

Questions and Answers

With AutoCAD® 2009 software, Autodesk has one goal in mind: increasing your productivity. AutoCAD 2009 boosts efficiency with customizable, extensible features and enhancements that increase overall drafting productivity by decreasing the number of steps needed to execute a command. Innovative features simplify working with layers and help make new users productive as quickly as possible. Easy-to-use navigation tools make finding your way around 3D models a snap, and saving time by automating repetitive CAD tasks is now a breeze. Move to new heights of productivity with AutoCAD 2009.

Contents

1. General Information	1
2. Availability and Pricing	2
3. Compatibility	3
4. Platform and System Requirements	4
5. Licensing.....	5

1. General Information

1.1. What is AutoCAD® 2009 software?

With AutoCAD® software Autodesk has just one goal in mind: increasing your productivity. AutoCAD 2009 boosts efficiency with customizable and extensible user interface enhancements that increase overall drafting productivity by decreasing the number of steps to reach a command. Newly designed, innovative features simplify working with layers and help make new users productive as quickly as possible. Easy-to-use navigation tools make finding your way around 3D models a snap. Move to new heights of productivity with AutoCAD software.

1.2. What are the main benefits of AutoCAD® 2009 software?

With AutoCAD® 2009 software, Autodesk has one goal: increasing your productivity. A customizable and extensible user interface has been optimized to boost efficiency by making routine CAD tasks faster and commands easier to find. New timesaving features automate repetitive tasks. With AutoCAD 2009 you can move to new heights of productivity.

The new ribbon-style interface increases overall drafting productivity as the number of steps to reach a command is decreased. This interface presents command options in a concise visual format, enabling you to quickly select commands based on the work you are doing. Moving between applications is now quick and intuitive. The ribbon is both customizable and expandable, so it can be optimized for each user and to meet each company's standards.

The ViewCube™ feature is an interactive tool used to rotate and orient any solid or surface model in AutoCAD. Selecting a face, edge, or corner of the cube quickly changes the view of a 3D model to that predefined orientation. By clicking and holding the ViewCube, you can freely rotate the model in any direction. Since the cube remains in a fixed location on the screen, it provides at-a-glance orientation.

The new SteeringWheels™ tool provides quick access to the Orbit, Pan, Center, and Zoom commands. The SteeringWheels feature is highly customizable, so you can add commands to help create and record a walk-through of your model.

User assistance enhancements include the following:

- Second-level tooltips provide additional contextual information on the item that is selected.
- Dynamic Help: Press the F1 key while hovering over a tooltip for a direct link to the help file's information on that command.
- InfoCenter: Now typing a keyword in the InfoCenter search box searches the Autodesk Knowledge Base and Autodesk Forum for information.
- The help file now includes Show Me animations to provide visual assistance for the specific command.

The new Action Recorder helps you save time and increases productivity by enabling you to automate repetitive tasks without the skill or assistance of a professional CAD manager. You can quickly record a task, add text messages and requests for input, and then immediately select, share, and play back recorded files.

The new Layer dialog box makes creating and editing layer properties faster and less subject to error. Changes are instantly reflected in the drawing as they are entered in the dialog box. The manipulation of the dialog box has been simplified: Columns in the box can be individually resized so that a column's contents or title is not truncated. Individual columns, such as the layer name, can be "frozen" in place, enabling you to scroll through the rest of the columns using the fixed column as a reference.

2. Availability and Pricing

2.1. When will AutoCAD® 2009 software be available?

AutoCAD® 2009 software will be available worldwide in March 2008 in English, German, Japanese, French, and Simplified Chinese.

2.2. When can I expect localized versions of AutoCAD® 2009 software 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, Hungarian, and Russian. Autodesk will announce the expected ship dates as the localized versions become available.

2.3. Can I try AutoCAD® 2009 software before I buy it?

Yes, you can try it out by requesting the AutoCAD® 2009 software trial version. This fully functioning version of AutoCAD 2009 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 Key Systems

2.4. What are the benefits of Autodesk Subscription?

Get the benefits of increased productivity, predictable budgeting, and simplified license management with Autodesk® Subscription. You get any new upgrades of your Autodesk software and any incremental product enhancements, if these are released during your subscription term and you get exclusive license terms available only to subscription members. A range of community resources, including web support direct from Autodesk technical experts, self-paced training, and e-Learning, help extend your skills and make Autodesk Subscription the best way to optimize your investment.

2.6 What is Autodesk Impression 2?

With Autodesk® Impression software, you can quickly create illustrative presentation graphics with a hand-drawn look from your DWG™ and DWF™ files. Autodesk Impression 2 software is available to AutoCAD®, AutoCAD® Architecture, AutoCAD® Civil 3D®, AutoCAD® Map 3D, and AutoCAD® MEP software products' subscription customers. For more information, call Key Systems.

