

# Questions and Answers

Autodesk® Product Design Suite 2013 is a comprehensive solution for Digital Prototyping, delivering tools to complete your entire [engineering design](#) process in one economical and convenient package. Digital Prototyping facilitates the design, visualization, and simulation of products before they are ever built.

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# 1. General Product Information

## 1.1 What is the Autodesk Product Design Suite?

Autodesk® Product Design Suite 2013 is a comprehensive Digital Prototyping solution delivering design, visualization, and simulation tools to complete your entire [engineering design](#) process. It provides a flexible set of tools for 3D mechanical design, simulation, surface modeling, tooling, electrical design, visualization, documentation, and collaboration. These tools enable users to digitally evaluate and optimize conceptual designs while seamlessly passing engineering information throughout the design workflow. Autodesk Product Design Suite comes in three editions to meet the needs of your business.

**Standard Suite**—Autodesk Product Design Suite Standard provides a foundational 3D design and drafting solution.

- **Gain design productivity**—Create innovative 3D designs in less time with Autodesk® Inventor® mechanical design software. Produce designs more efficiently with the use of mechanical design accelerators that enable you to focus on the process of innovation.
- **Document and share design ideas**—Create engineering documentation with AutoCAD® software and illustrate your concepts with integrated visualization tools.
- **Integrate data management**—Gain more control over your design data with Autodesk data management software that helps you manage the design creation and documentation processes.

Product Design Suite Standard includes AutoCAD® 2013, AutoCAD® Mechanical 2013, Autodesk® Inventor® 2013, Autodesk® Vault Basic 2013, Autodesk® Showcase® 2013, Autodesk® SketchBook® Designer 2013, Autodesk® Mudbox® 2013 software.

**Premium Suite**—Autodesk Product Design Suite Premium delivers a 3D design and drafting solution with integrated electrical engineering.

- **Create better product designs**—Seamlessly integrate electrical designs with mechanical control systems using Inventor routed systems combined with AutoCAD® Electrical software.
- **Market and sell your products**—Use your product engineering data to create near-photorealistic, interactive visualizations to gain early design approval and win competitive bids.
- **Enhance design review and collaboration**—Integrate supply chain data with Autodesk® Navisworks® Simulate software to create large-scale digital mock-ups for enhanced design review and collaboration. Gain more control over your design process with integrated data management.

Product Design Suite Premium includes all software in Autodesk Product Design Suite Standard plus AutoCAD® Electrical 2013, Autodesk® 3ds Max® Design 2013, and Autodesk® Navisworks® 2013 Simulation software.

**Ultimate Suite**—Autodesk Product Design Suite Ultimate provides an advanced 3D design and drafting solution complete with electrical engineering, simulation, and tooling.

- **Reduce cost and improve product performance**—Use integrated motion simulation and stress analysis tools to help predict how product designs will perform under real-world conditions.
- **Give your designs competitive advantage**—Incorporate industrial design aesthetics into your 3D designs and create production-ready surfaces with the same flexible modeling tools used by some of the world's most successful automotive and consumer product manufacturers.
- **Increase efficiency with manufacturing**—Go beyond design by reusing engineering data in the manufacturing process with the inclusion of mold and tool die capabilities.

Product Design Suite Ultimate includes all software in Autodesk Product Design Suite Premium plus Autodesk® Inventor® Professional 2013 and Autodesk® Alias® 2013 Design software.

**1.2 What are the benefits of Autodesk Product Design Suite?**

Autodesk Product Design Suite 2013 provides a comprehensive solution for Digital Prototyping, delivering design, visualization, and simulation tools to complete your entire product design process in one economical and convenient package. With Autodesk Product Design Suite, you can:

**Drive innovation with integrated, discipline-specific tools, built for Digital Prototyping based on Autodesk Inventor software.**

- Develop more innovative designs by seamlessly transferring information through applications specifically tailored to the demands of each phase of the engineering process.
- Develop and evaluate engineering concepts quickly and easily with integrated tools built specifically for simulation and visualization.
- Incorporate complete electrical and mechanical designs within a single comprehensive workflow.

