

# Questions and Answers

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# 1. General Product Information

## 1.1 What is Autodesk Impression?

With Autodesk® Impression software you can quickly create compelling presentation graphics with a hand-drawn look from your DWG™ and DWF™ files.

Autodesk Impression is not intended for conceptual modeling or creating photorealistic renderings:

- Conceptual modeling tools are built into many Autodesk applications, such as the AutoCAD®, Revit® Architecture, Autodesk® Inventor™, and Autodesk® 3ds Max® products and product families.
- Autodesk 3ds Max software is the tool to use for advanced design visualizations and animations.

## 1.2 Who uses Autodesk Impression?

Anyone who wants to quickly create illustrative presentation graphics from CAD files will find Impression useful. Currently, the roster of the Autodesk Impression user community includes architects, landscape architects, interior designers, urban designers, industrial designers, and mechanical illustrators.

## 1.3 What are the primary benefits of Autodesk Impression software?

The following benefits make Autodesk Impression a good choice for creating presentation graphics:

- **Generate great looking images—fast!** Presentation graphics are about winning business. Your images have to sell your projects, and often you must produce the images quickly. With Impression, you can easily apply graphical styles to your CAD file using prebuilt styles or customized styles that you create.
- **Easy to learn and use.** Impression is designed so that anyone in the office can learn to use it in minutes and get great results right away. Autodesk Impression includes built-in learning resources and an intuitive user interface.
- **CAD compatible.** Because Impression recognizes CAD data, the illustration process goes much faster than with general-purpose graphics applications. Impression recognizes blocks, layers, hatches, and other CAD-specific data. You can open any DWG or DWF file in Impression.

## 1.4 What is new in Autodesk Impression 2?

Users of the first release of Autodesk Impression, as well as the Technology Preview, will notice several new features and overall improvements. Enhancements include

- New options in the DWG Import Wizard, including Layer Packing for improved drawing performance
- Enhancements to the Area Fill tool, which now offers five different methods for applying styles, including the new Power Fill tool for filling multiple areas based on shared criteria such as shape, layer, CAD color, and lineweight
- Expanded content libraries, including watercolor trees and pencil strokes in traditional lineweights: H, HB, 2B, and so on

New features include

- The Match Properties tool, used for applying the style, layer, or text properties from one object in the canvas to another
- The Drawing Performance Tuner, designed to improve application performance by packing objects on layers and modifying how styles are displayed
- The new Block Editor, which offers a seamless environment in which to create and edit vector-based blocks

### **1.5 What is a good way to get started with Autodesk Impression?**

A variety of learning resources are available for Autodesk Impression. Two of them are built right into the product:

- The Jump Start Tour helps you understand the basic concepts used in creating a rendered image in Impression, with easy-to-follow step-by-step exercises and informational videos.
- The Quick Start Guide, available from the Help menu, provides a more in-depth introduction to the application.

An online resource, the Impression Community (<http://impression.autodesk.com>) includes everything from tutorials to discussion groups to user-submitted tips.

## **2. Availability and Licensing**

### **2.1 How can I obtain Autodesk Impression 2?**

Autodesk® Impression 2 software is available by download to AutoCAD®, AutoCAD® Architecture, AutoCAD® Civil 3D®, AutoCAD® Map 3D, AutoCAD® MEP, and AutoCAD® Revit® Architecture Suite subscription customers. The download is available from the Autodesk Subscription Center.

### **2.2 Is Autodesk Impression available for purchase as a stand-alone product?**

No. Autodesk Impression is not available for purchase as a stand-alone product. It is only available to current AutoCAD, AutoCAD Architecture, AutoCAD Civil 3D, AutoCAD Map 3D, AutoCAD MEP, and AutoCAD Revit Architecture Suite subscription customers.

### **2.3 Is Autodesk Impression available worldwide?**

Yes. Autodesk Impression is available worldwide for all AutoCAD, AutoCAD Architecture, AutoCAD Civil 3D, AutoCAD Map 3D, and AutoCAD MEP subscription customers.

### **2.4 In which languages is Impression available?**

Currently, Autodesk Impression is available only in English. Localized versions may be released at a later date.

### **2.5 Does Autodesk Impression require any additional software activation?**

No. No additional software activation is associated with Autodesk Impression. However, per the End User License Agreement, Autodesk Impression is licensed as a Stand-alone (Individual) Version. The software should therefore only be installed on one individual computer for each subscription license of AutoCAD, AutoCAD Architecture, AutoCAD Civil 3D, AutoCAD Map 3D, AutoCAD MEP, or AutoCAD Revit Architecture Suite.

