

Questions and Answers

AutoCAD® MEP 2010 software is the AutoCAD® building design software for mechanical, electrical and plumbing (MEP) designers and drafters.

AutoCAD MEP software is the discipline-specific version of AutoCAD software for mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) designers and drafters. Sharing and collaborating with architects and structural engineers is made easier through the familiar AutoCAD-based environment. AutoCAD MEP's more intuitive systems and design tools provide greater drafting productivity with the flexibility to make last-minute design changes more quickly and easily. AutoCAD MEP helps to provide increased drafting productivity, better accuracy, and better design coordination opportunities for MEP designers and drafters. Production of construction documents is automated, allowing the creation of single line and double line systems in addition to schematics.

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1. General Product Information

1.1 What is AutoCAD MEP?

AutoCAD MEP software is the version of AutoCAD software for mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) designers and drafters. Creating and sharing construction documents is more efficient with AutoCAD MEP's more intuitive systems drawing and design tools. The familiar AutoCAD-based environment helps to provide greater drafting productivity with the flexibility to implement discipline-specific design and documentation tools.

1.2 Is AutoCAD MEP software the product that used to be called Autodesk Building Systems?

Yes. AutoCAD MEP was formerly known as Autodesk® Building Systems software. To better align the Autodesk product line with the needs and requirements of customers in the AEC industry, Autodesk has modified the names of some products, which was reflected in the 2008 product line release.

1.3 Why should I switch to AutoCAD MEP software?

AutoCAD MEP software offers the same familiar benefits and operating environment as standard AutoCAD software. In addition, AutoCAD MEP provides the opportunity to improve your MEP design process with purpose-built tools for mechanical, electrical, and plumbing/piping/fire protection design and documentation. Also, because AutoCAD MEP uses the industry-leading DWG file format, you can share your design information with other disciplines using both AutoCAD and Revit®-based software applications.

The user interface for AutoCAD MEP software will be quite familiar to AutoCAD users, making the transition from one to the other relatively easy. Because the common MEP design tools are presented in a visual manner that is easy to understand, you can focus less on dialog boxes and the drafting process and more on creating your designs.

1.4 Can I rely on my AutoCAD software knowledge to use AutoCAD MEP?

AutoCAD MEP builds on the speed, performance, and familiarity of AutoCAD software, so AutoCAD users have a strong foundation from which to learn.

As always, training can improve your productivity and speed of learning. A variety of excellent training aids are available, including self-paced e-Learning options for subscription customers, Autodesk® Official Training Courseware (AOTC), and customized training available through resellers. For more information, contact your Autodesk Authorized Reseller or visit www.autodesk.com/training.

1.5 Manufacturer specific content is very important to our business. What content has been added to AutoCAD MEP 2010?

New catalog content related to the mechanical, electrical and plumbing industry, as well as the water and wastewater industry is available out-of-the-box. Subscription customers also have access to additional content if such content is released during their Subscription term. Other new content includes things such as sloped pipe fittings, male and female pipe connectors with Connector Engagement Length (CEL), and more. In addition, with Autodesk® Seek web service you can find and share product design information with the

online design community to help enhance designs and better meet specific customer needs. It allows designers to search for, download, and integrate generic or manufacturer-specific building products or components and associated design information. Visit Autodesk Seek at <http://seek.autodesk.com>

2. Technology

2.1 What are the sloped pipe design improvements in AutoCAD MEP 2010?

With AutoCAD MEP 2010, you can more easily layout gravity based designs for waste, vent, sanitary drain and storm/sewer drainage systems with its new sloped piping feature. Now you can layout the main of a drainage system with a 1/4" per foot slope and connect several branches with different slope angles based on the distance and height from the main.

The system can generate possible layout solutions for sloped systems based on points you specify in the drawing. Sloped piping designs model real-world scenarios where pipes fit flexibly into couplings. The software automatically inserts fittings based on the orientation of the pipe object to which the fitting is added. The software lays out pipe and fittings with a horizontal slope (sanitary) and transitions between sloped and vertical pipes (vents) without requiring you to manually calculate the angles.