**Improve product quality with comprehensive workflows and cloud services.**

- Improve designs with integrated simulation tools and cloud-based optimization services.
- Reduce the risk of error with comprehensive workflows that automatically transfer design intent throughout the design process.
- Achieve better sustainability by evaluating and selecting low-cost, low-impact materials.

**Gain more control of your engineering data with integrated data management.**

- Avoid costly duplication of efforts by using a single source of design data through all stages your workflow.
- Effectively control, manage, and share digital prototypes with design teams, customers, and suppliers.

**Communicate design ideas using engineering data to sell your products.**

- Use design data to create high-impact visual presentations.
- Stand apart from your competition with photorealistic renderings and cinematic-quality animations.
- Drive sales by visually demonstrating design concepts to customers.

**1.3 What products are in the Autodesk Product Design Suite?**

Included Software Products	Standard	Premium	Ultimate
AutoCAD® 2013	√	√	√
AutoCAD® Mechanical 2013	√	√	√
Autodesk® Inventor® 2013	√	√	√
Autodesk® Vault Basic 2013	√	√	√
Autodesk® Showcase® 2013	√	√	√
Autodesk® SketchBook® Designer 2013	√	√	√
Autodesk® Mudbox® 2013	√	√	√
AutoCAD® Electrical 2013		√	√
Autodesk® 3ds Max® Design 2013		√	√
Autodesk® Navisworks® Simulate 2013		√	√
Autodesk® Inventor® 2013 with Routed Systems		√	√
Autodesk® Inventor® Professional 2013			√
Autodesk® Alias® Design 2013			√

**1.4 When will Autodesk Product Design Suite be available?**

Product Design Suite 2013 should be available on or after April 12, 2012.

**1.5 Are upgrades from stand-alone products to Autodesk Product Design Suite available?**

There are a variety of upgrades available to go from a stand-alone product to Product Design Suite. Contact your reseller for more details. Visit [www.autodesk.com/reseller](http://www.autodesk.com/reseller) to find a reseller near you.

**1.6 Can I upgrade from my existing suite to Autodesk Product Design Suite?**

There are a variety of upgrades available to go from a stand-alone product to Product Design Suite, or one version of the suite to another. Contact your reseller for more details. Visit [www.autodesk.com/reseller](http://www.autodesk.com/reseller) to find a reseller near you.

**1.7 How do I know which Autodesk Product Design Suite is right for me?**

Autodesk Product Design Suite is available in three different editions, providing the flexibility for designers and engineers to choose the one that suits their needs best. To choose which edition is right for you, visit [www.autodesk.com/productdesignsuite](http://www.autodesk.com/productdesignsuite) for more detailed information.

**1.8 What is the cost of Autodesk Product Design Suite editions and how do I buy a license?**

All three editions of Autodesk Product Design Suite are available through Autodesk Authorized Resellers, who are certified to provide the highest level of customer service, including product training, implementation services, and support. Find one near you at [www.autodesk.com/reseller](http://www.autodesk.com/reseller).

## 2. Technology

**2.1 What are the key capabilities of Autodesk Product Design Suite?**

Functions	Standard	Premium	Ultimate
Gain design productivity by creating innovative 3D designs in less time with Autodesk Inventor.	√	√	√
Be more efficient with the use of mechanical design accelerators, enabling you to focus on the process of innovation.	√	√	√
Document and share your design ideas with AutoCAD and illustrate your concepts with integrated visualization tools.	√	√	√
Gain more control over your design data with Autodesk data management software that helps manage the design creation and documentation processes.	√	√	√
Seamlessly integrate electrical designs with mechanical control systems using Inventor with Routed Systems combined with AutoCAD Electrical.		√	√
Market and sell your products using your engineering data to create near-photorealistic interactive visualizations to gain early design approval and win competitive bids.		√	√

