

Readme: Autodesk Impression

Thank you for your interest in Autodesk® Impression. Impression converts precision drawings to eye-catching design illustrations by applying appearance styles that simulate everything from pencil-drawn sketches to hand-colored renderings.

This Readme describes how to download, install, and uninstall Impression. It also contains late-breaking information about the product and provides tips for handling its limitations. By default, this Readme is available at *C:\Program Files\Autodesk\Impression\Help\Impression_Readme.htm*.

Contents

- [Product Overview](#)
- [Download and Install Impression](#)
- [How Do I Learn About Impression?](#)
- [How Do I Prepare My Files for Impression?](#)
- [Limitations in This Release](#)
- [Send Comments to the Impression Team](#)
- [Become a Member of the Autodesk Impression Community](#)

Product Overview

For best results when using Autodesk Impression, your computer should meet the requirements described below.

System Requirements

The following table lists the minimum requirements for effective use of Impression. For the most recent information, see <http://www.autodesk.com/impression>.

Hardware/Software	Requirement
-------------------	-------------

- Microsoft® Windows Vista™ Home Basic, Home Premium, Ultimate Business, and Enterprise
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional (SP 2)

Operating system

Service Pack 2 (SP2) is available at <http://www.microsoft.com/WindowsXP/sp2/>.

Computer/Processor	Intel® processor, 3.0 GHz or greater. For laptop computers: AMD® processor 1.7 MHz or greater
RAM	1+ GB
Graphics card	128+ MB DirectX® 9.0c-capable graphics card supporting pixel shader 2.0 or greater (64 MB minimum) Recommended graphics cards include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NVIDIA Quadro® FX • NVIDIA GeForce® FX 5, 6 and 7 families (for example, 6600 and 7800) • ATI Radeon® X series (for example, x300, x600, x1300) • ATI Radeon 9500 and later • ATI FireGL™ X and V families (for example, X1, V3200)
Hard disk space	2+ GB (not including installation)
Video display	1280 x 1024 32-bit color video display adapter (true color)
Web browser	Microsoft® Internet Explorer 6.0 (SP1)

File Formats That Impression Can Open

Impression can open 2D DWF™ files and DWG files from the following products:

- AutoCAD® 2008 (including prior releases)
- AutoCAD LT® 2008 (including prior releases)
- AutoCAD® Architecture 2008 (including prior releases)
- Revit® Architecture 2008 and the Revit family of products (including prior releases)
- AutoCAD® Revit® Architecture Suite 2008 (including prior releases)
- Autodesk® Inventor™ 2008 and the Inventor family of products (including prior releases)
- AutoCAD® Civil 3D® 2008 (including prior releases)
- Autodesk® Map 3D 2008 (including prior releases)
- Autodesk MapGuide® 2008 and Autodesk MapGuide® Studio 2008 (including prior releases)

- AutoCAD® Mechanical 2008 (including prior releases)

Technology Preview Evaluation Period (available outside the United States and Canada)

Section 2.2.6 of the Impression End User License Agreement states that the evaluation period is 30 days unless otherwise specified by Autodesk. Pursuant to section 2.2.6, the evaluation period will terminate on October 30, 2007.

Download and Install Impression

You need to download the installation files to your computer, extract them, and then run the installation program.

Note: To install and activate Impression, you must be a power user with write access to the installation folder. You do not need to be a power user to run Impression.

To download and install Impression

1. Uninstall any previous versions of this product, including alpha, beta, and tech preview versions. See "To uninstall Impression (including alpha or beta versions)," below.
2. Verify that you have enough disk space (380 MB recommended) to extract the Impression installation files.
3. On the Autodesk Impression website, find the Impression application and click the Download button.
4. Save the *ImpressionPreviewInstall.exe* file to a temporary folder on your computer.
5. Exit all other programs.
6. In the folder where you saved the downloaded file, double-click the *ImpressionPreviewInstall.exe* file to start the installation program.
7. Follow the on-screen instructions.

When the installation is complete, you may be prompted to restart your computer.

To activate and use Impression

1. Start Impression using one of the following methods:
 - Double-click the Autodesk Impression icon on your computer desktop.
 - Click Start menu > Programs > Autodesk > Impression.
 - In Windows Vista, click the Start button > All Programs > Autodesk > Impression.