### 2.6 Is there a student version of Autodesk Impression?

Yes, a student version is available on the Student Design and Engineering Community website as a free\* download. Join today at [www.students.autodesk.com](http://www.students.autodesk.com).

## 3. Compatibility

### 3.1 What files does Autodesk Impression open?

Autodesk Impression can open or import DWG™ and DWF™ files, as well as IRF files, the native file format for Impression.

Impression can open 2D DWG and DWF files from the following Autodesk products:

- AutoCAD® 2009 software and prior releases
- AutoCAD LT® 2009 software and prior releases
- AutoCAD® Architecture 2009 software and prior releases
- Revit® Architecture 2009 software and prior releases, as well as the entire Revit® family of products
- AutoCAD® Revit® Architecture Suite 2009 software and prior releases
- Autodesk® Inventor™ 2009 software and prior releases, as well as the entire Inventor family of products
- AutoCAD® Civil 3D® 2009 software and prior releases
- AutoCAD® Map 3D 2009 software and prior releases
- Autodesk MapGuide® Enterprise 2009 and Autodesk MapGuide® Studio 2009 software products and prior releases
- AutoCAD® Mechanical 2009 software and prior releases

### 3.2 Do I need to have any other Autodesk applications installed on my computer to run Impression?

No, Autodesk Impression runs as a stand-alone application.

### 3.3 In which formats can I save my Impression images?

Impression illustrations can be saved as DWF files, viewable with Autodesk® Design Review software. They can also be saved into several file formats popular in the desktop publishing world, including PSD, the native Adobe® Photoshop® format; EPS, the standard for embedding graphics in page layout applications; PDF, for electronic document sharing; and a variety of popular image file formats such as PNG, JPEG, and BMP.

## 4. System Requirements

### 4.1 What are the system requirements for Autodesk Impression Software?

The recommended system requirements for Autodesk® Impression are as follows:

- Intel® Pentium® 4 processor, 3.0 GHz or faster, or Intel or AMD® processor, 1.7 GHz or faster for laptops
- Microsoft® Windows Vista® Enterprise, Business, Ultimate, Home Premium, or Home Basic; or Windows® XP Professional SP2 operating system
- 1+ GB RAM
- 2+ GB available hard disk space (not including installation)
- 1280x1024 32-bit color video display adapter (true color)

- 128+ MB DirectX® 9.0c application programming interface—capable graphics card supporting pixel shader 2.0 or better (64 MB minimum). For optimal performance with Autodesk Impression software, download the latest video driver from your card's manufacturer's website
- Microsoft® Internet Explorer® 6.0 browser (SP1 or later)

#### 4.2 Which graphics cards are recommended for use with Autodesk Impression?

Recommended graphics cards include

- NVIDIA Quadro® FX
- NVIDIA® GeForce® FX 5, 6, and 7 families (for example, 6600, 7800)
- ATI Radeon™ X series (for example, x300, x600, x1300)
- ATI Radeon 9500 and later
- ATI FireGL™ V3600, V5600, V7600, V8600 and V8650

All cards certified for use with AutoCAD 2008 or 2009 will work with Autodesk Impression 2. For more information, visit [www.autodesk.com/autocad-graphicscard](http://www.autodesk.com/autocad-graphicscard).

#### 4.3 Does Autodesk Impression support 64-bit operating systems?

Not at this time. Impression can be installed on Windows XP Professional x64 Edition and Windows Vista 64-bit, but for optimal performance this is not recommended.

#### 4.4 Is Autodesk Impression logo certified for Microsoft Windows Vista operating system?

Autodesk Impression has achieved the Works with Microsoft® Windows Vista™ logo. The logo indicates that Autodesk Impression runs smoothly and reliably in the Windows Vista operating system environment.

## 5. Support

#### 5.1 How do I obtain direct technical support?

Autodesk Support will support Autodesk® Impression software as part of support for AutoCAD®, AutoCAD® Architecture, AutoCAD® Civil 3D®, AutoCAD® Map 3D, AutoCAD® MEP, and AutoCAD® Revit® Architecture Suite subscription customers.

#### 5.2 How do I find out if service packs are available for Autodesk Impression?

In the event that Autodesk releases an Autodesk Impression service pack, it is easy to access and install it using the Communication Center feature within the product. Autodesk Impression automatically checks whether you have the most up-to-date release and prompts you if an update is available. When you click the link, Autodesk Impression automatically downloads and installs the update.

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

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