Enhance design review and collaboration by integrating supply chain data with Navisworks Simulate to create large-scale digital mock-ups for enhanced design review and collaboration.		√	√
Use integrated motion simulation and stress analysis tools to help you predict how product designs will perform under real-world conditions.			√
Give your designs competitive advantage by incorporating industrial design aesthetics to your 3D designs and create production-ready surfaces with flexible modeling.			√
Increase efficiency with manufacturing by reusing engineering data in the manufacturing process with the inclusion of mold and tool die capabilities.			√

**2.2 What are the system requirements for Autodesk Product Design Suite?**

For a complete list of system requirements for Autodesk Product Design Suite refer to [www.autodesk.com/systemrequirements-suites](http://www.autodesk.com/systemrequirements-suites).

**2.3 Is Autodesk Product Design Suite supported on Microsoft Windows 7?**

Yes, Product Design Suite is supported on Microsoft® Windows® 7. See the system requirements at [www.autodesk.com/systemrequirements-suites](http://www.autodesk.com/systemrequirements-suites).

### 3. Installation, Configuration, and Licensing

**3.1 Is Autodesk Product Design Suite available for both stand-alone and network licensing?**

Yes, Autodesk Product Design Suite is available for both stand-alone and network licensing. Licensing is handled through standard Autodesk licensing processes using Autodesk Licensing Manager (ADLM). Customers who purchase multiple network licenses for suites that have common products and are only able to access a subset of prior version copies can get their full prior version entitlement by contacting their reseller or visiting <https://registeronce.autodesk.com> to have the licenses reissued.

**3.2 Do all products in Product Design Suite need to be used on the same workstation?**

Yes, the software applications within an Autodesk Product Design Suite license can only be installed on a single computer. They cannot be split across multiple workstations.

**3.3 How do I activate my software?**

Through the activation and registration interface, you can activate your product 24 hours a day, seven days a week, over the Internet or via email. Either option takes only a few steps to complete and requires your product serial number and registration information.

**3.4 What if I have more than one computer? Can I use my software on multiple machines?**

Autodesk recognizes that some users may need to operate the software when they are away from their usual work location. To accommodate this need, the product activation technology allows an employee to install the software on a second computer owned by the employee’s company, provided it is for use away from the employee’s usual work location, the software is used only by that employee and no other, and only

one of the two copies of the software is ever in use at any one time. Consult the Autodesk Software License Agreement for details about using the software on a second computer.

### **3.5 Where can I find more information about software activation?**

More information about product activation can be found at [www.autodesk.com/activation](http://www.autodesk.com/activation).

## **4. Compatibility and Interoperability**

### **4.1 How do the products in the Autodesk Product Design Suite work together?**

The products in the Autodesk Product Design Suite provide comprehensive workflows throughout the concept, engineering, simulation and analysis, documentation, and visualization processes. The Product Design Suite contains workflows unique to the suite that can help customers do more, achieve better results, and collaborate more effectively. The suite contains specific workflows not feasible with individual products alone and can help to optimize your work process by:

- Providing products in the suite that are connected through better interoperability
- Extending your capabilities by connecting products in the Product Design Suite to Autodesk® 360
- Taking full advantage of the Autodesk 360 platform to help connect users with each other more effectively

### **4.2 What is Autodesk 360?**

Autodesk 360 is a cloud-computing platform for delivering web-based products and services to Product Design Suite customers. With Autodesk 360, customers can connect their workflows with products on the desktop to secure and ubiquitous computing in the cloud, helping them rapidly design, visualize, simulate, optimize, and share their ideas. Customers using Product Design Suite have access to broader cloud-based capabilities and capacity than they would with individual products alone.

- Autodesk 360 enables customers to work wherever their jobs take them by connecting their workflow with software on the desktop to services in the cloud and mobile devices for design, analysis, and optimization.
- Cloud computing connects extended team members with each other effectively and efficiently, fostering better collaboration.

With Autodesk® Subscription, Product Design Suite customers have access to more cloud computing capabilities and capacity. For more information visit [www.autodesk.com/subscription](http://www.autodesk.com/subscription).

