

Questions & Answers

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1. General Product Information

1.1. What is AutoCAD Map 3D 2008?

AutoCAD® Map 3D 2008 software is the leading engineering GIS platform for creating and managing spatial data. AutoCAD Map 3D bridges CAD and GIS by providing direct access to data, regardless of how it is stored, and by enabling the use of AutoCAD® software tools for maintaining a broad variety of geospatial information. Using open source FDO Data Access Technology (FDO), AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 automatically accesses spatial data stored in relational databases, files, and web-based services—providing easy management of large geospatial data sets, while streamlining entire workflows. With seamless integration of Autodesk MapGuide® software, AutoCAD Map 3D is the quickest way to publish data to the web or intranet.

1.2. What's new in AutoCAD Map 3D 2008?

In addition to the powerful AutoCAD Map 3D core functionality for creating and maintaining precise geospatial information, the new features in AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 help you work faster and more efficiently on the tasks that you do every day:

- Performance – Access to data using FDO Data Access Technology is up to 90% faster allowing you to start working immediately.
- Ad-hoc Joins enable you to easily extend the properties of FDO accessed data by linking to external tables. You can then use the joined properties to analyze and visualize your data as never before.
- Buffers - Create buffer zones around points, lines, or polygon features (accessed via FDO) based on a specified distance and use the resultant buffer geometry for use in spatial queries to determine which entities occur either within or outside the defined buffer zone.
- Metadata – AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 enables you to automatically generate metadata about your spatial information and publish it in standard government formats (e.g., FDGC). This makes it easy for you to share your data with other people in your organization or publish externally for the world to consume.
- Import/Export – To enable easier moving of vector data between DWG™ technology and FDO, AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 includes new functionality that enables DWG vectors to be exported to SDF 3 file format and Oracle® and vice versa. During export you can choose to map DWG layer names, Object Classification, AutoCAD Map 3D Object Data Tables, or Link Templates to corresponding SDF and Oracle feature classes. Once in SDF file format or Oracle you can use Display Manager to stylize these features and easily move this data to other data stores such as MySQL, Microsoft® SQL Server™ and ESRI® ArcSDE® managed databases.
- Third-party and open source FDO Providers - To help make it easier for developers to extend capabilities of the FDO Data Access Technology, Autodesk released FDO Data Access Technology as an open source project under the Open Source Geospatial Foundation (OSGeo). This initiative enables developers all over the world to tap into powerful geospatial data access technology. By leveraging the power of FDO on the desktop, AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 makes it easy for you to connect to a world of data. AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 leverages the open source world enabling you to extend data access with new third-party and open source FDO Providers (e.g., OGR, GDAL) for data stores not currently supported by Autodesk (e.g., ESRI Personal Geodatabase).
- Enhanced Autodesk interoperability includes the ability to bring in AutoCAD® Civil 3D® software objects including surfaces into AutoCAD Map 3D 2008, and instantaneously publish fully stylized maps via Autodesk MapGuide software.

Go to www.autodesk.com/map3d to learn more about the benefits and advanced functionality of AutoCAD Map 3D 2008.

1.3. Which data stores can I directly and dynamically read/write to in AutoCAD Map 3D?

Using FDO Data Access Technology you can directly and simultaneous access multiple databases and files including Oracle, Microsoft SQL Server, ESRI ArcSDE, MySQL, ODBC, ESRI SHP, Autodesk's spatial data file (SDF) and Raster files (read only for JPEG, JPG2K, MrSID®, TIFF, ECW, DEM, ESRI Grid, DTED and NITF). AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 can also consume Web Services (OGC WMS and WFS). Direct read/write helps increase data access speed and ensure accuracy of information by minimizing data conversion.

1.4. What is FDO Data Access Technology?

FDO Data Access Technology is the mechanism that enables Autodesk Geospatial products and enterprise applications to work natively with spatial data stored in relational databases, files, and web based services. FDO Data Access Technology is included in AutoCAD Map 3D 2008, AutoCAD Civil 3D 2008, Autodesk MapGuide Enterprise, and Autodesk® Topobase™ software applications. For more information, including documentation and product details, see www.autodesk.com/fdo

1.5. What raster image formats does AutoCAD Map 3D support?

Supported raster formats include BMP, CALS-1, FLIC, G3, G4, Geospot, GeoTIFF, GIF, IG4, IGS, JFIF, JPEG, PCS, Photo CD, PICT, PNG, PSD, RLC 1, RLC 2, TARGA®, TIFF/LZW, Earth Resource Mapping's ECW, and LizardTech's MrSID, JPG2K, DEM, ESRI ArcGRID, DTED and NITF.

