

# Questions and Answers

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## 1. Why should I move from AutoCAD to Autodesk® Inventor® Products?

Digital Prototyping with Autodesk® Inventor® software gives you the ability to design, visualise and simulate a complete product before it is built. Inventor software helps AutoCAD® software users to become proficient with Digital Prototyping workflows quickly by offering a familiar design environment, AutoCAD-compatible shortcuts and out-of-the-box user profiles for AutoCAD experts.

With true DWG™ file support, Inventor users can make use of their existing 2D drawings to build accurate 3D models. Inventor software provides direct read and write of DWG files without translators, so you will be able to share critical design data securely, efficiently and accurately with partners and suppliers who rely on AutoCAD software.

## 2. What does the Autodesk Inventor product line deliver?

The Autodesk Inventor product line provides a comprehensive and flexible set of 3D modelling and mechanical design tools for producing and documenting complete 3D digital prototypes that validate the form, fit and function of a design. The Inventor model is an accurate 3D digital prototype that enables users to check design and engineering intent as they work, minimising the need for physical prototypes and reducing costly engineering changes typically discovered after the design has been sent to manufacturing.

Inventor provides an intuitive 3D design environment for creating and evaluating parts and assemblies. It enables engineers to focus on a design's function to drive the automatic creation of intelligent components such as steel frames, rotating machinery, tube and pipe runs, electrical cables and wire harnesses.

Easy-to-use and tightly integrated motion simulation and stress analysis in Inventor make it possible for engineers to optimise and validate the digital prototype to help to predict how the design will work under real-world conditions before the product is built.

Autodesk Inventor software helps to automate key aspects of the design of injection moulds for plastic parts so you can create and validate complete mould designs quickly, reducing errors and improving mould performance.

Generating manufacturing documentation from a validated 3D digital prototype helps to reduce errors and associated engineering change orders (ECOs) before manufacturing. Inventor offers rapid and accurate output of production-ready drawings directly from the 3D model.

Inventor is tightly integrated with Autodesk Data Management applications, enabling the efficient and secure exchange of digital design data and promoting earlier collaboration between design and manufacturing workgroups. With different product configurations offering specific levels of functionality to fit your design needs, no company is more focused than Autodesk on helping you to create accurate digital prototypes and bring better products to market faster at less cost.

### 3. Which Autodesk Inventor product is right for me?

Feature	Autodesk Inventor LT 2012	Autodesk Inventor 2012	Autodesk Inventor Professional 2012
Native DWG Compatibility		✓	
BIM Interoperability			✓
Include Inventor Fusion		✓	✓
In-Product Data Management		✓	✓
Digital Prototyping	✓	✓	✓
3D Mechanical Design	✓	✓	✓
Direct Manipulation	✓	✓	✓
State-of-the-Art Visualisation	✓	✓	✓
Large Assembly Design			✓
Automatic Bill of Materials			✓
650,000 Standard Parts		✓	✓
3D Design Automation Tools			✓
Rules-Based Design			✓
Sheet Metal Design	✓ *	✓	✓
Plastic Part Design		✓	✓
Complete Plastic Mould Design			✓
Tube & Pipe Design			
Cable & Harness Design			
Dynamic Simulation			✓
Finite Element Analysis			✓

*\*Autodesk® Inventor® LT 2012 software offers limited functionality for sheet metal design.*

## 4. How do I license Autodesk Inventor software?

Autodesk Inventor is offered in a variety of Design Suites that offer specific levels of functionality to fit your design needs.

For more information, please visit [www.autodesk.co.uk/suites](http://www.autodesk.co.uk/suites)

Autodesk Inventor is also available unbundled as Autodesk Inventor, Autodesk® Inventor® Professional and as Autodesk® Inventor® LT™.

Contact an Autodesk Value Added Reseller for more information.

## 5. How do education customers outside the United States and Canada learn about Autodesk Inventor Professional availability, pricing and additional resources?

For more information about AutoCAD Inventor Professional, contact your local Autodesk Education Representative or local Autodesk Value Added Reseller.

## 6. What is Autodesk Inventor Fusion?

Autodesk® Inventor® Fusion is a new application included in Autodesk Inventor, Autodesk Inventor Professional, AutoCAD, Autodesk® Algor®, Autodesk® Moldflow® and Autodesk® Alias® software. It provides a single, simplified user interface for viewing and editing 3D data, regardless of the software used to create it. It doesn't matter if the data was created with Inventor, Pro/Engineer®, SolidWorks®, Moldflow or virtually any other 3D modelling software package; all users running Inventor Fusion experience the same environment, created for ultimate ease of use.

It also expands the 3D conceptual design capabilities of Inventor and Inventor Professional and unites Direct and Parametric workflows, which allows rapid design changes and aids in design exploration.

## 7. What is Autodesk® Vault?

Autodesk Vault is data management software, which reduces errors and promotes design re-use by consolidating product information in a single location, enabling you to track your design data and manage work-in-progress designs without the need for manual, paper-based processes. Included with Autodesk Inventor and Autodesk Inventor Professional, Autodesk Vault makes data management more efficient by organising your design data and protecting it from inadvertent changes. This data management tool makes work-in-progress data more accessible and re-usable while avoiding the versioning problems inherent in sharing files among workgroups.

## 8. Do I need a big IT budget to install, use and maintain Autodesk Vault?

No. Autodesk Vault installs easily, without any complex deployments or extensive IT support. Autodesk Vault is integrated into Autodesk Inventor software and Autodesk Inventor Professional with an intuitive interface that helps design teams to become efficient quickly. Autodesk Vault is self-supporting because of its simplicity and support tools such as discussion groups, online help and best-practices documentation.

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