

Questions & Answers

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1. General Information

1.1 What is AutoCAD 2006?

Continuously innovating for 20 releases, AutoCAD® 2006 software gives you out-of-the-box productivity. Migration is easy, deployment is simple, and intuitive new features make learning a snap. New drafting and annotation tools such as Dynamic Blocks and enhanced hatching eliminate the need for time-consuming workarounds. These new features in conjunction with powerful existing tools like the Sheet Set Manager and tool palettes offer a complete set of tools to manage everything from simple to complex projects. AutoCAD 2006 works the way you've always wanted and brings a new level of efficiency and effectiveness to your everyday tasks.

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 2006?

Productivity always has been and always will be a cornerstone in the profitability and viability of any industry that creates, consumes, or manages design information. AutoCAD 2006, the new standard in CAD productivity from Autodesk, gives you the tools you need to realize your ideas and ensure maximum speed, power, and efficiency throughout your process.

The new standard began with the AutoCAD® 2004 software release, giving users measurable efficiency gains, like file sizes averaging 52 percent smaller and productivity

increases of up to 70 percent.* AutoCAD 2005 software built on the dramatic productivity gains of AutoCAD 2004 with new tools that help you efficiently manage sets of drawings. With AutoCAD 2006 you can now work faster and smarter on a whole range of day to day tasks. From the new Dynamic Blocks capability that allow you to create, manipulate, and extract data from blocks quickly and efficiently, to the Dynamic Input features that allow you to focus on your design rather than the software, AutoCAD 2006 is the most efficient and powerful AutoCAD yet. From creating single drawings, to managing entire sets of drawings, from sharing design information over the web, to creating compelling, graphics-rich presentations that market your work—AutoCAD helps you go further with the new standard in CAD productivity. For more details on the benefits AutoCAD 2006 refer to the AutoCAD Features web page for more information: www.autodesk.com/autocad-features.

2. Availability and Pricing

2.1 When will AutoCAD 2006 be available?

AutoCAD 2006 will be available worldwide in English, German, and Japanese in March of 2005.

2.2 When can I expect localized versions of AutoCAD 2006 to ship?

Autodesk plans to ship localized versions for French, Italian, Simplified Chinese, Chinese (Taiwan), Korean, Spanish, Polish, Czech, Russian, and Brazilian Port. Autodesk will announce the expected ship dates as the localized versions become available.

2.3 Can I try AutoCAD 2006 before I buy it?

Yes. You can try it by requesting the AutoCAD 2006 trial version. This full-functioning version of AutoCAD 2006 is available as a free, 30-day trial version. You can order the trial CD from your Autodesk Authorized Autodesk Reseller or online at www.autodesk.com/autocad-trial.

A streaming trial version of AutoCAD 2006 will also be available in the English language at www.autodesk.com/autocad-trial.

2.4 What are the purchasing options and pricing for AutoCAD 2006?

AutoCAD 2006 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?

With Autodesk Subscription you get the latest releases of your Autodesk® software, incremental product enhancements, personalized web support direct from Autodesk technical experts, and self-paced training to help extend your skills. And with access to a range of exclusive community resources and members-only privileges, you can use the power of your design tools to the fullest and make the most of your technology investment. For the latest information on Autodesk Subscription, including availability and purchase

* Measurement is a preliminary indicator based on automation testing over a controlled network. Results are approximate and are subject to error and change. Product information and specifications are subject to change without notice. Autodesk provides this information "as is," without warranty of any kind, either express or implied. While every effort has been made to make the tests as fair and objective as possible, your results may differ.

requirements, visit 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 2006 side-by-side on my computer with AutoCAD® 2005/2004/2002?

Yes, AutoCAD 2006 is designed to run side-by-side with the AutoCAD 2000i/2002/2004/2005 versions, enabling you to make a smooth transition to the new release of AutoCAD. The migration feature of AutoCAD 2006 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 2006 drawing file format (DWG) changed from the AutoCAD 2005 file format, as it did between AutoCAD 2002 and AutoCAD 2004?

No. The new features and functionality developed in AutoCAD 2006 maintain DWG and DXF™ file compatibility between the AutoCAD 2004, AutoCAD 2005, and AutoCAD 2006 software versions. You can directly and easily share files between design teams using AutoCAD 2004, AutoCAD 2005 and AutoCAD 2006.

3.3 Does AutoCAD 2006 read and save drawings created by earlier releases of AutoCAD?

Yes. AutoCAD 2006 reads drawing files from all previous versions of AutoCAD software. AutoCAD 2006 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.

The Autodesk Batch Drawing Converter 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 is a free download available at www.autodesk.com/migrationtools.

3.4 Is AutoCAD 2006 compatible with AutoCAD LT 2006?

Yes. AutoCAD 2006 software is fully DWG-compatible with AutoCAD LT® 2006 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/2002/2004/2005 customized files work in AutoCAD 2006?

Yes, with some modifications. AutoCAD 2006 includes a migration feature that will automatically migrate customized AutoCAD 2000/2000i/2002/2004/2005 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 2006. 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 2006?

AutoLISP® routines, linetype files, hatch patterns, PGP files and other customizations that have been written for AutoCAD 2000/2000i/2002/2004/2005 releases should work in AutoCAD 2006 as no changes have been made that would affect them.

