

Questions and Answers

With powerful new tools for design aggregation, connecting with Autodesk 360 cloud-enabled services, and accessing hundreds of apps, AutoCAD® 2013 software powers your design and documentation workflows.

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1. General Product Information

1.1 What is AutoCAD 2013 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. Powerful tools for design aggregation help connect and streamline your design and documentation workflows. Import and aggregate models from almost any format, and quickly create detailed design layouts and drawing views that automatically update when the source model changes. Save time with an enhanced and more effortless user interface and a customizable Command Line display. Synchronize your drawings and folders with Autodesk® 360 to access your designs from almost anywhere. And with a single destination to find and install hundreds of different Autodesk-approved apps, you can extend the power of your software more easily 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.

2. Pricing and How to Buy

2.1 What are the licensing options and pricing for AutoCAD 2013 software?

AutoCAD 2013 software is available through your local reseller, online retailers, or from the Autodesk Store.

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

2.2 Can I try AutoCAD 2013 software before I buy it?

Yes, you can try it out by downloading or requesting the AutoCAD 2013 software trial version. This fully functioning version of AutoCAD 2013 is available as a free* 30-day trial. You can order the trial DVD (64-bit and 32-bit for Windows) from your Autodesk Authorized Reseller or simply download the fully functioning trial version.

*Free products are subject to the terms and conditions of the end-user license and services agreement that accompanies the software.

2.3 What benefits does Autodesk Subscription offer?

Get the benefits of more cloud computing capabilities and capacity, upgrades to the latest software releases, online technical support, and flexible licensing privileges with Autodesk Subscription. Get any releases of AutoCAD software that become available during your subscription term automatically via download, incremental product enhancements, and exclusive license terms that are available only to Subscription members.

The annual fee includes these benefits:

- Subscription customers have an advantage with Autodesk 360 cloud-enabled services, including greater cloud computing capabilities and more storage capacity. As a result, they can view and share more design files on web or mobile devices, simulate and visualize more design options, and improve project results with web-based collaboration and data management solutions.
- 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.
- Product enhancements may include extensions 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 quickly apply them 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.

Learn more by visiting the [Autodesk Subscription product center](#).

2.4 What product downloads are available for AutoCAD Subscription members?

Product downloads may include any releases of the software, 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](#).

3. Compatibility and Interoperability

3.1 Do third-party applications based on previous versions of AutoCAD software work with AutoCAD 2013 software?

Third-party applications built for previous versions of AutoCAD and based on ActiveX® and ObjectARX® developer tools require upgrades to be compatible with AutoCAD 2013. Check with your application developer/supplier regarding availability of applications built for AutoCAD 2013.

3.2 Do AutoCAD 2012 customized menus work in AutoCAD 2013 software?

Yes, AutoCAD 2013 software automatically migrates customized menus (CUI files). The first time you launch AutoCAD 2013, the migration feature asks you if you would like to migrate the settings from your previous AutoCAD version to AutoCAD 2013. 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 [Services & Support](#) for additional migration tools.

3.3 Has the AutoCAD 2013 DWG file format changed from the AutoCAD 2012 product?

AutoCAD 2013 software introduces an updated file format to accommodate technology and performance improvements in the software. AutoCAD 2013 enables you to save drawings in a wide variety of other formats, ranging back to R14 DWG™ and R12 DXF™ formats.

3.4 Does AutoCAD 2013 software read and save drawings created by earlier releases of AutoCAD?

AutoCAD 2013 reads drawing files from all previous versions of AutoCAD software. AutoCAD 2013 has a built-in Save As function, so you can save drawings to and from AutoCAD releases using the AutoCAD Release 14, 2000, 2004, 2007, and 2010 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 2013 drawing with an older release of AutoCAD?

In order to open AutoCAD 2013 drawings with older releases of AutoCAD, you should use Autodesk® DWG TrueView™ software to translate DWG files to AutoCAD Release 14, 2000, 2004, 2007, and 2010 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 2013 side-by-side with other AutoCAD platform-based applications?

Yes, AutoCAD 2013 can be installed side-by-side with any other AutoCAD or Autodesk vertical solution, including AutoCAD 2012-based products.

3.7 Is AutoCAD 2013 compatible with AutoCAD LT?

Yes, AutoCAD 2013 is fully DWG-compatible with AutoCAD LT 2013 software. It can read files from all older versions of AutoCAD LT and can save to the AutoCAD 2010, 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 2013 software?

System requirements can be found online.

4.2 Does AutoCAD 2013 software support 64-bit operating systems?

Yes. See the system requirements above.

4.3 Does AutoCAD 2013 software support Windows Vista?

No, AutoCAD 2013 does not support the Windows Vista® operating system.

4.4 Does AutoCAD 2013 software support Mac OS X?

AutoCAD 2013 for Mac supports some versions of Mac OS® X. See the system requirements above.

4.5 What are the differences between AutoCAD 2013 and AutoCAD 2013 for Mac?

AutoCAD 2013 and AutoCAD 2013 for Mac are based on much of the same source code; however, AutoCAD for Mac 2013 has a look and feel that is familiar to users of other Mac software. Please refer to the [AutoCAD 2013 Platform Comparison Matrix](#).

4.6 Does AutoCAD 2013 software support multiple CPU systems?

Yes, AutoCAD 2013 software supports multiple CPUs. The performance of AutoCAD graphics and rendering systems benefits from multiple CPU systems.

5. Licensing

5.1 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.

5.2 How do I activate my software?

The first time you start up the product, 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.

5.3 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.

5.4 What if I use a PC and a Mac? Will product activation allow me to use the software on separate machines on different operating systems?

If you have purchased a license of AutoCAD 2013 or AutoCAD 2013 for Mac you are entitled to cross-licensing options that allow you to activate either Windows or Mac OS X versions of your software. AutoCAD 2013 can be installed and activated on Windows or Mac OS X with the same serial number and product keys two times in a 12-month period, provided that you are compliant with the policy listed in section 5.3. The two activations can either be two Windows activations, two Mac OS X activations, or one Windows activation plus one Mac OS X activation. Get more information on [cross-platform licensing](#).

5.5 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.

5.6 Where can I find more information about software activation?

More information on product activation can be found [online](#).

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 the [Subscription Center](#).

Find a complete list of [support options for AutoCAD](#) on the Autodesk website.

6.2 How can I get personalized support and training for AutoCAD 2013 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](#).

Find a complete list of [support options for AutoCAD](#) on the Autodesk website.

6.3 Where do I find training courses for AutoCAD 2013 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.

6.4 How do I find out if service packs are available for AutoCAD 2013 software?

In the event that Autodesk releases an AutoCAD 2013 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 2013 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 2013 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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