2.2 Does AutoCAD MEP support the new Ribbons like the ones in AutoCAD?

Yes, in AutoCAD MEP 2010, there are different ribbons for each of the disciplines (mechanical, electrical, plumbing, piping) as well as schematics. The Home tab is setup to contain the most commonly used items in each of the disciplines. You can have the following types of tabs:

Static tabs: These tabs are available independently of selected objects in the drawing area. The commands on the static tabs were previously found in the menus and toolbars.

Contextual tabs: These tabs appear depending on the object selected on screen. When you select a duct, a contextual tab for duct will be displayed. The commands on the contextual tabs reflect the commands on the context menu of an object.

2.3 What is Autodesk doing to address the growing demand for fabrication in the MEP industry?

Autodesk Inc, and EastCoast CAD/CAM are working together to offer a more comprehensive fabrication solution combining the power of Autodesk's popular AutoCAD MEP software, the better, faster AutoCAD® for mechanical, electrical and plumbing (MEP), designers and drafters, with the newest HVAC fabrication solution from EastCoast CAD/CAM, Fabrication for AutoCAD MEP, providing the first fully embedded fabrication toolset for HVAC and Piping inside AutoCAD MEP.

The integrated toolset offers better speed, efficiency, functionality and ease of use. With AutoCAD MEP designers, drafters and contractors can create and share documentation more efficiently with intuitive system drawing and design tools and with EastCoast Fabrication for AutoCAD MEP, extend their system design all the way through to construction.

3. Installation, Configuration, and Licensing

3.1 What are the hardware and system requirements for 32-bit and 64-bit?

The recommended hardware and operating system requirements for running AutoCAD MEP 2010 software are:

32-bit System Requirements

- Intel Pentium 4, 3.0 GHz or greater with SSE2 technology, AMD Athlon™, 3.0 GHz or greater with SSE2 technology, Dual Core Supported
- Windows XP Home and Professional SP2 or later, Windows Vista Enterprise SP1, Windows Vista Business SP1, Windows Vista Ultimate SP1, Windows Vista Home Premium SP1
- 2 GB RAM
- 4.0 GB disk space (default install)
- 1024 x 768 True Color display resolution
- 128 MB graphics card
- Microsoft®-Mouse compliant
- Microsoft Internet Explorer 7.0 or later
- Download and installation from DVD

32-bit System Recommendations

- Intel Pentium 4, 3.0 GHz or greater with SSE2 technology, AMD Athlon™, 3.0 GHz or greater with SSE2 technology
- Windows XP Professional SP2 or later
- 3 GB RAM
- 4.2 GB disk space (full install)
- 1280 x 1024 True Color display resolution
- 256 MB or greater, Direct3D® capable workstation class 3D graphics card

64-bit System Requirements

- AMD Athlon™ 64 with SSE2 technology, AMD Opteron™ with SSE2 technology, Intel® Xeon with Intel EM64T support & SSE2 technology, Intel Pentium 4 with Intel EM64T support & SSE2 technology
- Windows Vista® 32-bit (Business, Enterprise, Ultimate, Home Premium), Windows Vista 64-bit (Business, Enterprise, Ultimate, Home Premium), Windows XP Home SP2, Windows XP Professional x64, SP2
- 2 GB RAM
- 4.3 GB disk space (default install)
- 1024 x 768 True Color display resolution

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- 128 MB Video Adapter Card
- Microsoft®-Mouse compliant
- Microsoft Internet Explorer 7.0 or later
- Download and installation from DVD

64-bit System Recommendations

- Intel Pentium 4 with Intel EM64T support & SSE2 technology or AMD Athlon™ 64 with SSE2 technology
- Windows XP Professional x64 Edition SP2 and later
- 4 GB RAM
- 4.7 GB disk space (full install)
- 1280 x 1024 True Color display resolution
- 256 MB or greater, Direct 3D Video Adapter Card

Note that AutoCAD MEP 64-bit cannot be installed on a 32-bit Windows operating system

Please ensure that you have read these requirements before making your purchasing decision.

3.2 Can AutoCAD MEP software applications take advantage of a 64-bit operating environment?

Yes, there is a native AutoCAD MEP 2010 64-bit version available. Local language availability varies. Check with your local Autodesk reseller for details.

