

Questions and Answers

With new and expanded workflows for 3D conceptual design, model documentation, and reality capture, AutoCAD 2012 helps design professionals maximize productivity.

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1. General Product Information

1.1 What is AutoCAD 2012 software?

You can design and shape the world around you with the powerful, flexible features found in AutoCAD software, one of the world's leading 2D and 3D design software products. New and expanded workflows for model documentation, reality capture, and 3D conceptual design help increase productivity with AutoCAD 2012. Explore your design ideas with powerful surface modeling tools. Quickly create documents from a variety of modeling formats, helping to reduce manual documentation workarounds. Capture and import as-built information to jumpstart your design process. Plus, you'll find a wide range of timesaving enhancements to the features you use most. AutoCAD 2012 delivers the powerful tools you need to participate in smooth 3D design workflows, helping drive your projects to completion more quickly than ever before.

1.2 Who uses AutoCAD software?

AutoCAD software is used by architects, CAD technicians, designers, engineers, project managers, and CAD/IT managers in a variety of industries, including the manufacturing, building, civil, and mapping industries.

For example, AutoCAD is used by:

- Design professionals who create conceptual designs, exploring ideas in 3D models.
- Design professionals who create technical drawings.
- Drafters who put the finishing touches on a design with detailing, annotations, links to online data, and verification of accuracy.
- Contractors, suppliers, or operational professionals who need to review drawings to extrapolate data specific to their businesses.
- Principals and project leaders who need to review and edit drawings and monitor progress.

1.3 What are the main benefits of AutoCAD software?

- **Speed documentation.** Drive your projects from concept to completion faster with the powerful documentation tools in AutoCAD. Automation, management, and editing tools help minimize repetitive tasks and speed your time to completion.
- **Drive communication.** Share critical design data securely, efficiently, and accurately with AutoCAD. With support for native DWG™ technology, one of the world's most widely used design data formats, you can effectively collaborate across teams. Take your ideas to the next level with presentation-ready graphics, rendering tools, and powerful plotting and 3D printing capabilities.
- **Explore your ideas in almost any shape imaginable.** AutoCAD and a blank canvas have a lot in common. Both give you the ability to create the previously unimaginable. But AutoCAD provides the flexibility to explore design

ideas in both 2D and 3D, with intuitive tools that help your concepts become real.

- **Customize to attack almost any design problem.**
Tailoring AutoCAD to meet your unique needs is easier than you may have thought. Configure your settings, extend the software, build custom workflows, develop your own application, or use one already built.

2. Pricing and How to Buy

2.1 What are the purchasing options and pricing for AutoCAD 2012 software?

AutoCAD 2012 software is available through your local reseller or from the Autodesk Store at www.autodesk.com/store. If you need help finding a reseller, refer to www.autodesk.com/reseller.

Consult your local reseller or the Autodesk Store for pricing information and for information on Autodesk® Subscription.

2.2 Can I try AutoCAD 2012 software before I buy it?

Yes, you can try it out by downloading or requesting the AutoCAD 2012 software trial version. This fully functioning version of AutoCAD 2012 is available as a free* 30-day trial. You can order the trial DVD (64-bit and 32-bit) from your Autodesk Authorized Reseller or simply download the fully functioning trial version at www.autodesk.com/autocad-trial.

2.3 What benefits does Autodesk Subscription offer?

Get the benefits of increased productivity, bonus tools including Autodesk® [Impression](#) software, predictable budgeting, and flexible license management with Autodesk Subscription. Get the latest release of AutoCAD software that becomes available during your subscription term automatically via download, incremental product enhancements, and exclusive license terms that are available only to Subscription members. A range of community resources, including web support direct from Autodesk product support specialists and self-paced training to extend your skills, make Autodesk Subscription the best way to optimize your investment in AutoCAD software.