Note: If you accessed the Impression download site from the AutoCAD 2008 or AutoCAD LT 2008

toolbar, do not try to open Impression for the first time from the toolbar. Instead, open it using one of the methods described above. After it has been opened once, you can open it from the toolbar.

2. You have the following option:
 - **Activate the trial license.** To try out Impression for a limited time, click this option and click Next.

Click the Request an Activation Code link and fill out the online form.

3. When the Activation Code is displayed, copy and paste it into the on-screen box.
4. Click OK.

To uninstall Impression (including alpha or beta versions)

1. In the Windows Control Panel, click Add or Remove Programs.
 2. In the Add or Remove Programs dialog box, select Autodesk Impression and click Remove.
-

How Do I Learn About Impression?

You can get information about Impression from a variety of sources:

Quickstart Tour

- The first time you open Impression, notice the panel at the bottom of the screen. Click the picture of a drawing to open it on the canvas. Then try your hand at stylizing the drawing yourself.
- **Access:** Help menu > Quickstart Tour

Quick Start Guide

- For a more complete pictorial introduction to the Impression basics, step through the modules in the Quick Start Guide.
- **Access:** Help menu > Quick Start Guide

Help System

- When you need specific information about a particular interface option or when you want to know how to do something, use the Help system. Search for the information by entering keywords on the Index or Search tabs. Expandable Quick Links at the beginning of each topic connect you to related information.
- **Access:** Help menu > Help
- **Context Access:** Press F1 or click the Info button in the top-right corner of a palette or dialog box.

Information on the Web

- Join the Impression community. Learn what your fellow Impressionists are doing. Gain access to additional entourage, such as trees, people, and cars. Get helpful tips and learn about webcasts and other educational events.
 - **Access:** <http://www.impression.autodesk.com/impression-community>
-

How Do I Prepare My Files for Impression?

Impression stylizes drawings (DWG files) that have been created in other programs. When using Impression, it's important to manage the file size and other aspects of a drawing you open or import. Following are some suggestions:

- Be aware of the size of the original DWG file. Larger drawings may slow Impression performance.
- Use standard layer-naming conventions.
- Before importing a file, remove all unnecessary components from the original DWG file. This might include text, dimensions, or sections of the drawing that will not be part of the illustration.
- Purge unused named items such as block definitions and layers from the drawing.
- Freeze layers that are not essential to the illustration.
- Eliminate extraneous line work, such as extra lines created when you section 3D objects.
- If you plan to substitute Impression blocks for blocks in the original drawing, keep the original blocks as simple as possible.
- If you participated in testing an alpha or beta release, do not reuse files created with those versions of the product.

For more information, see "Tips for Preparing Drawings for Impression" in the Help system.

Limitations in This Release

This version of Impression has the following known problems:

Unexpected Terminations

- **Impression may not open if you use Remote Desktop or Virtual PC with WindowsXP.** If you use Microsoft's Remote Desktop or Virtual PC programs on your computer, you may not be able to run Impression.
- **Impression may not open if hardware acceleration is disabled.** Make sure hardware acceleration for your video card is turned on before you start Impression.
- **Microsoft Visual C++ Runtime Library dialog box is displayed.** If this dialog box is displayed,

click OK to close it.

- **Plotting to HPGL2.** If you experience a termination while plotting to a standard HPGL2 driver for large-format plots, try plotting to Postscript instead.
- **Avoid opening NetMeeting when Impression is running.** Opening Windows NetMeeting while Impression is running may cause an out-of-memory error.
- **"Dbx cas 4" error occurs on startup.** If you receive a "dbx cas 4" error when you try to start Impression, try the following workaround:
 1. Go to the following location:
C:\Documents and Settings\USERNAME\Application Data\Microsoft\Crypto\RSA
(where USERNAME is your Windows login).
 2. Find the subfolder that starts with "S-".
Example: S-1-5-21-3747606025-1794718140-643186709-1005
 3. Back up the files in the folder.
 4. Delete the files in the folder.
 5. Run Impression again.
- **Architectural Desktop files may not open.** If you cannot open Architectural Desktop files in Impression, try using the AECTOACAD command and then save the file again.