1.6. Why do I need AutoCAD Raster Design when AutoCAD Map 3D can view and display raster Digital Elevation Models (DEM)?

AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 and AutoCAD Civil 3D 2008 software applications provide the ability to view and display raster DEMs. However, you can't edit or modify these and other images without the use of AutoCAD® Raster Design software. Raster data functionality in AutoCAD, AutoCAD Map 3D, AutoCAD Civil 3D, and AutoCAD Raster Design software is as follows:

Raster Functionality	AutoCAD	AutoCAD Map 3D/Civil 3D	Raster Design	Image Type*
Drawing Cleanup Tools				
Despeckle			X	Bitonal
Deskew			X	ALL
Change Bias			X	ALL
Invert			X	ALL
Touch Up (pixel level edit)			X	Bitonal
Raster to Vector Conversions				
Vectorize primitives and text			X	Bitonal
Raster Entity Manipulation			X	Bitonal
Optical Character Recognition			X	Bitonal
REM Region Operations			X	ALL
Image Management				
Save imagery in the DWG file			X	Bitonal
Image Insertion/Manipulation				
Correlate	X	X	X	ALL
Scale, Rotate	X	X	X	ALL

Mask	X	X	X	ALL
Mirror	X	X	X	ALL
Clip	X	X	X	ALL
Affine Transformation upon Insert	X	X	X	ALL
Edit color map (change data interpretation, value distribution, color assignment, create/save color palettes)		X	X	Digital Elevation Models
Edit color map (assign bands)			X	Multispectral
Apply color ramps		X		Digital Elevation Models
Merge images		X	X	ALL
Merge vector to image			X	ALL
Crop			X	ALL
Remove			X	ALL
Export or save as other formats			X	ALL
Export World File Correlation			X	ALL
Coordinate Transform upon Insert		X	X	ALL
True (pixel by pixel) Coordinate Transform upon Insert			X	ALL
Rubbersheet			X	ALL
Capture (snapshot)			X	ALL
Raster Data Query			X	ALL
Edit multi-resolution imagery			X	MrSID, ECW, JPEG2000
Image Enhancement				
Adjust Brightness, Contrast and Fade	X	X	X	ALL
Turn Transparency on/off	X	X	X	Bitonal, Grayscale, Index Color, True Color
Change Colors		X	X	Bitonal
Filter (smooth, thicken, thin, skeletonize)			X	Bitonal
Histogram edit of brightness and contrast			X	Grayscale, Index Color, True Color
Nonlinear contrast adjustment			X	Grayscale, Index Color, True Color
Equalize, Threshold, Convolve			X	Grayscale, Index Color, True Color
Convert to Grayscale		X	X	Grayscale, Index Color, True Color

Combine or Change Colors			X	Grayscale, Index Color
Assign transparency to a specific color			X	Grayscale, Index Color, True Color
Export and import palettes			X	Grayscale, Index Color
Change color depth			x	Bitonal, Grayscale, Index Color, True Color

*Image types include bitonal (1-bit), grayscale (4-bit or 8-bit), indexed color (8-bit), true color (24-bit or 32-bit), digital elevation model (floating point), and single-band integer (16-bit or 32-bit).

1.7. How does AutoCAD Map 3D integrate CAD, civil engineering, and GIS?

AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 is a premier tool for integrating CAD, civil engineering, and GIS. Its strength lies in the open and flexible environment that enables you to work with virtually any data, regardless of format. As a result, you protect your data investment and get the full value from your existing information. DWG and SHP formats are among the most prevalent in the CAD, engineering, and GIS worlds, and with AutoCAD Map 3D 2008, you can create, manage, and share these or just about any industry-standard format with the precision of a CAD system.

