

Benefits of Moving from AutoCAD LT to AutoCAD 2009 Software

This paper outlines the key benefits of moving from AutoCAD LT® to AutoCAD® 2009 software. If your answer is yes to any of the following questions, it may be worthwhile to take a closer look at the benefits and productivity gains of moving to AutoCAD 2009.

- Would you like to customize your software?
- Do you have requirements for 3D modeling, prototyping, or rendering?
- Would you like to access your software licenses across a network?
- Do you want to buy add-on applications to extend your software's capabilities?
- Do you need to use CAD standards tools to help control consistency in your drawings?
- Do you need to create presentation-ready graphics straight from your CAD drawings?
- Do you need to work in a multiple sheet environment?

Would you like to customize your software?

The AutoCAD 2009 software platform offers fully extensible drawing and application customization through APIs (application programming interfaces) such as Autodesk's AutoLISP® and Visual LISP®, Microsoft .NET, and Microsoft® Visual Basic® for Applications (VBA) and Microsoft® ActiveX® programming languages.

AutoCAD LT is not an extensible product.

Do you have requirements for 3D modeling, prototyping, or rendering?

Design, visualize, and document your ideas clearly and efficiently with AutoCAD software. From conceptual design through drafting and detailing, AutoCAD 2009 enables you to explore ideas like never before. Create, edit, and develop design alternatives using realistic solids and surfaces in an updated design environment. Communicate your ideas with powerful sketch, shadow, and rendering tools, including intuitive walk-through animations. Then turn your concepts into a set of documents with the new section and flatten functionality.

AutoCAD LT is a 2D drafting application only and contains no solid and surface modeling tools or sketch, shadow, or rendering tools.

Would you like to access your software licenses across a network?

AutoCAD license management technology enables IT managers to maximize their company's return on investment. Network licensing provides users with access to the right software at the right time and enables organizations to easily and efficiently control the use of software. Effective use of network licensing software requires investment in planning, implementation, and maintenance. Used properly, it can generate significant benefits for you and your organization.

AutoCAD LT does not offer network licensing.

Do you want to buy add-on applications to extend your software's capabilities?

Autodesk works together with thousands of software partners from around the world to create additional applications for the AutoCAD platform. These partners further enhance Autodesk's broad range of fully integrated and interoperable solutions, for every design profession you can imagine.

AutoCAD software also provides a flexible development platform for specialized design and drafting applications. Its open architecture enables developers to customize AutoCAD for unique purposes. Examples include Autodesk's industry-specific design software, add-on applications from partner developers, and use of AutoCAD software as an interface for other applications.

AutoCAD LT is not structured to allow third-party or in-house applications to run with it.

Do you need to use CAD standards tools to help control consistency in your drawings?

AutoCAD 2009 software can help provide measurable benefits to your firm's bottom line by enabling CAD managers to create, deploy, enforce, and audit standards in your design office.

Using CAD standards functionality, you can select the type of standard you want checked—dimension and text styles, layers, or linetypes—so the software checks only for violations that are important to your office. The standards manager automatically runs in the background while you work, instantly notifies you of any violation, and suggests a fix.

AutoCAD LT does not support any CAD standards functionality.

Do you need to create presentation-ready graphics straight from your CAD drawings?

AutoCAD 2009 includes the new Autodesk® Impression software (for subscription customers only). Autodesk Impression software enables you to quickly create compelling, presentation-ready graphics. Add everything from pencil lines to watercolor washes to DWG™ and DWF™ files using prebuilt styles, or create your own custom styles to convey a unique look. And because Impression enables you to save styles, you can quickly update presentation graphics when designs change, as well as apply your signature style (or styles) to all the drawings that your office produces. Best of all, familiar tools and built-in learning resources make Impression simple to learn.

AutoCAD LT does not include Impression.

Do you need to work in a multiple sheet environment?

AutoCAD 2009 extends beyond single drawing production. In a single interface, you can access sheets, group them into logical categories, create a sheet index, manage sheet views, archive sheet sets, and share them with your project team using plots, eTransmit, or DWF files.

AutoCAD LT does not offer this functionality.

Conclusion

Whether you use AutoCAD for 2D drafting, detailing, design documentation, or conceptual design, you can customize the software to meet your specific design needs, or add an industry-specific application built to work with AutoCAD. AutoCAD software is used extensively worldwide in computer-aided design (CAD).

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