

Questions & Answers

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1. General Information

1.1. What is AutoCAD 2008?

Make efficiency a daily part of the job with AutoCAD® 2008 software. The drafting, detailing, and conceptual design leader is showing the way once again. Meticulously refined with the drafter in mind, AutoCAD 2008 propels day-to-day drafting forward with features that increase speed and accuracy while saving time. Annotation scaling and layer properties per viewport minimize workarounds, while text and table enhancements and multiple leaders help deliver an unmatched level of aesthetic precision and professionalism. Always innovative, the existing AutoCAD tools for conceptual design and visualization work with a new toolset to deliver virtually instant productivity, making efficiency a daily part of the job.

1.2. What are the main benefits of AutoCAD 2008?

The tools in AutoCAD 2008 will propel day-to-day drafting forward with features that increase speed and accuracy while saving time. The new features will allow you to create all your drawing data one time, minimizing redundancy and greatly reducing errors.

With the new scaling tools, you will never have to re-create text, leaders, dimensions, hatches or blocks to ensure that they display and plot correctly across viewports with varying scales. One-time creation means one-time updates reducing wasted plots due to errors and allowing you to spend project review meetings on more critical design changes.

Emphasize a particular element of your design or simply change color in order to get your lineweights correct in a viewport. New tools allow you to override color, linetype, lineweight, or plotstyle layer properties for any viewport. You never have to rename your xrefs again unnecessarily duplicating your drawing data. Make updates in one location, minimizing errors that result from data redundancy.

True bi-directional data linking between Microsoft® Excel® spreadsheets and AutoCAD tables allow you to work on your schedules, bills of materials, or notes in whichever application you are more comfortable so that your updates are appropriately reflected. Enhance your productivity by allowing a non-CAD user in your firm or company to create your tables in Excel and have these tables appear up-to-date and current in your AutoCAD drawing files. In addition, table styles have been greatly enhanced allowing you greater control over the appearance of your tables in AutoCAD.

AutoCAD 2008 has a number of timesaving drafting productivity tools. These tools range from enhanced leaders that allow for easy alignment and a host of creation options enabling greater flexibility and control, to MTEXT enhancements that allow for column spanning and greater control over formatting in an MTEXT object, to the ability to create multi-line attributes, to the ability to toggle layers on/off for DWF™ Underlays. For more details on the benefits of AutoCAD 2008 refer to the AutoCAD features webpage www.autodesk.com/autocad-features.

2. Availability and Pricing

2.1. When will AutoCAD 2008 be available?

AutoCAD 2008 will be available worldwide in English, German, Japanese, French, and Simplified Chinese in March 2007.

2.2. When can I expect localized versions of AutoCAD 2008 to ship?

In addition to English, German, Japanese, French and Simplified Chinese, Autodesk plans to ship localized versions for Italian, Traditional Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Polish, Czech, and Russian. Autodesk will announce the expected ship dates as the localized versions become available.

2.3. Can I try AutoCAD 2008 before I buy it?

Yes, you can try it by requesting the AutoCAD 2008 trial version. This full-functioning version of AutoCAD 2008 is available as a free*, 30-day trial. You can order the trial DVD (64-bit and 32-bit) or CD (32-bit only) from your Autodesk Authorized Reseller or visit us online at www.autodesk.com/autocad-trial.

2.4. What are the purchasing options and pricing for AutoCAD 2008?

AutoCAD 2008 is available to you through your local reseller, or the Autodesk Store at www.autodesk.com/store. 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 and for information on the Autodesk Subscription program.

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 requirements, visit www.autodesk.com/subscription or contact your local authorized representative. AutoCAD subscriptions are sold by Autodesk Authorized Resellers on behalf of Autodesk.