Open or Import a Drawing

- **Mtext may not load properly on unsupported operating systems.** Opening a drawing that contains multiline text (mtext) may cause Impression to stop when it is running on a computer with Windows 2000 or Windows XP with Service Pack 1 (but not Service Pack 2).
- **Imported text location may shift.** If text is not located in the expected position after it is imported, select and move it.
- **Shape objects cannot be displayed.** Geometry created using the AutoCAD SHAPE command is not displayed when the file is opened in Impression.
- **Display of some imported DWF images may be incorrect.** The varying origins of DWF drawings may cause differing results when a DWF file is opened in Impression. For example, some transparency settings may result in color changes.
- **White lines on a black background are not displayed correctly when opened in Impression.** Because the background color is not imported, white objects drawn on a black background are not visible when you import them into Impression. You can display them by assigning a stroke style that uses a different color.
- **Some linetypes are not imported.** Imported linetypes that are not supported by Impression are displayed as continuous lines. For example, linetypes with more than six dashes and gaps, and linetypes that combine shapes and dots, are not supported.
- **Raster image properties are not supported.** Raster image properties such as brightness, contrast, and fade are not retained when a DWG file is opened in Impression.
- **Objects pasted from Adobe Illustrator drawings may not behave as expected.** This release of Impression provides only limited support for copying and pasting objects from Adobe Illustrator.

- **Clipping boundaries are not always imported correctly.** When you open a drawing that contains a clipping boundary (created in AutoCAD with XCLIP), the boundaries may not display properly. Clipped boundaries are used by AutoCAD to mask certain portions of a block or an external reference (xref).
- **Hatches in imported drawings may not be displayed properly.** Hatch patterns in drawings created in other formats may not be displayed in Impression.
- **PSD files with layer groups cannot be opened.** If you try to open or import an Adobe Photoshop file that contains grouped layers, an Open Image Error dialog box is displayed.
- **2D solids with thickness may not be properly displayed.** If you import or open a DWG file that contains a 2D solid with thickness, the extruded portion may not be displayed if you import it without hidden lines removed. To display it, apply a stroke style to the object.

Stylize and Draw

- **Avoid dragging text to resize it if you need a precision text scale.** To set the text to a specific point size, highlight it and enter the size in the Font Size box in the Properties palette.

Interface and Display Issues

- **Text alignment may be incorrect when Impression is run on a non-English operating system.** If you run Impression on a non-English operating system, the text in dialog boxes and palettes may not be displayed with the correct font or alignment.
 - **For multiple-monitor setups, the primary monitor must have a supported graphics card.** You might not be able to run Impression on a computer that uses more than one monitor if the graphics card on the primary monitor does not meet the system requirements. (See "System Requirements," above.) An unsupported graphics card on the secondary monitor will adversely affect performance.
-

Send Comments to the Impression Team

Send Comments

Your feedback is important to us. To submit comments or issues, please email Autodesk directly by clicking Help menu > Send Feedback. If you are reporting an issue with the application, you can help us research the problem by including as many details as you can.

Error Reporting

With Customer Error Reporting (CER), you can quickly report unexpected program terminations to Autodesk. You report these problems in the Impression Error Report dialog box that is displayed automatically when a program error occurs.

These error reports have proven to be a great tool for analyzing and stabilizing Autodesk products. The

more information you provide about what led up to the product termination, the quicker the Impression team can find and fix the problem. To enter information, click inside the Step-by-Step Description box that is displayed when the error occurs, and describe the steps that led up to the problem.

Become a Member of the Autodesk Impression Community

Become a member of the Autodesk Impression Community to stay current with all the latest developments and resources available for this technology preview. Learn how Impression is evolving, find new content to use in your images, and share your experiences with other users. Benefits of membership include access to

- Content Sharing
- Member Discussions
- Blogs, Local Events, and Webcasts
- User-submitted Tips and Tricks

Membership provides you with up-to-date information on the latest developments with Autodesk Impression, and with tools to help you get started.

Go to <http://impression.autodesk.com/>.
