

Installing Autodesk 2012 Products: Preparing for Installation Transcript

Reviewing Documentation

Before you begin your installation, I recommend you review the documentation that is available via the Autodesk product installer.

The installation help link will take you to a page giving you access to system requirements, installation help, the Autodesk network administrators guide and licensing guide, as well as links to troubleshooting support pages for the different Autodesk products that you're installing.

The system requirements link will take you to the Autodesk Services and Support page where you can check the system requirements for each of the Autodesk 2012 products you are installing. Using this information, verify that your computer meets the minimum system requirements for the Autodesk product being installed. This includes, minimum RAM, minimum free disk space and supported operating system. If your system doesn't meet these requirements, problems can occur, both within AutoCAD and at the operating system level.

The installation and deployment FAQ will take you to a page where you can access PDF files of the products installation help and the Autodesk licensing guide, and network administrators guide.

The installation help guide provides an overview of the installation steps for each of the Autodesk products being installed, as well as answers to frequently asked questions. I recommend you familiarize yourself with the installation process before you begin installing. Many of the questions that we are asked in product support are already addressed in the installation help documentation.

And lastly, I always recommend reviewing the readme file for each Autodesk product being installed. The readme file often contains information relating to installation as well as late-breaking information that may not have made it into the final documentation.

It's worth taking the time to review all these documents before you begin.

Choosing a Language

If you're a subscription customer and you're planning on installing in a different or additional language, now would be a good time to download that language pack so it is ready to use when you begin the installation.

Login to the Subscription Center and select "Get Your Upgrade". From there navigate to the product you're looking for – in this case I'll use AutoCAD Electrical 2012 – locate the particular language pack you need and download it.

Some products may not have multiple languages available at the time of product release but additional language packs may be available later for Subscription customers.

Once the download is completed, launch the executable, pick the install button and let it extract itself to the default location. Once extracted, the language pack MSI file will be ready for you to add when you run the installer.

Getting the Server Host Name

If you will be installing a network licensed product, you will need to know the host name of the server (or servers) that will be running the Autodesk Network License Manager. If you don't know the host name, there are a couple of ways to find it.

One way is to open a Windows command prompt on the system running the Network License Manager and enter `ipconfig /all` at the command prompt.

This screen will contain a lot of information but all you're looking for at this point is the Host Name.

If the server is already running the Autodesk Network License Manager, there is another way to find the Host name. On the server, run the LMTTOOLS utility and switch to the System Settings tab. On this tab, you can see the host name of the server. Use either of these methods to get this information.

If you have a Single Server Model, you only need the host name of the one server.

If you have a Distributed Server Model, you need the host name of the master server and each server in the distributed pool.

And if you have a Redundant Server Model, you'll need to know the host name of each of the three servers that form the redundant server pool.

Locating Your Serial Number and Product Key

One important step in preparing for installation is to locate the serial number and product key for the Autodesk product you are installing; you will be prompted for this information during the installation process. The serial number and product key can be found in a variety of locations, depending on how you obtained your Autodesk product.

If you have physical media, you'll see the serial number and product key printed on the label of the box. In this example I'm showing you the label from an Autodesk Education Master Suite for 2011 but the location and format will be similar for the 2012 products. So, if you are installing from a DVD or USB key, the first place to look for this information is on the product packaging.

If you're a Subscription Customer, you can find this information in the "Contract Administration" section of the Subscription Center. Log into the Subscription Center, click "Contract Administration" and "Coverage Report". Once you're looking at the Subscription Coverage Reports, pick your contract number and you will see your serial number and product keys listed under the "Products" section.

If you participate in the Autodesk Education Community, you can find this information by logging in and locating the product in question. If you have not already downloaded the product, picking the download button will start the download and will display the products serial number and product key. If you have already downloaded the product and just need to know the serial number and product key, pick the "Get Serial" button for your product to have it display this information.

And finally, if you ordered your product using the online Autodesk store, the serial number and product key will be provided in the "Order Details" confirmation screen after the purchase, as well as the subsequent "Thank You" e-mail that you will receive after the purchase process is complete.

Preparing your system

Understanding Administrative Permission Requirements

The next step in preparing your system for installation is to confirm your administrative permissions. In order to install an Autodesk 2012 product, you must have administrative rights. You don't have to have domain administrator permissions, but you do need administrative rights in order to do the installation. If you have questions about this, see your system administrator for more information.

Installing .NET 4.0

Many of the Autodesk 2012 products require the installation of Microsoft .NET 4.0. In most cases, .NET 4.0 will automatically be installed by the Autodesk installer however there can be conditions where the Autodesk installer is unable to install .NET 4 and the installation process will automatically be terminated so that it can be installed manually.

To ensure that the Autodesk product installation is not interrupted by .NET installation requirements, we strongly recommend manually installing Microsoft .NET 4.0 before beginning installation of your Autodesk 2012 product.

Microsoft .NET 4.0 is available in your Autodesk 2012 product media in the following location:

```
\3rdParty\NET\4\wcu\dotNetFramework\
```

Reboot first

After .NET 4.0 has been installed, you must reboot your computer. You should really do this even if you are not prompted to reboot.

Restarting your system before installation helps ensure that any pending operating system updates get applied before you starting installing your Autodesk 2012 products.

Turn off virus-checking software

Make sure you turn off any virus checking software running on your system before you begin installing. Most virus software does real-time checks of files as they're being added to your system. Not only can it slow down the installation process, but it can actually introduce corruption. So make sure that your virus checking software is turned off before you install, and make sure you turn it back on when you're complete.

Close all running applications

And the final step, before beginning installation, is to close all applications that are currently running on your system. Some applications—Microsoft Outlook, for example—can interfere with the installation process. So, before you begin installing, it's just a good idea to shut down other applications that are running.

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Reference Video Series:

[2012:Preparing for installation of Autodesk products and suites](#)