3. Compatibility

3.1. Do AutoCAD 2004/2005/2006/2007 third-party applications work with AutoCAD 2008 32-bit?

Third-party add-on applications based on Visual LISP® or AutoLISP®, VBA, ActiveX® and ObjectARX® programming languages and developer tools for AutoCAD 2007 are compatible with AutoCAD 2008 32-bit. AutoCAD 2008 is binary compatible with 2007 and has the same DWG file format.

Third-party applications for AutoCAD 2004/2005/2006 based on Visual LISP or AutoLISP are also compatible with AutoCAD 2008. Third-party VBA based applications for AutoCAD 2004/2005/2006 are compatible with AutoCAD 2008 32-bit in some cases, but there are instances in which those applications will need to be modified. For more details on AutoCAD 2005/2006 VBA-based application compatibility, please refer to www.autodesk.com/developautocad. Third-party applications for AutoCAD 2004/2005/2006 based on ActiveX and ObjectARX will need to be upgraded to be compatible with AutoCAD 2008. Check with your application developer/supplier regarding availability of applications built for AutoCAD 2008.

You can find additional details on migrating applications to AutoCAD 2008 in the Application Migration Guide that is included in the AutoCAD 2008 ObjectARX SDK. You can find the ObjectARX SDK and much more information on developing applications and customizing AutoCAD at www.autodesk.com/developautocad.

3.2. Do AutoCAD 2004/2005/2006/2007 third-party applications work with AutoCAD 2008 64-bit?

Third-party add-on applications based on Visual LISP or AutoLISP for AutoCAD 2004/2005/2006/2007 will work on AutoCAD 2008 64-bit. Autodesk has developed an out-of-process interim solution for customers who want to use VBA on 64-bit AutoCAD. Long-term customers will be required to port the VBA applications to VSTA when using 64-bit AutoCAD. Third-party add-on applications based on VBA for AutoCAD 2007 will run out of process on AutoCAD 2008 64-bit. VBA based applications for AutoCAD 2004/2006/2005 may run out of process in some instances but may need to be modified in other instances. For more details on AutoCAD 2005/2006 VBA compatibility, please refer to www.autodesk.com/developautocad.

Third-party applications for AutoCAD 2007 based on ActiveX and ObjectARX will need to be upgraded to work on AutoCAD 2008 64-bit. More information on migrating to AutoCAD 2008 64-bit can be located in the ObjectARX 64-bit Migration Guide included in the AutoCAD 2008 64-bit SDK or at www.autodesk.com/developautocad. Applications for AutoCAD 2004/2005/2006 based on ActiveX and ObjectARX will need to be upgraded to 2007 in addition to being made ready for 64-bit. Check with your application developer/supplier regarding availability of applications built for AutoCAD 2008 64-bit.

3.3. Do AutoCAD 2007 customized menus work in AutoCAD 2008?

Yes, AutoCAD 2008 will automatically migrate customized menus (CUI files). The first time you launch AutoCAD 2008 the migration feature will ask you if you would like to migrate your settings from your previous AutoCAD version to AutoCAD 2008. The migration feature helps you make a smooth transition to the new release by automatically migrating customized menus, toolbar icons, hatch patterns, linetypes, command short cuts, and profiles. Refer to www.autodesk.com/migrationtools for additional migration tools.

3.4. How are AutoLISP and Visual LISP programs affected by changes in AutoCAD 2008?

No changes have been made to AutoLISP or Visual LISP programming languages in AutoCAD 2008. AutoLISP and Visual LISP routines that have been written for AutoCAD 2004/2005/2006/2007 will work in AutoCAD 2008.

3.5. Has the AutoCAD 2008 DWG file format changed from the AutoCAD 2004/2005/2006/2007 products?

The AutoCAD 2008 DWG file format is the same DWG file format as in AutoCAD 2007. The AutoCAD 2007 file format was updated and is different from the 2004/2005/2006 DWG file format. This AutoCAD 2008 DWG format is also the same DWG file format that is used in the latest releases of Autodesk 's industry-specific products such as AutoCAD® Architecture, AutoCAD® Map 3D, AutoCAD® Civil 3D®, AutoCAD® Electrical, and AutoCAD® Mechanical software applications. Nonetheless, you can still easily share files between design teams using any previous version of AutoCAD. As in the past, this new AutoCAD version opens DWG™ files from all earlier DWG versions of the software created by any Autodesk product.