3.7 Will my third-party application that runs on AutoCAD 2004 or AutoCAD 2005 be available for AutoCAD 2006?

Yes. AutoCAD 2006 is both DWG and application compatible with AutoCAD 2004 and AutoCAD 2005. Applications from third parties—whether they are based on ObjectARX®, COM Automation, VBA/VB, or Visual LISP® programming languages—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 (ADN) to enable the ADN applications to 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 2006 at www.autodesk.com/partnerproducts.

3.8 Do AutoCAD 2000/2000i/2002 third-party applications work with AutoCAD 2006?

In some cases, yes, they will. Some AutoCAD 2000/2000i/2002 third-party add-on applications based on Visual LISP and VBA may be compatible with AutoCAD 2006. Third-party applications based on ActiveX and ObjectARX will require upgrades to be compatible with AutoCAD 2006. There are numerous compatible applications available for AutoCAD 2006. Check with your application developer/supplier regarding availability of applications built for AutoCAD 2006.

3.9 Will the AutoCAD 2000i/2002/2004 extensions work with AutoCAD 2006?

All of the modular functionality delivered in the AutoCAD 2000i/2002/2004 extensions are now built into AutoCAD 2006. Therefore, the AutoCAD 2000i/2002/2004 extensions are not necessary and will not install on AutoCAD 2006.

3.10 Is AutoCAD 2006 interoperable with other Autodesk products?

AutoCAD 2006 is the foundation for an interoperable family of Autodesk products. Sharing the same database framework component—ObjectDBX™ for reading and writing drawing files—means that the next generation of Autodesk products is interoperable with AutoCAD 2006. These products include 3ds max®, Autodesk® VIZ, Autodesk DWF™ Composer, Autodesk® DWF™ Viewer, Autodesk® Raster Design and the AutoCAD industry-specific desktop products, including Autodesk Map® 3D, AutoCAD® Mechanical, Autodesk® Mechanical Desktop®, Autodesk® Architectural Desktop, Autodesk® Land Desktop, Autodesk® Civil 3D™, and Autodesk® Civil Design.

3.11 When will the AutoCAD 2006-based industry-specific applications be available?

Autodesk applications built on the AutoCAD foundation include Autodesk Architectural Desktop 2006, AutoCAD Mechanical 2006, AutoCAD® Electrical 2006, Autodesk Map 3D, Autodesk Land Desktop 2006, Autodesk Civil Design 2006, Autodesk Civil 3D, Autodesk® Survey 2006, and Autodesk Raster Design 2006. Autodesk will announce the expected ship dates as these applications become available.

3.12 Can I run AutoCAD 2006 side-by-side with other AutoCAD platform-based applications?

Yes, AutoCAD 2006 can be installed side-by-side with any other AutoCAD or AutoCAD-based product versions—including AutoCAD 2006-based versions. These products include Autodesk Mechanical Desktop, AutoCAD Mechanical, Autodesk Architectural Desktop, Autodesk Land Desktop, Autodesk Civil 3D, Autodesk Map, and AutoCAD LT software.

4. Platform and System Requirements

4.1 What are the system requirements for AutoCAD 2006?

The system requirements for AutoCAD 2006 are as follows:

- Intel® Pentium® III or later, with 800 MHz or faster processor, or compatible
- Microsoft® Windows® XP SP1 or SP2 (Professional, Home Edition, or Tablet PC Edition), or Windows® 2000 Professional SP4
- 512 MB RAM
- 500 MB free disk space for installation
- 1024x768 VGA with true color
- Microsoft® Internet Explorer 6.0 SP1
- CD-ROM drive
- Mouse, trackball, or compatible pointing device

4.2 Is AutoCAD 2006 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 indicates that software will run 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 2006 support Tablet PCs running Windows XP?

Yes, AutoCAD 2006 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.

5. Licensing

5.1 Does AutoCAD 2006 use product activation for stand-alone licenses?

Yes, with AutoCAD 2006 the authorization process 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 Autodesk DWF Viewer, Autodesk DWF Composer, AutoSketch[®], 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 2006?

Autodesk Consulting provides customer consulting offerings for project assessments, process audits, opportunity assessments, networking setup, application porting and other custom services to help you streamline business processes and get the best possible return on your investment in Autodesk technology. AutoCAD users planning to migrate to AutoCAD 2006 can take advantage of these services. For more information on Autodesk Consulting, contact your Autodesk Account Executive or your local Authorized Autodesk Reseller; or visit www.autodesk.com/consulting.

6.2 Where do I find training courses for AutoCAD 2006?

Training courses are available from both Autodesk Consulting as well as through the Autodesk Authorized Training Center (ATC[®]) network.

Training courses through Autodesk Consulting 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 2006 users. Autodesk Authorized Training Centers also deliver custom courses

on AutoCAD 2006 and other Autodesk products. To learn more, visit www.autodesk.com/autocad-atc.

6.3 How can I find technical support information for AutoCAD 2006?

Visit www.autodesk.com/autocad-support to 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 at www.autodesk.com/discussion. Autodesk hosts topical discussion groups about specific products, including AutoCAD 2006, 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 and Autodesk Authorized Resellers.

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.

The Autodesk Enterprise Support program 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 Preferred Solution Providers (PSPs), 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, PSP 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 2006?

In the event that Autodesk releases a service pack for AutoCAD 2006, it is easy to access and install it using the Communication Center in AutoCAD 2006. Look at the top of the Communication Center window to see if an update is available. AutoCAD 2006 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 2006 automatically downloads and installs the update.

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