

Your 2012 Migration Questions Answered

Are you on Subscription, ready to download 2012, or considering a move to the new release? Our Support team has put together the key things you need to know – answers to frequently asked questions about migrating to Autodesk® 2012 products, including hardware recommendations and network considerations.

Hardware Recommendations

These general recommendations from Ideate are intended for those working in a production environment using any one of the following Autodesk 2012 products: AutoCAD® Civil 3D®, Autodesk® Revit® (all flavors) and Autodesk® Navisworks®.

1. Purchase computers that are capable of at least 16GB whether you put the memory in now or later. Laptops need a capability of 8GB.
2. Put no less than 8GB in all machines that are doing production work. RAM is affordable and really needed to do larger or more complex projects.
3. 64-bit machines are generally preferred over 32-bit machines due to the memory limitations (4 GB) for the 32-bit machines.
4. Refer to the Operating System (OS) Chart for more detailed OS recommendations.
5. Dual screen monitors is a must for both laptop and workstation users (productivity increases exponentially). 1900x1200 is recommended for external monitors – 24" LCD or larger preferred.
6. Do not purchase an integrated video card (where the video card is taking from the machine's RAM). Do not use gaming type video cards.
7. Video cards should have RAM (512MB should work). Keep video card drivers up-to-date. Refer to your Autodesk product for details on certified graphics cards. **We highly recommend purchasing and testing one video card, even if it's certified, before settling on a system.**

8. There are some benefits in using 7200 RPM hard drives. SSD hard drives are best, but too small and too expensive right now. Size of hard drive is totally dependent on where the data is held (network vs. locally). Ideate recommends network locations (except in the case of user copies of Revit files which should be stored locally), so hard drive size in the 500GB range should be sufficient.

9. If you get a chance, purchase an i7 processor; this is the latest, and therefore fastest processor.

Network Considerations

1. Workstation – each workstation should have a gigabit ethernet card. This can be checked by going to My Computer> Properties>Hardware>Device Manager.
2. Cables – should be Cat5e or Cat6 throughout. Check the cable from the computer to the wall. If the in-wall cables have not been installed or modified prior to January 2005 then there's a good chance that they will not meet this criteria.
3. Network Switch – the network switch should be a gigabit switch. You may need to research the model number online to determine whether it meets this criteria.

Always refer to autodesk.com for product-specific hardware and operating system requirements.

Avoid the Top Migration Mistakes

Critical Note: We recommend that you perform a generic, "out-of-the-box" installation first, then test the environment for plotting, file opening, and a few basic procedures. After the generic installation has been confirmed you should proceed with migrating any environments or customization. It's difficult to troubleshoot installation issues if you are simultaneously installing and migrating your customization.

AutoCAD Civil 3D, AutoCAD Architecture and AutoCAD MEP

While "vanilla" AutoCAD is backwards compatible these "flavors" of AutoCAD contain unique objects that are not compatible with earlier versions of the software. We recommend migrating all machines at once, or on a per-project basis. Do not mix-and-match your software versions.

Autodesk Revit

For Worksharing enabled projects, before you upgrade to 2012, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, review the [Help file instructions for upgrading worksharing projects](#).

Autodesk Navisworks

New Object Enablers may be required to support the 2012 objects. Particularly if you are handling non-Autodesk files within Navisworks you should review that company's Object Enabler plug-in to confirm compatibility.

Network Licensing

After downloading your 2012 product you will need to request a new network license file. Contact Autodesk at 800-551-1490 with the product serial number, the server name, and MAC address (where the license manager resides). Ideate also recommends upgrading the license manager software, LMtools, to the latest version (current version included on 2012 products – 11.9.0). It is located under "Tools and Utilities" in the installation setup.

Using AEC Autodesk Products on the Mac OS X

AutoCAD, Autodesk Revit, Autodesk® Ecotect, AutoCAD Civil 3D and Autoesk Navisworks can all be run on a Macintosh operating system with the following guidelines/restrictions.

1. The processor must be Intel-based (approximately all post-2006 Macs).
2. A valid Windows operating system license is required (Windows XP/Vista/Windows 7) – either 32 bit or 64 bit.
3. There are two ways to use Autodesk PC-based products on a Mac. Autodesk products only runs on Microsoft Windows operating system:
 - a. Apple “Boot Camp.” This is provided free with Apple operating system (i.e. Snow Leopard). It is a dual-boot software. The user is either in a Windows environment or an Apple environment. The choice is made at computer boot up.
 - b. Parallels Desktop 6 for Mac. This is a virtual machine. Virtual machine means that the Windows operating system resides inside the Mac operating system. This allows the user to switch between operating systems without rebooting. More RAM is required to run this methodology – minimum 8 GB.

