

New user interface for Autocad 2009

Autodesk has announced the forthcoming release of the Autocad 2009 family of software. It is said that significant user interface enhancements will help Autocad customers of all levels work more productively toward competitive design ideas and compelling presentations.

Autocad 2009 includes what is claimed to be the first task-based user interface in a computer-aided design (CAD) application, allowing new and experienced Autocad operators to experience greater efficiency. The new version also delivers automation tools that do not require programming knowledge, and new 3D navigational tools. In addition, Autocad 2009 subscription customers will receive Autodesk Impression illustration software for the creation of presentation-ready graphics.

Amar Hanspal, senior vice president of platform solutions and emerging businesses at Autodesk, comments: "The Autocad 2009 portfolio is designed to improve the productivity of veteran users and allow new users to become productive more quickly. Autodesk has a long history of helping our customers make a difference in people's lives with better design in the buildings where we live, work and play, the roads we travel and the products we use. The innovations in Autocad 2009 extend to a product portfolio unmatched for breadth, depth and best-in-class solutions that help our customers improve and bring to life their design ideas."

Updates to the Autocad 2009 software portfolio support individual users' needs and preferences, making routine CAD tasks faster and less-commonly used commands easier to find. A new ribbon interface in Autocad 2009 software affords the ability to view operations that are relevant to the current workspace in a single, compact place. Highly customisable and extensible, the new interface allows a smooth transition from previous versions of Autocad software, and a 'classic workspace' option offers a traditional toolbar and menu interface. Other helpful tools include enhanced tooltips, which provide more information about commands, links to help documentation and Show Me animations to improve learning inside the application. The Menu Browser, Quick Properties and Quick View display relevant information quickly and visually.

In addition to user interface enhancements, new productivity features include the Action Recorder, which further streamlines drafting tasks by allowing the user to automate them without any software programming. A mode-less layer manager lets users view changes to layer settings without exiting the Layer Manager. Autocad 2009 users also will find extensive 3D navigation improvements with new Viewcube and Steeringwheels tools. Autocad 2009 software is certified for the 32-bit and 64-bit Microsoft Windows Vista operating systems.

Autodesk Impression software also is included with Autocad 2009 subscription purchases, enabling customers to quickly and easily create presentation-ready graphics with a hand-drawn look directly from Autocad DWF and DWG files. With the addition of Impression functionality to the Autocad feature set, Autocad subscription customers can create compelling artistic images that they can share with clients and members of their extended design teams.

The Autocad software portfolio includes discipline-specific applications built on Autocad technology. For example, Autocad Mechanical 2009 is designed to accelerate the mechanical design process with standards-based symbol libraries, engineering calculators and a mechanical-specific workflow created to significantly improve productivity for Autocad users in manufacturing. Selected features from Autocad 2009 are also incorporated in Autocad LT 2009, the 2D drafting application.

Users of any of the Autocad 2009 family of products will also benefit from the availability of free Autodesk Design Review 2009 software, which allows team members to participate in the digital review process with tools to view, mark-up and revise designs electronically.