1.8. What level of interoperability can I expect between AutoCAD Map 3D and AutoCAD Civil 3D?

You can easily share parcels, alignments and other objects created in AutoCAD Civil 3D 2008 software using Autodesk's spatial data file (SDF). In addition, you can share surfaces created in AutoCAD Civil 3D 2008 with AutoCAD Map 3D by exporting the surface to a DEM file.

1.9. What is Autodesk's spatial data file (SDF)?

Autodesk Spatial Data File (SDF) format is a GIS-oriented alternative to DWG that is optimized for storing large classified data sets. The SDF file is the native file format for FDO Data Access Technology and leverages all of its strengths: open API (application programming interface), high performance, database-like table architecture, and larger data set sizes. By using SDF files, organizations combat the problem of putting too much information into a DWG—such as regional GIS-scale vector data and attributes (in object data tables)—potentially making the file unwieldy and lowering its performance. People used to working with DWG files will find SDF an easy format to use. Like DWG, it can store multiple features in a single file, it is portable, and it stores arcs. While it is not a database, it can act like a database in that it stores data, both geometry and attributes, in tables. With SDF, organizations get many of the benefits offered by a database without adding database cost or complexity. The SDF file enables you to organize and manage your data as GIS features providing a solid foundation for a smooth transition to a relational database management system in the future if the need arises.

1.10. What are Web Mapping Service (WMS) and Web Feature Service (WFS) feeds?

Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) compliant Web Map Services (WMS) and Web Feature Services (WFS) are services that provide digital maps (WMS) and geographic features (WFS) across the World Wide Web. Using FDO, AutoCAD Map 3D enables you access these services via the internet and add this web-based content to your maps.

1.11. What are MapGuide Open Source, Autodesk MapGuide Enterprise, and Autodesk MapGuide Studio?

Autodesk MapGuide® technology offers the most flexible web mapping platform for publishing and distributing spatial information quickly, easily, and cost effectively via the Internet. The Autodesk MapGuide technology family includes Autodesk MapGuide® Enterprise and Autodesk MapGuide® Studio. MapGuide Open Source software shares a great deal of its code base with Autodesk MapGuide Enterprise, but since its release to the Open Source Geospatial Foundation (OSGeo) by Autodesk in late 2005, has been further developed and extended by developers in the Open Source community.

MapGuide Open Source software, an application made available through OSGeo, provides a fast, easy, low-cost way to get started developing and deploying web-mapping applications. Users of MapGuide Open Source software benefit from the innovation, rapid release cycles, and large ecosystem of web-mapping applications driven by the Open Source geospatial development community.

Autodesk MapGuide Enterprise software leverages all the innovation benefits of MapGuide Open Source as the base software product, but is backed by commercial-grade support, services, and quality assurance from an established software vendor.

Autodesk MapGuide Studio, the authoring environment designed for use with Autodesk MapGuide Enterprise and MapGuide Open Source, helps manage all aspects of preparing maps and geospatial data for distribution on the Internet. Upload data files, connect to databases, and stylize maps over the web. And easily create and preview applications with a developer-friendly interface.

1.12. Why use MapGuide technology with AutoCAD Map 3D?

Autodesk MapGuide and AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 together offer a powerful combination to seamlessly leverage data from initial design through web deployment. Using Autodesk MapGuide is the easiest way to distribute data prepared in AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 and can significantly streamline workflow.

Work done in AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 is directly compatible with Autodesk MapGuide due to shared common data access technology (FDO). When you build a map in AutoCAD Map 3D 2008, you can access and use information stored in different formats (SDE, SHP, Oracle format) via direct FDO connectivity. Therefore the same map with the same stylization is instantly available online to web users when published to Autodesk MapGuide. So regardless of whether the data consists of files from your desktop or from a database, Autodesk MapGuide can quickly make the data available via the web.

You can also maximize the full value of information created in AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 by easily building custom applications with the flexible Autodesk MapGuide development platforms (PHP, Java™, and NET) and powerful APIs (application programming interfaces). Users can work with your data in a streamlined manner, helping you get the most value from your work—inside and outside your organization.

By using AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 and Autodesk MapGuide together, you can seamlessly create, manage, and distribute your data via the web. As a result, downstream users are informed at all times and constantly aware of the information you create and manage on your desktop. And all of your CAD, GIS, and other data consumers remain in sync.

