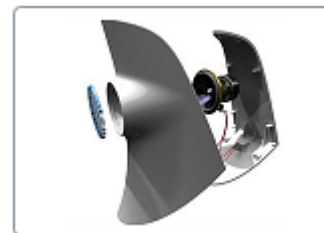
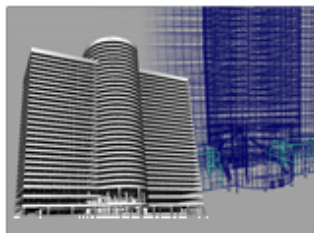


Autodesk DirectConnect 2010



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Autodesk DirectConnect 2010



Installing and Licensing

2

Installing Autodesk DirectConnect

Installing with host software

Autodesk DirectConnect software installs automatically when the following Autodesk software is installed:

- Autodesk Alias
- Autodesk Maya (Windows version)
- Autodesk Showcase

For information on installing these software products, refer to their respective installation guides.

Autodesk DirectConnect software is provided on the media with Autodesk Opticore Studio software, in the Autodesk DirectConnect 2010 folder, and must be installed manually:

NOTE When installing DirectConnect, ensure you install the same version, such as 32-bit or 64-bit, as your Autodesk Opticore Studio.

NOTE DirectConnect Help is only supported on Microsoft Internet Explorer. Performance on other browsers may not provide consistent results.

Support platforms

Autodesk DirectConnect runs on the same platform as the Autodesk product it installs with:

Autodesk Software	Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional 32-bit and 64-bit Editions	Apple® Mac OS® X 10.5.2 or higher 64-bit	Microsoft Vista 32-bit and 64-bit Editions
Autodesk Alias	✓	✓	✓
Autodesk Maya (Windows version)	✓	✓	
Autodesk Showcase	✓		✓
Autodesk Opticore Studio	✓		✓

Recommended system requirements

Autodesk DirectConnect requires the following amount of disk space:

- On Windows® XP, Windows 2000 Professional, or Vista, 260 megabytes of disk space available on a system drive or destination drive.
- On Mac OS® X 10.5 or greater, 30 megabytes of disk space, on an Apple Mac computer with 64-bit Intel processors. PowerPC (PPC) computers are no longer supported.

Autodesk DirectConnect 2009 R2 SP1 installs with other products, so your system must also accommodate the host product requirements. (For the system requirements of the host product, consult its installation guide.)

NOTE For the most up-to-date information on hardware qualifications, go to http://www.alias.com/eng/support/qualified_hardware/.

Setting up additional software (Autodesk Maya 2010)

NOTE Maya on the Mac OS X operating system does not support DirectConnect 2010; however, it does support DirectConnect 2009. See <http://www.autodesk.com/maya-directconnect>.

After you install your Maya 2010 software, load a plug-in to use Autodesk DirectConnect translators:

- 1 In Maya 2009, select **Window > Settings/Preferences > Plug-in Manager**.
- 2 Click the DirectConnect plug-in to enable all of the Autodesk DirectConnect translators:
 - Windows: `DirectConnect.mll`
 - Mac OS X: `DirectConnect.lib`

A check mark appears in the box.

Installing upgrades

You can download and install newer versions of Autodesk DirectConnect as they become available on the Web.

- 1 Find the newest version on the Web and download its exe file. (See Find the latest information on the Web.)
- 2 Remove the older version of Autodesk DirectConnect from your system. (In Windows, select **Start > Settings > Control Panel** and click the **Add or Remove Programs** choice.
- 3 Double-click the exe file you downloaded.

Software deployment using group policies for Windows

Disclaimer

The description of methods presented here is provided to aid those looking for a straight forward, Microsoft supported means for deployment of software over a Local Area Network. If the Microsoft Group Policy based mechanism does not provide sufficient control or features for the size or complexity of

your network environment, we recommend that you consider more advanced Microsoft solutions, or other third party solutions.

Introduction

Microsoft's Active Directory technology provides the capability for software to be remotely installed from a server distribution point to client computers. The client computers must be members of an Organizational Unit (OU) in the Active Directory. Software deployment is controlled by configuring the Software Installation policy of the Group Policy Object (GPO) associated with that OU. The software installation occurs automatically at boot time; no user intervention is required.

Prerequisites

- Active Directory must be installed and properly configured.
- Client computers must have Microsoft Installer (MSI) version 3.0 or newer installed.

Configuration process

There are three main steps to deploying software using group policies:

- 1 Create a Distribution Point.
- 2 Assign the application to client computers.
- 3 Verify the installation.