2.7 How do I obtain Autodesk Impression 2?

Autodesk Impression 2 software can be downloaded from the Autodesk Subscription Center by AutoCAD, AutoCAD Architecture, AutoCAD Civil 3D, AutoCAD Map 3D, and AutoCAD MEP software products' subscription customers.

3. Compatibility

3.1. Do third-party applications based on AutoCAD 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, or 2008 work with the 32-bit version of AutoCAD® 2009 software?

Third-party add-on applications based on Visual LISP® or AutoLISP®, VBA, ActiveX®, and ObjectARX® programming languages and developer tools for AutoCAD® 2007 software are compatible with the 32-bit AutoCAD 2008. AutoCAD 2009 is binary compatible with 2008 and 2007 and has the same DWG™ file format.

Third-party applications for AutoCAD 2004, 2005, and 2006 that are based on Visual LISP or AutoLISP are also compatible with AutoCAD 2009. Third-party VBA-based applications for AutoCAD 2004, 2005, and 2006 are compatible with the 32-bit AutoCAD 2009 in some cases, but in some instances those applications will need to be modified. For more details on AutoCAD 2005 and 2006 VBA-based application compatibility, refer to www.autodesk.com/developautocad. Third-party applications for AutoCAD 2004, 2005, and 2006 that are based on ActiveX and ObjectARX need to be upgraded to be compatible with AutoCAD 2009. Check with your application developer or supplier regarding availability of applications built for AutoCAD 2009.

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You can find additional details on migrating applications to AutoCAD 2009 in the Application Migration Guide that is included in the AutoCAD 2009 ObjectARX SDK (software developer kit). You can find the ObjectARX SDK and much more information on developing applications and customizing AutoCAD at www.autodesk.com/developautocad.

3.2. Do third-party applications based on AutoCAD 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008 work with the 64-bit version of AutoCAD® 2009 software?

Third-party add-on applications based on Visual LISP or AutoLISP for AutoCAD 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008 will work on 64-bit AutoCAD 2009. Autodesk has developed an out-of-process interim solution for customers who want to use VBA on 64-bit AutoCAD. Long-term customers will need to port the VBA applications to Visual Studio® for Applications when using 64-bit AutoCAD. Third-party add-on applications based on VBA for AutoCAD 2007 will run out of process on 64-bit AutoCAD 2009. VBA-based applications for AutoCAD 2004, 2006, and 2005 may run out of process in some instances, but in others they may need to be modified.

Third-party applications for AutoCAD 2007 based on ActiveX and ObjectARX will need to be upgraded to work on 64-bit AutoCAD 2009. More information on migrating to 64-bit AutoCAD 2009 can be found in the ObjectARX 64-bit Migration Guide included in the 64-bit AutoCAD 2009 SDK or at www.autodesk.com/developautocad. Applications for AutoCAD 2004, 2005, and 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 or supplier regarding availability of applications built for 64-bit AutoCAD 2009.

3.3. Do AutoCAD® 2008 software customized menus work in AutoCAD® 2009 software?

Yes, AutoCAD® 2009 software automatically migrates customized menus (CUI files). The first time you launch AutoCAD 2009, the migration feature asks you if you would like to migrate the settings from your previous AutoCAD version to AutoCAD 2009. 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.

How are AutoLISP® and Visual LISP® programs affected by changes in AutoCAD® 2009 software?

No changes have been made to AutoLISP® or Visual LISP® programming languages in AutoCAD® 2009 software. AutoLISP and Visual LISP routines written for AutoCAD 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, or 2008 will work in AutoCAD 2009.

3.4. Has the AutoCAD® 2009 software DWG file format changed from the AutoCAD 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 products?

The AutoCAD® 2009 software DWG file format is the same DWG file format as in AutoCAD 2007 and 2008. The AutoCAD 2007 file format was updated and is different from the DWG format of AutoCAD 2004, 2005, and 2006. The AutoCAD 2009 DWG file format is also the same DWG format 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 created by any Autodesk product in all earlier DWG versions.

3.5. Does AutoCAD® 2009 software read and save drawings created by earlier releases of AutoCAD?

AutoCAD 2009® software reads drawing files from all previous versions of AutoCAD software. AutoCAD 2009 has a built-in SaveAs function so you can save drawings to and from AutoCAD Release 14, AutoCAD 2000, and AutoCAD 2004 DWG formats. In addition, you can use the SaveAs AutoCAD Release 12 DXF™ command to support releases earlier than AutoCAD Release 14.

