

1. General

1.1 What is Autodesk Inventor Professional?

Autodesk Inventor® Professional combines the proven power of Autodesk Inventor® Series with an added collection of process enhancement tools for the design, verification, and documentation of mechanical products. With this single, integrated software product, which includes the functionality of Autodesk Inventor®, AutoCAD® Mechanical, Autodesk® Mechanical Desktop®, and added application components, mechanical and electromechanical engineers can design, validate, and document all aspects of a machine and increase productivity. Autodesk Inventor Professional helps you quickly develop a complete 3D model of your product while reducing time to market and increasing product quality. Unlike competitive offerings, it provides the needed functionality of a single, integrated, simple-to-deploy application that offers tremendous value at a reasonable price.

1.2 What are the primary components of Autodesk Inventor Professional?

Autodesk Inventor Professional provides the following job-specific functionality:

3D Tube and Pipe Design. Save time and improve your tube and pipe designs with the Autodesk Inventor Professional Tube and Pipe environment. Fully integrated with the Autodesk Inventor application, it uses rule-based tools to quickly create and edit routes and to automatically place fittings and create pipe segments. You can use the fittings supplied or add your own. The automated tasks, ease of use, and speed with which you can create tube and pipe designs mean a faster time to market and help ensure manufacturability.

3D Cable and Harness Design. Relying on a hardware prototype to manually determine wire lengths is time-consuming and costly. You can eliminate this step with Autodesk Inventor Professional, because wire lengths and bundle diameters are automatically calculated and manufacturing data such as wire lists and a harness bill of materials are automatically created. This greatly reduces the likelihood of human error. By leveraging the 3D spline capability in Autodesk Inventor 8, you can easily define harness and cable paths using a point-and-click methodology that creates 3D virtual conduits, then automatically routes wires into these paths. You have total control over any associative relationships and can ensure that the harness will update when key design components change, thereby increasing design quality.

IDF Translator. Users of industrial machinery and electromechanical design applications are increasingly concerned about shrinking product size and reducing design time. You can save time and improve accuracy by importing IDF version 2 or 3 printed circuit geometry created in electronics engineering PCB design software.

1.3 Why did Autodesk develop Autodesk Inventor Professional?

Autodesk developed Autodesk Inventor Professional for mechanical engineers and designers who need additional tools to complete the design of industrial machinery, electromechanical equipment, and industrial equipment. A companion product to Autodesk Inventor Series, Autodesk Inventor Professional contains additional applications such as piping and wiring, which extend the benefits of Autodesk Inventor Series into new areas. These applications target functionality that is not used daily by all members of the design team, but rather is used by a subset. While the number of users will not be as high as with Autodesk Inventor Series, the return on investment for functions such as tube and pipe or cable and harness is very high. The current methods for designing these components are excessively manual, time-consuming, and error-prone.

1.4 How is Autodesk Inventor Professional packaged?

Autodesk Inventor Professional is packaged as a single product that, for one price, includes Autodesk Inventor Series plus the additional specialized functionality. You work with a single supplier, install a

single product, and have a single point of contact for support. These factors mean you don't have to worry about integration issues or service pack incompatibilities. By offering this for a single price, Autodesk Inventor Professional provides a better value than anything that has been available historically from competitors and their partners. The Autodesk Inventor Professional functionality can be shared across users with a floating license.

1.5 Who will benefit from Autodesk Inventor Professional?

The current Autodesk Inventor installed base, and in particular those industrial machinery manufacturers who have reasonably complete 3D models, will benefit from Autodesk Inventor Professional. Typically, these customers are looking to maximize their use of Autodesk Inventor to automate specialized design disciplines. They have often tried creating wiring or piping within Autodesk Inventor, but their designs have been too large and complex for this approach to be a practical solution. They need the efficiencies offered by the specialized applications to replace their current manual methods. An additional beneficiary of the Autodesk Inventor Professional functionality is the legacy CAD user looking for a new CAD system that intelligently handles these types of assemblies.

1.6 What business problem does Autodesk Inventor Professional solve?

Autodesk Inventor Professional addresses the needs of businesses interested in a simple-to-implement and affordable solution for fully designing, validating, and documenting all mechanical and electrical aspects of industrial machinery. Today, businesses must either buy and integrate several niche applications or purchase expensive software from high-end suppliers. Autodesk Inventor Professional software provides a single, integrated, simple-to-deploy application that offers broad functionality at an excellent value.

1.7 How does Autodesk Inventor Professional provide comprehensive tools for documenting machines before prototyping?

The typical process to design and document routed systems—such as tubing, cabling, and often, piping—is to assemble a prototype machine and then have technicians or engineers route cables, tubes, and pipes through the system. Technicians then create documentation by taking pictures for assembly instructions and by pulling out the cables and reverse engineering them for cable drawings and the bill of materials. This process is highly iterative and occurs at the end of the machine design cycle, when errors and delays are the most costly. Using Autodesk Inventor Professional to model cabling, tubing, and piping decreases time to market by helping design teams both identify problems and ensure that all systems fit together before the first prototype machine is built. It also increases quality by automatically updating the tubing, cabling, and piping systems as required when other components in the assembly are modified. By providing the tools to build and document assemblies correctly the first time, Autodesk Inventor Professional helps reduce time to market.