NOTE Consult Microsoft Knowledge Base Article #816102 for more details, including information on how to redeploy or remove a package.

Create a distribution point

A distribution point is a shared network location containing the package(s) to install.

To create a distribution list

- 1 Log on to the appointed server as Administrator.
- 2 Create a shared network folder.

- 3 Grant permissions as appropriate. Permission to modify the contents of this folder should typically be granted to an administrator or select group of users; all other users should be restricted to read access.
- 4 Copy the .msi files for the package(s) to be deployed into this folder.

Assign a package to client computers

The Software Installation section of the Group Policy object specifies the software packages to be deployed.

To assign a package for deployment

- 1 From the Windows **Start** menu on the server, click **All Programs (or Programs) > Administrative Tools > Active Directory Users and Computers**.
- 2 Browse to the desired Organizational Unit (OU) in the Active Directory tree, right-click, and click **Properties**. The Properties dialog box for the OU selected displays.

NOTE For the Group Policy Object to take effect, the desired client computer objects must be members of the OU selected.

- 3 Select the Group Policy tab and click **New**. Enter a name for the GPO. For example, "Alias Computer Assigned Installation". The GPO is created and added to the Group Policy Object Links list.
- 4 In the Group Policy Object Links list, click the GPO you just created, then **Edit**.
- 5 In the left pane of the Group Policy Object Editor, under computer Configuration, click the plus sign (+) next to the Software Settings folder to expand it.
- 6 Under Software Settings, right-click Software Installation, then click **New > Package**.
- 7 enter the UNC path to the desired package located in the distribution point created in the previous section, then click **Open**. For example,
`\\server\share\Alias.msi`

NOTE Do not browse to the network location. You must type the UNC path into the "File name" text box.

- 8 Select **Assigned** and click **OK**. Wait until an entry for the package is displayed in the right pane of the Group Policy window.
- 9 Repeat steps 7 and 8 for all packages to be deployed.
- 10 Close the Group Policy window and any other open Active Directory windows.
The package is now assigned to all computers that are members of the OU for which the GPO has been created. The next time a computer in the OU is restarted, the program will be installed and available for all users of the computer.

NOTE Windows XP is shipped with Fast Logon Optimization enabled. Due to this feature, two reboots are required before the software will be installed. Microsoft Knowledge Base Article #305293 describes the Fast Logon Optimization feature, along with instructions on how to disable it.

Test and verify the deployment

When a computer is restarted, the operating system displays messages about group policy, generally just before or after the Windows Login dialog box is displayed. These messages include the following:

- Windows starting up
- Applying computer settings
- Installing managed software
- Applying software installation settings
- Loading your personal settings
- Applying your personal settings

To verify that the package has been correctly assigned to a computer, restart a computer that is in the OU for which the GPO was created. The program is installed during the boot sequence, before the login prompt is displayed. After logging in, the user should find the application under the Programs menu in the same location as if it had been locally installed.

NOTE If problems arise, an entry is logged in the system's Event Viewer under Applications.

References

- Microsoft Knowledge Base Article #816102: How to use Group Policy to Remotely Install Software in Windows Server 2003
- Microsoft Knowledge Base Article #305293: Description of Windows XP Professional Fast Logon Optimization Feature

Licensing Autodesk DirectConnect

Purchasing and installing a license

- 1 To see if you need a license, go to Supported products and translators.
- 2 Purchase the Autodesk DirectConnect license, if necessary. For information on how to purchase a license, go to the DirectConnect Web sites. (See Find the latest information on the Web.)

NOTE For details on licensing (including how to use hardware locks and install floating licenses), refer to the installation and licensing documentation for the Autodesk product you purchased.

- 3 From the Windows **Start** menu, select **Programs > Autodesk > DirectConnect > Licensing** and follow the instructions.

NOTE For details on licensing (including how to use hardware locks and install floating licenses), refer to the installation and licensing documentation for the Autodesk product you purchased.

- 4 To verify the license installation, try to import a file (see the next topic).

Importing Files

When importing CAD files, the process is not always the same from one software package to another. This section provides instructions on how to do this in your Autodesk software.

Importing files

- 1 In your Autodesk software, choose the appropriate menu item.

To import a CAD file into...	Choose...
Autodesk Alias	File > Open or File > Import > File
Autodesk Maya (Windows version)	File > Open Scene or File > Import
Autodesk Showcase	File > Import Models
Autodesk Opticore Studio	File > Import

- 2 Select the file from the file browser. If you cannot see the file, it is not supported or its translator is not licensed.
- 3 Click **OK**.
The translator automatically launches and the file imports into the scene.