Operating System (OS) Recommendations per Product and Software Version

Selecting the right OS is an important decision. Autodesk subscription holders have the right to install and run older versions of the software in addition to the most recent version. **Bear in mind that newer operating systems, such as Windows 7, while more efficient in many ways, may not support the installation of older versions of Autodesk software, printers, or other programs. If you are considering Windows 7 64-bit you need to learn about Virtual PC, see below.** Ideate believes that Windows 7 64-bit will earn our “Preferred” status for all of the Autodesk 2012 products but we have not yet completed our testing. See the chart below for our current recommendations.

What You Need to Know About Virtual PC and XP Mode

Windows XP Mode for Windows 7 makes it easy to install and run many Windows XP productivity applications directly from your Windows 7-based PC. It utilizes virtualization technology, such as Windows Virtual PC, to provide a virtual Windows XP environment for Windows 7.

Please note that not all hardware is going to support XP Mode in windows 7. Only CPUs w/ Hardware Virtualization Technology will be able to run the XP Mode. Microsoft provides a tool that lets you scan your system to see if it will support Virtualization/ WinXP Mode.

Ideate customers with subscription or Ideate Premium support should not hesitate to contact Ideate Support with questions regarding support for older version. Ideate also provides migration consulting. Contact your Ideate Account manager for more information.

We hope we’ve covered your top concerns. If there are other topics you’d like to see addressed in this document, please send us an email at consulting@ideateinc.com.

OS Recommendations per Product and Software Version	2011						2012					
	XP-Pro 32-bit	XP Pro 64-bit	Vista 32-bit	Vista 64-bit	Win 7 32-bit	Win 7 64-bit	XP-Pro 32-bit	XP Pro 64-bit	Vista 32-bit	Vista 64-bit	Win 7 32-bit	Win 7 64-bit
AutoCAD	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	★	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	★
AutoCAD MEP, AutoCAD Architecture	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	★
Autodesk Ecotect	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	★
Autodesk Revit (all flavors)	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	★
AutoCAD Civil 3D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	★
Autodesk Navisworks Manage	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	★

Compete and Succeed with Ideate Solutions

Ideate, Inc. is a leading Autodesk® solution source, providing innovative products, training, professional services and technical support for the Architecture, Engineering and Construction (AEC), civil, GIS and multimedia industries. Established in 1992, Ideate is recognized as an Autodesk® Gold Partner – Architecture, Engineering and Construction.

PRODUCTS

Our industry focused software products are designed to help your business be more competitive and successful. With years of experience, the Ideate team will help you choose practical software solutions that are specific to your business needs.

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PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Ideate is also an Autodesk® Consulting Services Partner, receiving specific methodologies, tools and training to enable you to maximize your return on investment and success with Autodesk technology.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Receiving the correct answer in a timely manner from experts who know your business is what Ideate Support is all about. Our in-house technical support team lives, breathes and solves your day-to-day challenges and crises.

TOOLS

With a specific focus on Building Information Modeling (BIM), Ideate is also developer of Ideate Explorer for Revit, the simple, powerful tool that helps Revit® users explore, quantify and manage the 10,000+ building elements in a Revit building information model. Ideate Explorer is a division of Ideate, Inc.

Ideate Stands Committed to BIM and Committed to You

As a core design methodology, Building Information Modeling (BIM) is distinguished by intelligent, three-dimensional, parametric object-based design such that a change anywhere in the BIM model is a change everywhere, automatically and instantly. BIM allows a single virtual model to be shared between all AEC contributors, with each discipline able to contribute information and track all changes. Throughout the building lifecycle – concept, construction to decommissioning – BIM minimizes information loss and delivers extensive, immediately applicable information about project scope, schedule and cost.

Ideate, Inc. is the industry leader in Autodesk Revit implementations for BIM.

Ideate, Inc. solutions combine software and services specifically designed to help your business compete and succeed. To explore all Ideate brings you, visit www.ideateinc.com.

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888.662.7238

sales@ideateinc.com

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