

AutoCAD®

2008

Meticulously refined with the designer in mind, AutoCAD® 2008 software propels day-to-day drafting forward with features that increase speed and accuracy while saving time.

For more information on the AutoCAD 2008 feature set, see the following:

- AutoCAD 2008 Features and Benefits document at www.autodesk.com/autocad-features, for more in-depth information about the AutoCAD 2008 feature set.
- New Features Workshop, accessible from the Help menu in AutoCAD and at www.autodesk.com/autocad-nfw, for more detailed explanations of the new features.

AutoCAD 2008 enables designers to quickly and easily document designs with a level of control that helps ensure that drawings look professional. AutoCAD 2008 helps users solve common problems in a way that respects current workflows, so that little or no retraining is required.

This list summarizes both large and small changes made to AutoCAD 2008.

Annotation

Annotation Scaling

- Annotative text, leaders, multiple leaders, dimensions, hatches, blocks, dynamic blocks, attributes, and tolerances. Create these at paper height in model space, and position as desired across viewports with varying scales.
- Per viewport rotation property for text, blocks, and attributes. Text, blocks, and attributes maintain their orientation to the sheet despite view rotation.
- Per viewport rotation property for hatches (plan view only).
- Visual consistency for linetypes between model space and paper space (MSLTScale).

Multiple Leaders

- Add/remove multiple associative segments to or from existing leader segments.
- Enhanced and flexible workflows for creating leaders.
- Multiple leader style that allows for a greater number of formatting options for leader and content (text or blocks) associated with the leader.
- Greater associativity between leader and content, allowing for robust editing.
- Ability to align a set of leaders along a line with flexible options for spacing and angle between different leader segments.
- Ability to collect blocks together as a string of blocks that share the same leader line—from one of the already existing blocks.

Tables

- Enhanced row, column, and cell options in table styles.
- Table style creation from existing tables.
- Ability to lock the data or formatting, or both, of any given cell in an AutoCAD table.
- Greater flexibility for text orientation in table cells (vertical, horizontal, custom angled).
- Enhanced formatting for table cells—percentage and currency are added as formatting options.
- Ability to wrap table across columns and have it continue to behave as a single AutoCAD table.
- AutoFill capability. Enter a sequence of numbers or patterns and the sequence replicates through an arbitrary number of cells.
- Ability to have text and blocks in the same AutoCAD table cell.
- New Tables Editing toolbar.
- Enhanced selecting, editing, and creation of rows, columns, and cells for AutoCAD tables.

MTEXT

- New spell check engine with enhanced functionality, including ability to check spelling of words in dimensions, zoom to the word that is misspelled, ignore words with numbers and characters such as “/”.
- Support for tab styles.
- Wrap MTEXT across columns while having MTEXT continue to act as a single entity.
- Paragraph-based formatting. Paragraph line spacing overrides applied in Microsoft® Word are retained when brought into AutoCAD as MTEXT.
- Ability to change the color that is used to highlight text.

Multiline Text Attributes

- Multiline attribute definitions.
- Mask/wipeout on multiline attribute.
- In-place editing of attribute values.

Dimensions

- Dimension break: break the dimension line or extension line where it overlaps with other lines.
- Radial/diametric dimension extension: radius and diameter dimension for an extension of an arc.
- Dimension tolerance alignment: align tolerances in dimensions by their decimal separator.
- Angular dimension: turn quadrant support on/off. Lock the quadrant for measurement, and draw extended dimension arc when text is moved outside the angle being measured.
- Inspection dimension: add label and inspection rate to an existing dimension.
- DIMSPACE: use new DIMSPACE command to quickly adjust spacing between parallel or inline dimensions.
- DIMDLI update: DIMDLI is now automatically updated after changing dimension scale.

Coordination

Tables

- Live link between native AutoCAD tables and Microsoft® Excel® application.
- Excel links collected by eTransmit.

Data Extraction

- User edits retained on automated tables with subsequent updates to table (including sheet list table generated from Sheet Set Manager).
- Ability to extract general property data (length, radius, and so on) from objects (lines, arcs, circles, and so on) in AutoCAD DWG™ files.
- Ability to link data generated from AutoCAD DWG files with data in an Excel spreadsheet.
- Improved notification mechanism for updating automated tables.

Exchange

DGN Support (XM and V8)

- Import DGN file into AutoCAD as DWG file.
- Export AutoCAD DWG file as DGN file.
- Underlay DGN file as a reference.
- Perform multiple translations.

Presentation

Layer Properties per Viewport

- Ability to adjust color, linetype, lineweight, and plot styles on viewport-specific basis.

Photometric Lights

- Ability to specify properties of lights in photometric units system.
- IES (Illuminating Engineering Society) daylight and ability to specify IES files to be used.
- Simplified control for sunny, partially cloudy, and cloudy.
- Ability to change color and intensity of lights.
- Ability to produce soft shadows by specifying the physical size of the light.
- Library of standard lights with a range of common wattages.

Materials

- Ability to allow procedurals in all map slots (diffuse, opacity, bump, reflection).
- Ability to tweak lighting at the material level.
- Support for additional procedural maps: checker, noise, speckle, tiles, wave.
- Ability to adjust scale/tiling to allow diffuse settings to preside over submaps.
- Improved ultraviolet mapping.
- Improved visualization of map types.
- Reliable preview of materials in the material editor preview swatch.
- New and improved user interface for material editor.
- Real-time previews of procedural in editor window.

Plug-ins and Content

- RPC from ArchVision.
- EASYnat from Bionatics.
- Lighting fixtures from Simes.

Technology

Technology Update

- Native 64-bit support.
- Support for Windows Vista™ operating system (see system requirements).

System Requirements

- For information on system requirements, visit www.autodesk.com/autocad and click Features & Specifications.

Productivity

General Productivity Improvements

- Change an object's ByBlock and override properties to ByLayer.
- Ability to hide and reorder columns in the Layer dialog box.
- Ability to VPFreeze a layer in existing viewport.
- Ability to VPFreeze layers from the Model tab.
- View and reconcile new layers that were added (either in the xref or host) since the last time the drawing was opened, reloaded, plotted, or saved.
- Direct access to layer states without going to the Layer dialog box.
- Better results when restoring model layer states in a layout, easier editing capability, and ability to add layer states from an xref when attaching a drawing.
- Ability to control the display of layers within a DWF™ underlay.
- Ability to dim and lock layers while using LAYISO.
- Inverse xclip.
- Ability to change multiple copy default option.
- Drag (or right-click) a layout and add it to the Sheet Set Manager.
- Ability to change layout order by copying layouts by selecting the layout with the Ctrl key, and in-place renaming of layouts.
- Option to globally override group publish jobs generated to a printer/plotter spool file or PLT file.
- Tooltips that indicate functionality of dynamic block grips.
- Ability to activate a tab that is not current on a tool palette with an object selected.
- Redefine blocks through tool palettes.
- Command-line access to tool palettes or palette groups.
- Easier access to overriding icons with images in tool palettes.
- Improvement to FENCE and crossing window selection when interacting with TRIM/EXTEND command.
- Improved 3D selection in parallel and perspective views.
- Ability to reverse the publish order through the Sheet Set Manager interface.
- Command-line support for rendering.
- Ability to preserve order of tools in tool palette without relying on AutoCAD profiles.
- Ability to snap to a 3D solid while dragging.
- Ability to recover xrefs in addition to drawings.
- Improved alternate units dimensioning.