## **5. Training and Support**

### **5.1 How do I obtain technical support?**

Technical support is available from both Autodesk and Autodesk Authorized Resellers.

In addition, Autodesk Subscription provides a comprehensive software, support, and training package that simplifies your technology upgrades and boosts your design productivity. Purchase of Autodesk Subscription includes web support from Autodesk technical experts for all your installation, configuration, and troubleshooting questions.

To learn more about Autodesk Subscription, contact your Autodesk Account Executive or your Autodesk Authorized Reseller or visit [www.autodesk.com/subscription](http://www.autodesk.com/subscription).

### **5.2 How do I get training and learn more about Autodesk Product Design Suite?**

There are multiple ways you can get additional information and training on Product Design Suite:

- Visit the Autodesk [Services and Support](#) page for more information regarding training tools and resources as well as finding an Autodesk Authorized Training Center near you.
- Connect with your peers and Autodesk on the [Autodesk Manufacturing Community](#) to learn, exchange information, and engage in the conversation.
- Check out the product overview and demonstration videos on YouTube, using “Autodesk Product Design Suite” as the search keyword.
- Watch videos, engage in discussions, and learn tips and tricks on [wikihelp.autodesk.com](http://wikihelp.autodesk.com), a site focused on a collaborative learning community for users.
- For additional information you can check out the product overview, download a brochure, and watch demonstration videos on the Autodesk website by accessing [www.autodesk.com/productdesignsuite](http://www.autodesk.com/productdesignsuite) or by contacting an Autodesk Authorized Reseller.

### 5.3 Can I try Autodesk Product Design Suite before I buy a license to it?

Yes, you can try it out by downloading Autodesk Product Design Suite trial version. This fully functioning version is available as a free\* 30-day trial. Simply download the trial version at [www.autodesk.com/productdesignsuite](http://www.autodesk.com/productdesignsuite).

## 6. Subscription

### 6.1 Is Subscription available for purchase with Autodesk Product Design Suite?

Autodesk Subscription and Autodesk Gold Subscription are available for purchase with all editions of the Autodesk Product Design Suite.

### 6.2 What benefits does Subscription offer?

Autodesk Subscription gives Product Design Suite customers a workflow advantage with more cloud computing capabilities and capacity for Autodesk 360 services, upgrades to the latest software releases and workflows, online technical support, and flexible licensing privileges.

- **The Latest Software Releases and Suites Workflows**  
With Autodesk Product Design Suite on Subscription you receive **the latest software product releases** included with your suite, which may feature **valuable new workflow functionality unique to the suite**. This helps ensure you always have access to the most up-to-date toolset that gives you the competitive edge you need to respond to changing business requirements.
- **More Cloud Computing Capabilities and Capacity**  
As a Product Design Suite user on Subscription, you have **greater cloud computing capabilities** and **more storage capacity** with Autodesk 360. As a result, you can **better connect workflows** by viewing and sharing more design files on web or mobile devices, simulate and visualize more design options, and improve project results with web-based collaboration.
- **Online Technical Support**  
With Autodesk Product Design Suite on Subscription you have online technical support that enables you to **quickly resolve issues** and get back to work. Subscription users also have the option to purchase higher levels of Autodesk technical support if needed.
- **Flexible Licensing Privileges**  
As an Autodesk Product Design Suite Subscription customer, you have flexible licensing privileges that enable you to use both previous and current versions of their software, install the software on both home and office computers, and use it at multiple locations.

### 6.3 What is the benefit of Gold support?

Gold support provides all standard Autodesk Subscription benefits plus the following:

- Phone support for up to four authorized callers



## AUTODESK PRODUCT DESIGN SUITE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- Enhanced initial response target
- API (application programming interface) support

### **6.4 How can I access my Subscription benefits?**

Simply log in to the Subscription Center at [www.autodesk.com/subscriptionlogin](http://www.autodesk.com/subscriptionlogin) to begin accessing your Subscription benefits.

*\*Free products are subject to the terms and conditions of the end-user license agreement that accompanies the software.*

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