For more information, including documentation and product details, see www.mapguide.com

2. Product Users

2.1. Who uses AutoCAD Map 3D?

AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 software is intended for GIS managers, GIS specialists, mapping technicians, planners, and facilities/infrastructure designers and managers. It's intended for anyone who creates, maintains, and produces maps, designs infrastructure, uses CAD and GIS data for analysis and planning, or integrates data in varying types and file formats. Such data may include vector or raster data in a variety of mapping file formats, as well as database information (both geometry and attribute data) from different sources. Users typically work with multiple drawings and large data sets.

The industries that can benefit most from AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 are utilities (electric, gas, water), communications, government agencies, environmental engineering, oil and gas, agriculture, and natural resources. AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 is suitable for any application that requires management or design of resources or infrastructure in a precision graphical environment.

2.2. If I'm using AutoCAD software, why should I upgrade to AutoCAD Map 3D?

AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 has the strengths of AutoCAD software but also gives you the power to manage your data in an efficient way. Are you are losing valuable time waiting for data to be delivered from outside your department? Or is your team stuck in the ineffective process of waiting for DWG files to become available? Don't let the competition win because they get more done with better data management processes. AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 solves these issues and many more, helping make you more efficient and more productive.

Often, organizations have migrated from paper-based, Mylar, or vellum files and store their infrastructure data in CAD files—such as DWG drawings on the desktop—in a file directory on a server. AutoCAD is a world-leading design tool that is used to create a majority of the world's infrastructure design data. However, it does not support geo-referencing (geographic location in the real world), multi-user editing, or GIS data formats. When an organization using AutoCAD needs to add location intelligence to its data, bring in data from other sources, or allow multiple designers to edit the same data, it has outgrown AutoCAD and is ready for AutoCAD Map 3D 2008. In fact, AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 is specifically designed to allow you to extract more value from your data by providing functionality that helps you move up the Autodesk Geospatial Value Chain.

2.3. What is the Autodesk Geospatial Value Chain and how do I know at what stage my organization is?

The Autodesk Geospatial Value Chain provides a useful model to help understand how organizations currently use geospatial technology, and provides a deliberate path for growing and extending capabilities over time. Autodesk Geospatial bridges CAD and GIS systems and extends the value of spatial information by leveraging existing resources, reducing redundancy and error propagation, and increasing operational efficiency. From AutoCAD design to enterprise solutions, Autodesk Geospatial can be used in various configurations to integrate geospatial data with that of other departments, organizations, and applications.

Stage 1

At Stage 1, organizations use a CAD product such as AutoCAD and AutoCAD LT[®] software to design and manage their infrastructure data. AutoCAD is used to create a majority of the world's infrastructure design data. However, it does not support geo-referencing (geographic location in the real world), multi-user editing, or GIS data formats. If you are using AutoCAD and need to add spatial intelligence to the data, bring in data from other sources, or allow multiple users to edit the same data, you may be ready to move to Stage 2.

Stage 2

At Stage 2, organizations use CAD files as the primary data source and AutoCAD Map 3D to collaborate and share this infrastructure information. Using AutoCAD Map 3D, project teams can use their AutoCAD knowledge and training while taking advantage of more traditional GIS tools and functions. When you want to extend CAD information more widely and leverage additional mapping capabilities—to know, for example, where there are undeveloped parcels or how many manholes are on new roads—you may be ready to move to Stage 3.

Stage 3

Organizations in Stage 3 are increasing the value of their data by applying standards and organization, and leveraging the power of Autodesk's FDO Data Access Technology. By organizing geospatial data and attributes as classified, real-world features, companies increase the value and potential uses of their mapping data. This is really where CAD and GIS start to work together. When you want to extend the use of your information from a file based environment to a spatial database environment, you may be ready to move to Stage 4.

Stage 4

Organizations in Stage 4 are ready to move from a file-based environment using DWG, SHP, or SDF to a spatial database environment using the full functionality of a relational database management system (RDBMS). With an RDBMS, hundreds or even thousands of people can create, edit, and manage the same data. While the information in Stage 3 and Stage 4 may be the same, organizations in Stage 4 leverage the added power of an RDBMS to scale the availability and management of their geospatial information. When you want to share spatial data with other departments and applications, making spatial data a central part of your organization's IT ecosystem, you may be ready to move to Stage 5.