The annual fee includes these benefits:

- Autodesk Subscription offers a way to make your AutoCAD software costs predictable. Whether you opt for a one-year subscription or a multiyear contract, the costs are known for the entire term of your contract.
- Subscription includes access to Autodesk Impression software, which enables you to quickly create illustrative presentation graphics with a hand-drawn look from your DWG and DWF™ files. Autodesk Impression 3 software is available to Subscription members for the following products: AutoCAD, AutoCAD® Architecture, AutoCAD® Civil 3D®, AutoCAD® Map 3D, AutoCAD® Mechanical, AutoCAD® Inventor® Suite, and AutoCAD® MEP software. For more information, visit www.autodesk.com/impression.

- Product enhancements may include extensions, advantage packs, or other rich content for AutoCAD software, and these enhancements are exclusive to Subscription members. Only Subscription members can access these new product downloads that add new functionality and/or features to your AutoCAD software. Since they adapt easily into your current workflows, you can apply them immediately to your new projects to help you stay competitive.
- Autodesk Subscription makes managing software licensing hassle-free and flexible. You have added flexibility to allow your employees to use their AutoCAD software—in the office or at home. Better yet, designers are entitled to run previous versions of AutoCAD concurrently with the latest release (under certain conditions), so updates won't cause disruptions to ongoing projects where clients or partners are running previous versions.
- Get what you need to stay productive with AutoCAD software. With web support you get direct, one-to-one communication with Autodesk product support specialists for answers to your installation, configuration, and troubleshooting questions. And you don't need to keep track of support records and email trails, because we'll do it for you!
- Get your team up to speed quickly with access to a comprehensive library of interactive training tools and high-quality, self-paced e-Learning lessons that allow users to increase their productivity and master new skills. E-Learning lessons give you a quick and easy way to learn about the features and functionality of AutoCAD software. These short lessons are available on demand and complement more in-depth training provided through [Autodesk Authorized Training Centers](#) or Autodesk Authorized Resellers.

To learn more, take the Subscription tour at www.autodesk.com/subscription.

2.4 What product downloads are available for AutoCAD Subscription members?

Product downloads may include the latest release of the software that becomes available during your subscription term, extensions or bonus packs that become available during your subscription term, or other rich content for AutoCAD software. These enhancements are exclusive to Subscription members and can be downloaded from the Subscription Center at www.autodesk.com/subscriptionlogin.

3. Compatibility and Interoperability

3.1 Do third-party applications based on previous versions of AutoCAD software work with the AutoCAD 2012 software?

Maybe. If third-party add-on applications were created or updated for AutoCAD 2010 or AutoCAD 2011, they should work fine with AutoCAD 2012 software. Third-party applications built for previous versions of AutoCAD and based on ActiveX® and ObjectARX® developer tools may require upgrades to be compatible with AutoCAD 2012. Check with your application developer/supplier regarding availability of applications built for AutoCAD 2012.

3.2 Do AutoCAD 2011 customized menus work in AutoCAD 2012 software?

Yes, AutoCAD 2012 software automatically migrates customized menus (CUI files). The first time you launch AutoCAD 2012, the migration feature asks you if you would like to migrate the settings from your previous AutoCAD version to AutoCAD 2012. The migration feature helps you make a smooth transition to the new release by automatically migrating customized menus, toolbar icons, hatch patterns, linetypes, command shortcuts, and profiles. Refer to www.autodesk.com/migrationtools for additional migration tools.

3.3 Has the AutoCAD 2012 DWG file format changed from the AutoCAD 2011 product?

No, the AutoCAD 2012 DWG file format has not been updated and is no different from the 2011 DWG file format.

3.4 Does AutoCAD 2012 software read and save drawings created by earlier releases of AutoCAD?

AutoCAD 2012 reads drawing files from all previous versions of AutoCAD software. AutoCAD 2012 has a built-in Save As function, so you can save drawings to and from AutoCAD releases using the AutoCAD Release 14, 2000, 2004, and 2007 DWG formats. In addition, you can use the SaveAs AutoCAD Release 12 DXF™ command to support releases prior to AutoCAD Release 14.