3.6. Does AutoCAD 2008 read and save drawings created by earlier releases of AutoCAD?

AutoCAD 2008 reads drawing files from all previous versions of AutoCAD software. AutoCAD 2008 has a built-in SaveAs function so you can save drawings to and from AutoCAD releases using the 14, 2000, and 2004 DWG format(s). In addition, you can use the SaveAs AutoCAD Release 12 DXF™ command to support releases prior to AutoCAD Release 14.

3.7. Can I open an AutoCAD 2008 drawing with and older release of AutoCAD?

AutoCAD 2007 can open any drawings created in AutoCAD 2008. With DWG TrueView™ software you can translate DWG files created with any release of AutoCAD or AutoCAD LT® software to AutoCAD 14, 2000, 2004, and 2007 file formats. DWG TrueView can be downloaded at <http://www.autodesk.com/dwgtrueview>; DWG TrueView does not require AutoCAD to convert DWG files.

3.8. Can I run AutoCAD 2008 side-by-side with other AutoCAD platform-based applications?

Yes, AutoCAD 2008 can be installed side-by-side with any other AutoCAD or Autodesk vertical solution—including AutoCAD 2008-based products. These products include AutoCAD Architecture, AutoCAD Map 3D, AutoCAD Civil 3D, AutoCAD Electrical, AutoCAD Mechanical, Autodesk® Inventor™ product families, AutoCAD® Revit® Suite products, Revit® Structure, AutoCAD® MEP, Autodesk® 3ds Max®, Autodesk® VIZ, and AutoCAD LT software applications.

3.9. Is AutoCAD 2008 compatible with AutoCAD LT?

Yes, AutoCAD 2008 is fully DWG-compatible with AutoCAD LT 2008. It can read files from all older versions of AutoCAD LT and can save to the AutoCAD LT 2007, 2004, 2000, and Release 14 DWG file formats for compatibility with older products.

3.10. When will the AutoCAD 2008-based industry-specific applications be available?

Autodesk applications built on the AutoCAD foundation include AutoCAD Architecture, AutoCAD MEP, AutoCAD Mechanical, AutoCAD Electrical, AutoCAD Map 3D, AutoCAD Civil 3D, and AutoCAD® Raster Design software. Autodesk will announce the expected ship dates as these applications become available.

4. Platform and System Requirements

4.1. What are the system requirements for AutoCAD 2008?

The system requirements for AutoCAD 2008 for 2D drawing creation (32-bit AutoCAD):

- Intel® Pentium® 4, 2.2 GHz Recommended
- Microsoft® Windows Vista™ Home Basic, Home Premium, Ultimate, Business, and Enterprise, Windows® XP Home and Professional SP2, Windows® 2000 SP4
- 512 MB RAM
- 750 MB free disk space for installation
- 1024x768 VGA with True Color
- Microsoft® Internet Explorer® 6.0 SP1 or higher
- Available on CD (Worldwide) and DVD (select countries and languages)

Additional System Requirements for 64-bit AutoCAD:

- AutoCAD 64-bit cannot be installed on a 32-bit Windows Operating System. Supported operating systems for AutoCAD 64-bit are Windows XP Professional x64 Edition and Windows Vista 64 bit
- AMD Athlon 64, AMD Opteron, Intel Xeon with Intel EM64T support, Intel Pentium 4 with Intel EM64T support are supported processors
- 1 GB RAM
- 750 MB free disk space for installation

The system requirements for AutoCAD 2008 for conceptual design (32 and 64-bit AutoCAD)