Stage 5

At Stage 5, geospatial data and GIS functionality get woven into other business systems, integrating with assessor databases, permitting systems, Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems, and more. Autodesk, resellers, partners, and system integrators build powerful solutions to meet specific business goals and processes of an organization requiring this level of integration.

For further information on Autodesk Geospatial and the value chain visit www.autodesk.com/geospatial

3. Purchase Information

3.1. Where can I purchase AutoCAD Map 3D?

AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 is available worldwide. Contact your local Autodesk Authorized Reseller or Distributor for more information. To locate one near you, visit www.autodesk.com/reseller.

3.2. Can I crossgrade from AutoCAD?

Yes, you can crossgrade to AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 from AutoCAD software. If you are a mapping professional, AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 software is for you.

3.3. I have heard that updates to AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 are only available through Autodesk Subscription. What does this mean?

This means that to receive an upgrade to your licensed copy of AutoCAD Map 3D 2008, you must be on Autodesk® Subscription customer. By attaching subscription to your AutoCAD Map 3D software purchase, you receive the latest releases, have access to previous versions, and valuable training. A purchase of subscription for AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 is not required. If you select not to attach subscription you will have the option to purchase a full license of AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 at a future date. This new pricing mechanism is actually less expensive than the former "upgrade" model, so you save money.

3.4. What are the benefits of Autodesk Subscription?

With Autodesk Subscription you get the latest releases of your Autodesk software, incremental product enhancements, personalized web support direct from Autodesk technical experts, and self-paced training to help extend your skills. And with access to a range of exclusive community resources and members-only privileges, you can use the power of your design tools to the fullest and make the most of your technology investment. For the latest information on Autodesk Subscription, including availability and purchase requirements, visit www.autodesk.com/subscription or contact your local authorized representative. AutoCAD Map 3D subscriptions are sold by Autodesk Authorized Resellers on behalf of Autodesk. To locate the reseller nearest you visit www.autodesk.com/reseller.

3.5. I let my Subscription expire a couple years ago. How do I become current with Subscription again?

You have three years from the day your subscription expired to get current. You will be charged the retro subscription price for each year that has past, the commercial subscription price for the current year, and a small late renewal fee. This new pricing structure is still less expensive than the old upgrade model.

3.6. I purchased AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 a week ago but now I would like to attach subscription. Will I have to pay a late fee?

No. You have up to 30 days after your purchase to attach subscription with no penalty fees.

3.7. My company has several divisions. Some of them are on Subscription and others are not. How will this work with this new model?

Those in the company that are on subscription will get fulfillment with the next new product release and will receive new authorization codes. Those that are not on subscription won't receive anything with a new product release but will have the options stated above to get on subscription if they so choose.

4. Compatibility and System Requirements

4.1. What are the system requirements for AutoCAD 2008?

The system requirements for AutoCAD Map 3D 2008:

- Intel® Pentium® 4, 2.2 GHz or greater
- Microsoft® Windows Vista™ Ultimate and Business, Windows® XP Home and Professional SP2, Windows® 2000 SP4
 - Systems using an NTFS configuration must have file locking and permissions enabled.
 - AutoCAD Map 3D software does not support 64 bit operating systems.
- 512 MB RAM
- 1.5 GB free disk space for installation
- 1024x768 VGA with True Color
- Microsoft® Internet Explorer® 6.0 SP1 or higher
- CD-ROM drive (any speed)

Optional Software

- Oracle® Spatial (optional)
- Oracle® Spatial (optional)
- Oracle9i Spatial (OSE)
- Oracle9i Spatial, version 2 (OSE)
- Oracle10gR2 Standard, Standard One and Enterprise Editions (FDO Data Access Technology)
- ESRI® ArcSDE® Server 9.1 with Oracle9i R2 (9.2.0.3), Oracle 10gR2 or Microsoft SQL Server 2000 (SP4) (FDO Data Access Technology)
- Microsoft® SQL Server™ 2000 SP4 and Microsoft SQL Server 2005 Express, Standard and Enterprise Editions (FDO Data Access Technology)
- MySQL 5.0.22 (FDO Data Access Technology)

4.2. Is AutoCAD 2008 included with AutoCAD Map 3D 2008?

Yes, AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 is built on AutoCAD 2008 software and is enhanced with a suite of GIS and mapping tools. It contains all the features and functionality of AutoCAD 2008, which is automatically installed when you install AutoCAD Map 3D 2008.

