Autodesk® Inventor® 2010 FAQ

1. Can I upgrade from AutoCAD to Autodesk Inventor?

Yes, AutoCAD® users can upgrade their existing software to Autodesk® Inventor® software.

With Autodesk Inventor you get the best of both worlds, with 2D and 3D design tools in one package delivering enhanced 3D mechanical design productivity while preserving your company's 2D engineering designs through native DWG™ compatibility.

You can easily integrate AutoCAD® and 3D data into a single digital model to create a virtual representation of the final product. Inventor software helps you realize the benefits of Digital Prototyping by providing direct read and write of native DWG™ files, so there's no risk of inaccurate translations.

2. What does the Autodesk Inventor product line deliver?

Autodesk Inventor software is only available through the AutoCAD® Inventor® Suite product line. All AutoCAD® Inventor® Suite bundles include the latest version of AutoCAD Mechanical.

The Autodesk Inventor product line provides a comprehensive and flexible set of 3D modeling 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 data as they work, minimizing 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 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 optimize and validate the digital prototype to predict how the design will work under real-world conditions, before the product or part is ever built.

Autodesk® Inventor® software helps automate key aspects of the design of injection molds for plastic parts. This allows you to quickly create and validate complete mold designs, reducing errors and improving mold performance.

Generating manufacturing documentation from a validated 3D digital prototype helps 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. Different workgroups can manage and track all components of a digital prototype with Autodesk® Design Review software—the all-digital way to review, measure, mark up, and track changes to designs—allowing for better reuse of crucial design data, management of bills of materials (BOMs), and collaboration with other teams and partners.

With different product configurations that offer specific levels of functionality to fit your design needs, no company is more focused than Autodesk on helping you create accurate digital prototypes and bring better products to market faster at less cost.

3. Which AutoCAD Inventor product is right for me?

To learn more about the different AutoCAD Inventor products, please review the matrix below and then contact an Autodesk Authorized Reseller.

	AutoCAD Inventor Suite	AutoCAD Inventor Routed Systems Suite	AutoCAD Inventor Simulation Suite	AutoCAD Inventor Tooling Suite	AutoCAD Inventor Professional Suite
Autodesk Inventor	•	•	•	•	•
AutoCAD Mechanical	•	•	•	•	•
Cable and Harness Design		•			•
Tube, Pipe and Flexible Hose Design		•			•
Stress Analysis (FEA)			•		•
Dynamic Simulation			•		•
Mold and Tooling Design				•	•
Autodesk Vault	•	•	•	•	•

4. How do I purchase Autodesk Inventor software?

Autodesk Inventor software is only available through the AutoCAD® Inventor® Suite product line. AutoCAD Inventor is available from Autodesk Authorized Resellers. Contact an Autodesk Authorized Reseller for more information.

5. Which products are available for Autodesk education customers in the United States and Canada?

AutoCAD® Inventor® Professional software is the only product available for education customers in the United States and Canada. If you are an education customer currently using AutoCAD, Autodesk Inventor, Autodesk® Mechanical Desktop®, or AutoCAD® Mechanical software, you can purchase an upgrade to AutoCAD Inventor Professional.

If you are an Autodesk® Comprehensive Education Solution (ACES) or Autodesk® Design Institute customer, you will receive current versions of AutoCAD Inventor Professional software.

6. 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 Authorized Reseller.

7. What is Autodesk Vault?

Autodesk® Vault data management software reduces errors and promotes design reuse 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 all Autodesk Manufacturing software, Autodesk Vault makes data management more efficient by organizing your design data and protecting it from inadvertent changes. This data-management tool makes work-in-progress data more accessible and reusable 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 quickly become efficient. Autodesk Vault is self-supporting because of its simplicity and support tools such as discussion groups, online help, and best-practices documentation.