can I find technical support information for AutoCAD 2005?

Visit <http://www.autodesk.com/autocad-support> and find a knowledge base of commonly asked support questions. Also, you can ask questions and read information about the use of Autodesk products in the peer-to-peer discussion groups on <http://www.autodesk.com/discussion>. Autodesk hosts topical discussion groups about specific products, including AutoCAD 2005, and about general topics, such as drafting techniques and customization. Alternatively, Autodesk software manuals and documentation are a great source of answers to your support questions.

6.4 How do I obtain direct, technical support?

Direct technical support is available from both Autodesk Authorized Resellers and Autodesk Professional Services.

Furthermore, Autodesk Subscription is a complete software, support, and training package that simplifies your technology upgrades and boosts your design productivity. Purchase of Autodesk Subscription includes web support* from Autodesk technical experts for all your installation, configuration, and troubleshooting questions. To learn more about Autodesk Subscription, contact your Autodesk Authorized Reseller or visit www.autodesk.com/subscription. *May not be available in all countries.

The Autodesk Enterprise Support is a worldwide program that provides expert technical support by telephone for all major Autodesk products from a single source. Contact your Autodesk Account Executive or Autodesk Authorized Autodesk Reseller for more details.

Autodesk Systems Centers (ASCs) and Autodesk Authorized Autodesk Resellers also provide telephone support services for AutoCAD software and all other Autodesk products. In the United States and Canada, call 800-964-6432 to locate an ASC or reseller near you, or visit <http://www.autodesk.com/reseller>.

Find a complete list of support options for AutoCAD on the Autodesk website at <http://www.autodesk.com/autocad-support>.

6.5 How do I find out if a service pack is available for AutoCAD 2005?

In the event that Autodesk releases a service pack for AutoCAD 2005, it is easy to access and install it using the Communication Center in AutoCAD 2005. Look at the top of the Communication Center window to see if an update is available. AutoCAD 2005 automatically recognizes if you have the most up-to-date release and prompts you if there is an update available. When you click on the link, AutoCAD 2005 automatically downloads and installs the update seamlessly and painlessly.



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