4.3. Does AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 work with AutoCAD 2008?

Yes. Because AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 has the same file format as AutoCAD 2008, AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 can read AutoCAD 2008 files.

4.4. Does AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 read and save drawings created by earlier releases of AutoCAD Map 3D?

AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 reads drawing files from all previous versions of Autodesk Map 3D and AutoCAD software. AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 has a built-in SaveAs function so you can save drawings to and from AutoCAD® releases using the 14, 2000, and 2004 DWG format(s). In addition, you can use the SaveAs AutoCAD Release 12 DXF™ command to support releases prior to AutoCAD Release 14.

4.5. Can I run AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 side-by-side with other AutoCAD platform–based applications?

Yes, AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 can be installed side-by-side with any other AutoCAD or Autodesk vertical solution—including AutoCAD 2008–based products. These products include AutoCAD, AutoCAD® Architecture, AutoCAD Map 3D, AutoCAD Civil 3D, AutoCAD® Electrical and AutoCAD® Mechanical, Autodesk® Inventor™ Suite and Autodesk® Inventor™ Professional Suite products, AutoCAD® Revit® Suite products, Revit® Structure, AutoCAD® MEP, Autodesk® 3ds Max®, Autodesk® VIZ, and AutoCAD LT software applications.

4.6. Does AutoCAD Map 2008 support multiple CPU systems?

Yes, AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 supports multiple CPU systems. The performance of AutoCAD graphics and rendering systems will benefit from multiple CPU systems.

4.7. Does AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 software work with Autodesk Vault technology?

No. AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 does not support the Autodesk® Vault application.

4.8. Does AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 include Autodesk® Impression?

No. AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 does not include Autodesk Impression software.

5. Consulting, Training, and Technical Support

5.1. What consulting services are available for AutoCAD Map 3D 2008?

Autodesk Consulting provides customer consulting offerings for project assessments, process audits, opportunity assessments, networking setup, application porting, and other custom services to help you streamline business processes and get the best possible return on your investment in Autodesk technology. Autodesk Map 3D users planning to migrate to AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 can take advantage of these services. For more information on Autodesk Consulting, contact your Autodesk Account Executive or your local Authorized Autodesk Reseller; or visit www.autodesk.com/consulting.

5.2. Where do I find training courses for AutoCAD Map 3D 2008?

Training courses are available from both Autodesk Consulting as well as through the Autodesk Authorized Training Center (ATC®) network.

Training courses through Autodesk Consulting include custom training to match your organization's specific needs, Autodesk Classroom Training and Autodesk AutoCAD certification. To obtain more information about Autodesk's training services, visit www.autodesk.com/ma3d-training

You can also enroll in instructor-led training at Autodesk Authorized Training Centers around the world. These training centers use Autodesk Official Training Courseware (AOTC) created by Autodesk to deliver comprehensive courses for new and intermediate AutoCAD 2008 users. Autodesk Authorized Training Centers also deliver custom courses on AutoCAD 2008 and other Autodesk products. To learn more, visit www.autodesk.com/atc.

5.3. How can I find technical support information for AutoCAD Map 3D 2008?

Visit www.autodesk.com/map3d-support to find a knowledge base of commonly asked support questions. Also, you can ask questions and read information about the use of Autodesk products in the peer-to-peer discussion groups at www.autodesk.com/discussion Autodesk hosts topical discussion groups about specific products, including AutoCAD Map 3D 2008, and about general topics, such as drafting techniques and customization. Alternatively, Autodesk software manuals and documentation are a great source of answers to your support questions.

5.4. How do I obtain direct, technical support?

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

Furthermore, Autodesk Subscription provides a complete 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.

The Autodesk Enterprise Support program is a worldwide program that provides expert technical support by telephone for all major Autodesk products from a single source. Contact your Autodesk Account Executive or Autodesk Authorized Autodesk Reseller for more details.