3.3 Does AutoCAD MEP software work in a Windows Vista® environment?

AutoCAD MEP 2010 software has achieved the “Works with Windows Vista®” and will support the following environments: Windows Vista® 32-bit (Business, Enterprise, Ultimate, Home Premium), Windows Vista 64-bit (Business, Enterprise, Ultimate, Home Premium). In addition, AutoCAD MEP 2010 also takes advantage of some new Windows Vista capabilities, specifically Windows Vista thumbnail previews for DWG and DWF™ files in Windows Explorer, display of properties in the Detail tab of Windows Explorer, and the ability to use the Windows Vista search tools using text strings found in drawing properties, text, mtext, and so forth, in the DWG file.

3.4 Do I need to purchase AutoCAD or AutoCAD Architecture in order to run AutoCAD MEP?

No. AutoCAD MEP 2010 is built on the same technology as AutoCAD® Architecture 2010, which includes all AutoCAD® 2010 functionality. It is a version of AutoCAD purpose-built for MEP systems engineering design and documentation. You do not need to purchase separate licenses of those products to use AutoCAD MEP.

4. Compatibility and Interoperability

4.1 Is AutoCAD MEP 2010 software compatible with earlier releases?

Yes. You can open files created in earlier releases of AutoCAD MEP software and can save files to a format compatible with earlier releases as well.

4.2 Are AutoCAD MEP software and Autodesk Revit MEP software files interoperable?

You can exchange drawing information (2D DWG files) between AutoCAD MEP and Autodesk Revit MEP software through their respective Export to AutoCAD features. You can also export architectural building elements from AutoCAD MEP and import them into Autodesk Revit MEP software using the International Alliance for Interoperability's Industry Foundation Class (IFC) standards. With AutoCAD MEP, you can also manually assign IFC classifications for MEP objects such as ducts, pipe, and etc.

In addition, Autodesk Revit MEP software has the ability to read and write ACIS[®] solids. This capability gives you a way to export your models from AutoCAD MEP software and then to import or link this 3D information to Autodesk Revit MEP or Autodesk Revit[®] Architecture software.

4.3 Will my third-party applications work with the current release of AutoCAD MEP software?

Your existing third-party applications may or may not be compatible with the current release of AutoCAD MEP software. Contact your third-party software supplier for details.

5. Consulting, Training, and Support

5.1 Where can I find technical support information regarding AutoCAD MEP software?

You can learn about support options from your local Autodesk Authorized Reseller. Visit www.autodesk.com/support to find a knowledge base of commonly asked support questions. Also, Autodesk software manuals and documentation are a great source of answers to your support questions.

In addition, Autodesk Subscription customers can get access to direct web support. One-to-one online communication with Autodesk support technicians provides fast, complete answers to your installation, configuration, and troubleshooting questions. For more information about Autodesk Subscription, contact your Autodesk Authorized Reseller or visit www.autodesk.com/subscription.

5.2 What are my options for training?

Check with your local Autodesk Authorized Reseller for a schedule of AutoCAD MEP software training classes. To locate a reseller, visit www.autodesk.com/reseller.

Training courses are also offered through Autodesk Consulting custom training to match your organization's specific needs. To obtain more information about Autodesk's training services, visit www.autodesk.com/training.

You can also enroll in instructor-led training at Autodesk Authorized Training Center (ATC[®]) sites around the world. These training centers use Autodesk Official Training

Courseware (AOTC) to deliver comprehensive courses for new and intermediate AutoCAD MEP software users. To learn more, visit www.autodesk.com/atc.

6. Subscription

6.1 What benefits do I get by subscribing to AutoCAD MEP?

Autodesk Subscription is the best way to keep your design tools and learning up to date. For an annual fee you get any new upgrades of your Autodesk software and any incremental product enhancements, if these are released during your Subscription term, as well as self-paced training options, access to subscription-only modules, and a broad range of other technology and business benefits.

With Autodesk Subscription, you can take advantage of Autodesk e-Learning. Its concise, self-paced online lessons are designed to address crucial application functions and industry practices. Experts in their respective industries developed the lessons to challenge and enhance your existing knowledge. By the end of each 15- to 30-minute lesson, you will have worked with the content, demonstrated your knowledge, and have access to the files used in each exercise. E-Learning may not be available in all languages.

Autodesk Subscription also includes direct web support. You get one-to-one online communication with Autodesk support technicians for fast, complete answers to your installation, configuration, and troubleshooting questions. Web and email communications deliver support straight to your desktop. Plus you have web access to your account through the Subscription Center, so you can track and manage questions and responses.

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