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3.6. Can I open an AutoCAD® 2009 software drawing with an older release of AutoCAD?

AutoCAD® 2008 software can open any drawings created in AutoCAD 2009. With DWG TrueView™ software you can translate DWG files created with any release of AutoCAD or AutoCAD LT® software 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.

3.7. Can I run AutoCAD® 2009 software side by side with other AutoCAD platform–based applications?

Yes, AutoCAD® 2009 software can be installed side by side with any other AutoCAD or Autodesk industry-specific solution, including AutoCAD 2009–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.

3.8. Is AutoCAD® 2009 software compatible with AutoCAD LT?

Yes, AutoCAD® 2009 software is fully DWG-compatible with AutoCAD LT 2009. 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.

3.9. When will the AutoCAD 2009–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® 2009 software?

The system requirements for 32-bit AutoCAD 2009 are as follows:

- Intel® Pentium® 4 processor, 2.2 GHz minimum
or
Intel or AMD dual-core processor, 1.6 GHz minimum
- Windows Vista® or Windows® XP Professional or Home Edition (SP2) operating system
- 512 MB RAM
- 750 MB free disk space for installation
- 1024x768 VGA with true color
- Internet Explorer® 6.0 or later browser
- Available on CD (worldwide) and DVD (select countries and languages)

Additional system requirements for 64-bit AutoCAD 2009 include the following:

- Windows XP Professional x64 Edition or Windows Vista 64-bit (cannot be installed on a 32-bit Windows operating system)
- AMD 64 or Intel EM64T processor
- 1 GB RAM, or 2 GB for Windows Vista 64-bit
- 750 MB free disk space for installation

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The system requirements for Microsoft® Windows Vista® operating system or 3D modeling (32- and 64-bit AutoCAD) are as follows:

- Intel or AMD single-core processor, minimum 3.0 GHz
or
Intel or AMD dual-core processor, minimum 2.0 GHz
- 2 GB RAM minimum
- 2 GB free hard disk, not including installation
- 1280x1024 32-bit color video display adapter (true color) 128 MB minimum; OpenGL®- or Direct3D®-capable workstation class graphics card (Windows Vista installation requires a Direct3D capable workstation class graphics card with 128 MB minimum)

4.2. Does AutoCAD® 2009 software support the Microsoft® Windows Vista® operating system?

AutoCAD® 2009 software supports Microsoft® Windows Vista Home Basic, Home Premium, Ultimate, Business, and Enterprise operating systems. In addition, AutoCAD 2009 takes advantage of some new Microsoft Windows Vista capabilities, specifically Windows Vista thumbnail previews for DWG and DWF files in Microsoft® Internet Explorer® internet browser, display of AutoCAD properties in the detail tab of Internet 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® 2009 Software Logo Certified for Microsoft® Windows Vista® operating system?

AutoCAD® 2009 software has achieved the Certified for Windows Vista logo. This is the highest level of logo certification that Microsoft offers and indicates that AutoCAD 2009 has a high standard of quality and supports the best of what Windows Vista has to offer.

4.4. Does AutoCAD® 2009 software support multiple CPU systems?

Yes, AutoCAD® 2009 software supports multiple CPUs. The performance of AutoCAD graphics and rendering systems benefits from multiple CPU systems.

4.5. Is a native 64-bit version of AutoCAD® 2009 software available?

Yes, a native AutoCAD® 2009 software 64-bit version is available. AutoCAD 2009 64-bit is expected to be available in March 2008 in English (in all countries where English-language versions are sold), French, German, Spanish, and Japanese. Autodesk also plans to ship Korean and Italian versions. Ship dates will be announced as they become available.

4.6. Is AutoCAD® 2009 software available on a DVD?

Yes, AutoCAD® 2009 software is available on a DVD in English (in all countries where English-language versions are sold), French, Italian, German, Spanish, Japanese, and Korean. The DVD contains both 64-bit and 32-bit AutoCAD 2009, and it installs the appropriate product for the system it is being installed on: AutoCAD 2009 64-bit will be installed if a 64-bit operating system is installed, and 32-bit if a 32-bit operating system is installed. You cannot install AutoCAD 2009 64-bit on a 32-bit operating system or AutoCAD 2009 32-bit on a 64-bit operating system. AutoCAD 2009 32-bit is also available on CD in all supported languages.

The Autodesk logo is positioned vertically on the right side of the page. It consists of the word "Autodesk" in a blue, sans-serif font, with a registered trademark symbol (®) at the top right of the letter 'k'.

5. Licensing

5.1. Does AutoCAD® 2009 software use product activation for stand-alone licenses?

Yes, with AutoCAD® 2009 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 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 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 & 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 by 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 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.

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