Autodesk Preferred Solution Providers (PSPs), Autodesk Systems Centers (ASCs) and Autodesk Authorized Autodesk Resellers also provide telephone support services for AutoCAD Map 3D software and all other Autodesk products. In the United States and Canada, call 800-964-6432 to locate a PSP, ASC or reseller near you, or visit www.autodesk.com/reseller. Find a complete list of support options for AutoCAD Map 3D on the Autodesk website at www.autodesk.com/map3d-support.

5.5. How do I find out if a service pack is available for AutoCAD Map 3D 2008?

If Autodesk releases a service pack for AutoCAD Map 3D 2008, it will be easy to access and install it using the Communication Center in AutoCAD Map 3D 2008. Look at the top of the Communication Center window to see if an update is available. AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 automatically recognizes if you have the most up-to-date release and prompts you if there is an update available. When you click on the link, AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 automatically downloads and installs the update.

6. For Developers

6.1. Is AutoCAD Map 3D Customizable?

Yes, AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 is highly customizable. Application programming interfaces (APIs) include AutoLISP®, Microsoft® Visual Basic®, ADSRX, C++ (ObjectARX®), ActiveX®, and .NET.

6.2. What are the advantages of the .NET API in AutoCAD Map 3D?

With .NET API, you can create applications using the language you are familiar with (e.g., C#, C++). .NET is easy to learn and use. In addition, .NET minimizes difficulties found in other programming languages, such as memory allocation/de-allocation problems in C++, reference counting in COM/ActiveX, and performance and limited user interface issues in VBA.

Refer to Microsoft .NET documentation for more advantages of using .NET.

6.3. What is the preview Geospatial Platform API that has been introduced with AutoCAD Map 3D 2008?

The preview Geospatial Platform API is a .NET API that shares common components between AutoCAD Map 3D 2008 and Autodesk MapGuide technology. With the Geospatial API you can build applications on top of Map 3D 2008 that utilize Autodesk's FDO Data Access Technology. With the new Geospatial API you can

- Directly access data from various data sources using FDO
- Program against FDO accessed features without worrying about AcDb constraints
- Use a highly scalable architecture to work with FDO accessed features
- Use common code for geoprocessing tools that can be shared between AutoCAD Map 3D 2008, Autodesk MapGuide Enterprise, and MapGuide Open Source.
- Use the Display Manager API to create layers of data via display elements as well as stylize and symbolize that data. Create custom elements and styles.

- Use the FDO integration API to control how multiple data sources are aggregated, including controlling what kind of entity is created from that data.
- Add data access and functionality enhancements through the open source developer community

6.4. What benefits does ObjectARX bring to AutoCAD Map 3D?

Because the product contains the AutoCAD ObjectARX API, AutoCAD Map 3D software also supports most custom ObjectARX objects built by third-party developers. In addition, with ObjectARX technology you can

- Use the MapBooks API to programmatically create tiles and sheets, and then print or plot them or publish them to DWF files.
- Create topologies that are custom ObjectARX objects. Users can then group, edit, and analyze multiple graphic entities that comprise a topology as a single entity (such as lines, polylines, and arcs in a network topology).
- Build cleanup and editing functions. This capability allows direct access to the database (as opposed to working through an API), resulting in faster operations.

Read and query multiple drawing databases (DWG files) and manipulate objects and data in those drawings. For example, query into a work session the objects that represent a fiber optic cable spanning multiple map sheets (source drawings). Then edit a portion of the entire cable, and save the edits back to the original source drawings.

6.5. Does AutoCAD Map 3D have an open architecture for add-on products?

AutoCAD Map 3D is the development platform of choice for AutoCAD-based mapping and GIS applications. With an extensive API, AutoCAD Map 3D enables third-party developers to build top-quality, add-on application products. Many Autodesk-registered third-party application developers are shipping industry-specific applications that run on top of the AutoCAD Map 3D platform.

6.6. What support is available for developers?

The Autodesk Developer Network (ADN) is a worldwide business and technical network of independent companies, organizations, and individuals, which serves over three million users. Developers who are part of the Autodesk Developer Network are eligible for technical and marketing support. Visit the ADN website at www.autodesk.com/adn for more information

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