



Autodesk® White Paper

Product Comparison: AutoCAD LT® 2000 and AutoCAD® 2000

Each year, hundreds of thousands of new users choose to create and manage their designs with Autodesk's AutoCAD® and AutoCAD LT® software. Engineering and design professionals create drawings of mechanical parts and assemblies, floor plans and elevations, topographical maps, and a variety of other specialized designs using these two products.

In selecting the appropriate CAD platform, CAD managers need information with which to decide whether AutoCAD 2000 or AutoCAD LT 2000 best suits the needs of their engineers, designers, and drafters. In addition, some customers and dealers need help in understanding the technical differences between these two products so that they can decide which better fits their needs.

Product Positioning

AutoCAD LT 2000

AutoCAD LT 2000 software offers design capability to everyone by providing a low-cost 2D CAD product for new-to-CAD customers and professionals in extended design teams who occasionally use CAD. Extensive customer research drove development of AutoCAD LT 2000's features, which improve productivity, extend design capabilities through intuitive and clearly designed features, and provide streamlined methods for outputting drawings. As with previous releases, AutoCAD LT 2000 software features full compatibility with AutoCAD 2000 drawing files. AutoCAD LT 2000 software also offers several learning tools intended to help the new-to-CAD user become productive quickly.

Choosing AutoCAD LT 2000 Software

AutoCAD LT 2000 represents the ideal choice for the following types of CAD users:

- Managers, supervisors, and other technical professionals who need to view and edit AutoCAD drawings with absolute accuracy.
- Experienced drafters and designers who need to view or edit drawings or who



simply need to share drawings with an AutoCAD software user.

- Professionals who occasionally use 2D CAD without the need for third-party customization tools or professionals who need to view AutoCAD drawings in the field using a laptop computer.
- Manual drafters moving from the drafting board to CAD for the first time.

AutoCAD 2000

AutoCAD 2000 software is the world's leading, fully extensible, 2D and 3D design and drafting product for mission-critical applications. Its open architecture and extensive customization capabilities through Visual LISP™, VBA, ActiveX, and ObjectARX™ have allowed more than 3,500 independent software developers to offer specialized applications that provide targeted solutions for more than 2 million users. These targeted solutions meet the needs of demanding professionals in the fields of architecture, engineering and construction, facilities management, mechanical design, geographic information, and many others.

Choosing AutoCAD 2000 Software

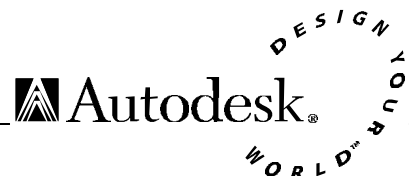
AutoCAD 2000 represents the ideal choice for the following types of CAD users:

- Experienced design and drafting professionals in the architectural, mechanical, facilities management, mapping, or construction fields who require an industrial-strength CAD program that is capable of both 2D and 3D design and drafting.
- Experienced design and drafting professionals who want to customize or automate AutoCAD 2000 software with any of the thousands of market-specific add-on applications.

Technical Differences

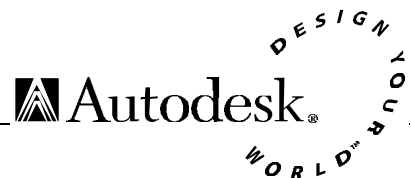
While AutoCAD LT 2000 and AutoCAD 2000 software share many features and the same Autodesk drawing file format, several important differences distinguish the two products. The following represent the key areas of differentiation between the two products:

- AutoCAD LT 2000, as an occasional-use product, offers significant ease of use and affordability, without all of AutoCAD 2000 software's advanced capabilities.
- AutoCAD LT 2000, as a 2D drafting product, does not offer the wealth of 3D solid-modeling and visualization features found in AutoCAD software. AutoCAD LT 2000 software has limited customization capabilities and does not support customized vertical market applications that have been designed for use with AutoCAD 2000 software.





Each product also provides several other unique features. To help users and dealers better understand these differences, the following table compares each product's key features. Features not specified are, in general, the same in both products.



Features available only in AutoCAD LT 2000 software

Visual and Intuitive Features

- Caching and icon generation on the fly where needed
- Unlimited Undo and Redo history lists
- Microsoft Office–like user interface customization for toolbars, buttons, and keyboard accelerators
- Intuitive dialog box interface for Array and Purge

Drawing Productivity

- Modeless Group Manager dialog box
- Drag-and-Drop Hatch patterning

Learnability

- HTML-based flyout help

Features available only in AutoCAD 2000 software

Connectivity

- Database connectivity enhancements, including the dbConnect Manager, Dataview, linking rows to objects

Drawing Productivity

- Quick dimensioning
- Partial Open and Partial Load
- In-Place Reference Editing

Layout and Plotting

- Nonrectangular viewports
- UCS per Viewport

Customization Features

- ActiveX extensions events and VBA
- Integrated Visual LISP
- ObjectARX programming interface extensions

3D CAD Features

- 3D Orbit Dynamic Visualization
- Flexible editing of ACIS solids
- Real-time zooming of 3D-rendered and wireframe models

Even though AutoCAD 2000 software offers the ability to create and edit objects that cannot be created using AutoCAD LT 2000 software (such as 3D solids, multilines, and nonrectangular viewports), AutoCAD LT 2000 software reads and displays these objects with 100 percent visual fidelity. And no data will be lost or changed when saving these objects as an Autodesk DWG file to be shared with an AutoCAD 2000 user.



Summary

While AutoCAD 2000 and AutoCAD LT 2000 software appeal to different audiences, both products offer overlapping functionality for some 2D tasks. AutoCAD 2000 software provides users with the mission-critical tools and extensibility to Design Your World™ in both 2D and 3D. With its unique ease of use and low cost for professionals who use CAD occasionally, AutoCAD LT 2000 software provides an alternative to the complexity of AutoCAD 2000 and has become the market leader among low-cost 2D CAD products.

Autodesk, Inc.
111 McInnis Parkway
San Rafael, CA 94903
USA

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