1.8 How does Autodesk Inventor Professional differ from Autodesk Inventor?

Autodesk Inventor software is a high-performance 3D mechanical design system built for mechanical designers and engineers who need to reduce design time, get better products to market faster, and retain their competitive advantage. It is the most advanced mechanical CAD software in the midprice range, offering users the easiest transition from 2D to 3D design. Autodesk Inventor solves significant problems by providing unique functionality that speeds and simplifies the design process, makes the design process easier to manage, enhances performance (particularly in large-assembly design), and integrates all these capabilities into one package that's easy to learn and use. It offers a simple user interface, an advanced help and support system, and specific built-in migration assistance for the AutoCAD® user. The software successfully combines 2D capabilities with the power of 3D and provides industry-leading DWG compatibility.

Autodesk Inventor Professional includes all the powerful functionality of Autodesk Inventor Series software and extends it with a collection of design, validation, and documentation tools specifically developed for mechanical and electromechanical engineers who need to shorten their design time and create higher quality designs for machinery.

1.9 How does Autodesk Inventor Professional extend 3D design data to downstream users?

Because your entire design, complete with tubing, cabling, and piping, is built in Autodesk Inventor Professional, the design data available for downstream use is more complete and accurate. With a common design platform, people in the extended design chain can use design data for additional tasks such as assembly and maintenance instructions. This capability can replace the common practice of taking pictures of machines or sending technicians into the field to explain how cabling or tubes are routed. The results are shorter time to market and lower costs.

1.10 What manufacturing solutions does Autodesk offer?

Autodesk provides a comprehensive portfolio of products, partners, programs, and services that accelerate and simplify the entire design and manufacturing process, so businesses everywhere can deliver better products to market faster.

Design Creation:

Autodesk Inventor Series offers the most advanced mechanical design software in a single 2D and 3D system—a value unmatched by any other vendor.

www.autodesk.com/inventorseries

Autodesk Inventor Professional combines the proven power of Autodesk Inventor Series with specialized design and validation technology for electromechanical and mechanical design teams in a common platform to increase product quality and decrease cycle time.

www.autodesk.com/inventorpro

AutoCAD® Mechanical is *the* AutoCAD software product for 2D mechanical engineering and design, offering intelligent production drawing with standards-based 2D content for improved design accuracy.

www.autodesk.com/autocadmec

AutoCAD® Electrical gives you fast control schematics design capabilities, automatic wire numbering and component tagging, and an intelligent control panel utility to help you work more efficiently and significantly reduce design errors.

www.autodesk.com/autocadelectrical

Engineering Data Management:

Autodesk® Vault is an engineering data management application for workgroups that is fully integrated with Autodesk Inventor software. Autodesk Vault improves engineering productivity by synchronizing workgroup efforts, accelerates development cycles by reducing search time, and reduces errors and rework by lowering use of email and the c: drive as the primary means of sharing engineering data. Included within Autodesk Inventor Series and Autodesk Inventor Professional software offerings, Vault provides the simplified data management you need at no additional cost. Easy to install, use, and maintain, Autodesk Vault ensures rapid results without complex IT support.

www.autodesk.com/vault

Share and Collaborate:

Autodesk Streamline® is an easy-to-use hosted project environment that helps you share design and project data securely, collaborate more effectively, and improve business processes throughout your product lifecycle.

www.autodesk.com/streamline

Certified Programs:

Autodesk Inventor Certified Applications—Get targeted applications that meet your specific needs from the Autodesk Inventor Certified Application program. This alliance of leading application developers enhances and extends Autodesk Inventor software in specific areas of expertise.

Autodesk Inventor Certified Hardware—Get the best computer hardware and peripheral devices from the Autodesk Inventor Certified Hardware Program. An alliance of leading hardware vendors, the program highlights best-in-class devices that help you use the full power of Autodesk Inventor software.

Autodesk Inventor Certified Expert—The Autodesk Inventor Certified Expert Program is designed to give you an edge by helping you demonstrate and maintain your skills with Autodesk Inventor software. Whether you are looking for work or already have employment, obtaining an official certification from Autodesk can go a long way toward advancing your career opportunities.

www.autodesk.com/inventorcertified

Efficient Execution:

Autodesk Professional Services helps you reduce the time, cost, and risk of transforming your business with technology. We'll guide you as you set up and learn to use your software and support you when problems arise. Whatever your needs, we can help you maximize the return on your investment in Autodesk technology.

www.autodesk.com/consulting

2. Availability

2.1 How do I purchase Autodesk Inventor Professional 8?

Autodesk Inventor Professional 8 is available from Autodesk Authorized Resellers. The software is available in English and is expected to be available in French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Chinese (both Simplified and Traditional), and Czech within 30 days of initial release. You can find a local reseller by visiting www.autodesk.com/reseller or by calling 800-964-6432.

2.2 Do Autodesk education customers in the United States or Canada receive Autodesk Inventor Professional?

If you are an education customer currently using AutoCAD, Autodesk Inventor Series, Autodesk Inventor, Autodesk Mechanical Desktop, or AutoCAD Mechanical software, you will have the opportunity to purchase an upgrade to Autodesk Inventor Professional.

If you are an Autodesk® Comprehensive Education Solution (ACES) customer, you will receive current versions of Autodesk Inventor Professional software.

2.3 How do education customers outside the United States and Canada learn about Autodesk Inventor Professional availability, pricing, and additional resources?

For more information about Autodesk Inventor Professional, contact your local Autodesk Education channel partner or local Autodesk office.

2.4 How do I learn more about Autodesk Inventor Professional?

To learn more about Autodesk Inventor Professional, visit www.autodesk.com/inventorpro or contact your Autodesk Education Reseller or local Autodesk office. To find an Autodesk Education Reseller in your area, visit www.autodesk.com/reseller.



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