- Intel® 3.0 GHz or greater
- Windows XP SP2
- 2 GB RAM or greater
- 2 GB free hard disk available not including installation
- 1280 x 1024 32-bit color video display adapter (True Color)
- 128 MB or greater, OpenGL®, or Direct3D® capable workstation class graphics card. If operating on any version of Windows Vista, a Direct3D capable workstation class graphics card is required. *Refer to the Supported Video Cards list for details on different brands that have been tested and certified.*

4.2. Does AutoCAD 2008 support the Microsoft Windows Vista operating system?

AutoCAD 2008 supports Windows Vista Home Basic, Home Premium, Ultimate, Business, and Enterprise. In addition, AutoCAD 2008 takes advantage of some new Vista capabilities, specifically Windows Vista thumbnail previews for DWG and DWF files in Windows Explorer, display of AutoCAD properties in the detail tab of Windows Explorer, and ability to use the Windows Vista search tools using text strings found in drawing properties, text, MTEXT, and so forth, in the DWG file.

4.3. Is AutoCAD 2008 Logo Certified for Microsoft Windows Vista?

AutoCAD 2008 has achieved the “Works with Windows Vista” logo. The logo indicates that AutoCAD 2008 will run smoothly and reliably in the Windows Vista operating system environment.

4.4. Does AutoCAD 2008 support multiple CPU systems?

Yes, AutoCAD 2008 supports multiple CPU systems. The performance of AutoCAD graphics and rendering systems will benefit from multiple CPU systems.

4.5. Is there a native AutoCAD 2008 64-bit version available?

Yes, there is a native AutoCAD 2008 64-bit version available. AutoCAD 2008 64-bit is expected to be available in English (in all countries that English-language versions are sold), French, German, Spanish, and Japanese in March 2007. Autodesk also plans to ship Korean and Italian versions. Ship dates will be announced as they become available.

4.6. Is AutoCAD 2008 available on a DVD?

Yes, AutoCAD 2008 is available on a DVD in English (in all countries that English-language versions are sold), French, Italian, German, Spanish, Japanese, and Korean. The DVD contains both AutoCAD 2008 64-bit and 32-bit and installs the appropriate product based on the operating system installed. AutoCAD 2008 64-bit will be installed if a 64-bit operating system is installed and 32-bit will install if a 32-bit operating system is installed. You cannot install AutoCAD 2008 64-bit on a 32-bit operating system or AutoCAD 2008 32-bit on a 64-bit operating system. AutoCAD 2008 32-bit is also available on CD in all supported languages.

5. Licensing

5.1. Does AutoCAD 2008 use product activation for stand-alone licenses?

Yes, with AutoCAD 2008 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® Design Review, AutoSketch®, and Autodesk Media and Entertainment software 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 that some users may need to operate the software when they are away from their usual work location. To accommodate this need, the product activation technology and the AutoCAD LT End-User License Agreement allows an employee to install the software on a second computer owned by the employee's company, provided it is for use away from the employee's usual work location, the two copies are only used by that employee and no other, and only one copy of the software is ever in use at any one time.

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 2008?

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 2008 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 2008?

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 custom training to match your organization's specific needs, Autodesk Classroom Training and AutoCAD certification. To obtain more information about Autodesk's training services, visit

www.autodesk.com/autocad-training.

You can also enroll in instructor-led training at ATC locations around the world. These training centers use Autodesk Official Training Courseware (AOTC) created by Autodesk to deliver comprehensive courses for new and intermediate AutoCAD 2008 users. ATC sites also deliver custom courses on AutoCAD 2008 and other Autodesk products. To learn more, visit www.autodesk.com/autocad-atc.

6.3. How can I find technical support information for AutoCAD 2008?

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 2008, 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 Account Executive or 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 a PSP, 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 2008?

In the event that Autodesk releases a service pack for AutoCAD 2008, it is easy to access and install it using the Communication Center in AutoCAD 2008. Look at the top of the Communication Center window to see if an update is available. AutoCAD 2008 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 2008 automatically downloads and installs the update.

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