3.5 Can I open an AutoCAD 2012 drawing with an older release of AutoCAD?

You can open an AutoCAD 2012 drawing using AutoCAD 2010 and AutoCAD 2011. For opening drawings with previous versions, you should use DWG TrueView™ software to translate DWG files to AutoCAD Release 14, 2000, 2004, and 2007 file formats. DWG TrueView can be downloaded at www.autodesk.com/dwgtrueview. DWG TrueView does not require the AutoCAD application in order to convert DWG files.

3.6 Can I run AutoCAD 2012 side-by-side with other AutoCAD platform-based applications?

Yes, AutoCAD 2012 can be installed side-by-side with any other AutoCAD® or Autodesk® vertical solution, including AutoCAD 2012-based products.

3.7 Is AutoCAD 2012 compatible with AutoCAD LT?

Yes, AutoCAD 2012 is fully DWG-compatible with AutoCAD LT® 2012 software. It can read files from all older versions of AutoCAD LT and can save to the AutoCAD 2007, 2004, 2000, and Release 14 DWG file formats for compatibility with older products.

4. Platform and System Requirements

4.1 What are the system requirements for AutoCAD 2012 software?

Please refer to <http://www.autodesk.com/autocad-systemrequirements>.

4.2 Does AutoCAD 2012 software support 64-bit operating systems?

Yes. See the system requirements above.

4.3 Does AutoCAD 2012 software support multiple CPU systems?

Yes, AutoCAD 2012 software supports multiple CPUs. The performance of AutoCAD graphics and rendering systems benefits from multiple CPU systems.

5. Licensing

5.1 Does AutoCAD 2012 software use product activation for stand-alone licenses?

Yes, with AutoCAD 2012 software 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 is activated only on eligible computers. 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 loyal customers.

5.4 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.

5.5 What if I have more than one computer? Will product activation allow me to 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 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 software is used only by that employee and no other, and only one of the two copies of the software is ever in use at any one time. Consult the Autodesk Software License Agreement for details about using the software on a second computer.

5.6 How do I transfer my software license to another machine?

The Online License Transfer (OLT) Utility allows licenses to be moved between machines. The OLT replaces the former Portable License Utility. To transfer a license, simply start the transfer utility and choose Export. Then log in to the OLT website and "park" your license at an Autodesk "parking area." At the destination computer, start the transfer utility and choose Import. Log back in to the OLT website and import your license to the destination 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. Support and Training

6.1 How do I obtain direct technical support?

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

Furthermore, Autodesk Subscription is a comprehensive 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.

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

6.2 How can I get personalized support and training for AutoCAD 2012 software?

If you purchased this product from an Autodesk Authorized Reseller, contact your reseller for support and training information. To locate an Autodesk Authorized Reseller in your area, call your local Autodesk office or visit the Autodesk website at www.autodesk.com/reseller.

You can also visit www.autodesk.com/autocad-support for a list of the support options from Autodesk.

6.3 Where do I find training courses for AutoCAD 2012 software?

You can attend instructor-led training at Autodesk Authorized Training Center (ATC[®]) locations around the world. These training centers use Autodesk Official Training Courseware (AOTC) to deliver comprehensive courses for new and intermediate AutoCAD software users. Autodesk ATC sites also deliver custom courses on AutoCAD and other Autodesk products. To learn more, visit www.autodesk.com/atc.

6.4 How do I find out if service packs are available for AutoCAD 2012 software?

In the event that Autodesk releases an AutoCAD 2012 software service pack, it is easy to access and install it using the Autodesk Exchange feature within the product. Check the Autodesk Exchange window to see if an update is available. AutoCAD 2012 automatically recognizes if you have the most up-to-date release and prompts you if there is an update available. When you click the link, AutoCAD 2012 automatically downloads and installs the update.

*This product is subject to the terms and conditions of the end-user license agreement that accompanies download of the software.

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