![AUTODESK logo]

Autodesk Enables Users of Other CAD Applications to Benefit from Design Web Format (DWF), the Optimum Format for Sharing Design Information

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Free, New Autodesk DWF Writer Provides CAD Users a Superior Alternative to PDF for Distributing Designs Throughout Project Lifecycle

SAN RAFAEL, Calif., Feb. 3 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Autodesk, Inc. (Nasdaq: ADSK), the world's leading design software and digital content company, today introduced the availability of Autodesk(R) DWF(TM) Writer, a free, downloadable application that gives designers the capability to create Design Web Format(TM) (DWF(TM)) files from any CAD or Microsoft(R) Windows(R) application. Autodesk DWF Writer enables professionals in the building, manufacturing and infrastructure markets to more easily collaborate by securely and efficiently sharing their designs and drawing sets in the DWF file format, regardless of the application in which they were created.

(Logo: http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20000518/SFTH083LOGO)

The DWF file format has quickly become the optimum format for distributing and communicating design information with project teams. The highly compressed, secure format was specifically architected for design data and delivers multi-sheet, view, print and web-ready capabilities. As a result, the DWF file format helps speed up business processes, secure intellectual property, and simplify data distribution. Autodesk customers using AutoCAD(R), Autodesk Inventor(R), Autodesk(R) Revit(R) and other Autodesk applications can already create DWF files directly from the built-in publish command. Autodesk DWF Writer brings this same functionality to other CAD applications that do not offer built-in DWF publishing, such as Bentley(R) Microstation(R) and Solidworks(R). Users of these applications can benefit from the ability to quickly and easily create a DWF file, allowing entire project teams to standardize on a common file format to exchange designs and drawing sets.

By creating smaller, more intelligent DWF files, Autodesk DWF Writer simplifies the distribution of design sets throughout the entire project or product lifecycle. Additionally, because anyone can quickly and easily create a DWF file, entire project teams can standardize on a common file format to exchange designs and drawing sets.

Autodesk DWF Writer is part of a family of applications designed to take advantage of the DWF format. Autodesk(R) Express Viewer is a free application that supports the high-fidelity viewing and printing of DWF files. For users that need electronic review and mark-up capabilities, the soon-to-be-released Autodesk(R) DWF(TM) Composer both help reduce cycle time and costly printing and plotting throughout the design collaboration process. Autodesk DWF Writer will be a key component of Autodesk DWF Composer, enabling users to composite multiple file types into a single DWF file, further facilitating the exchange and archiving of drawing sets. The Autodesk(R) DWF(TM) 6.0 Toolkit allows users to develop applications that read or write multi-sheet drawings in DWF format.

"Adobe's PDF is good for standard office applications, but design professionals need a better solution for digitally distributing and communicating their designs," said Tony Peach, director of DWF strategy for Autodesk. "The DWF file format was developed specifically for design and engineering industries, insuring the highest fidelity when viewing and printing designs and offering a faster, more cost-effective solution than PDF."

Customers using Autodesk DWF Writer will benefit from the following features:

Highly Compressed Files

The Autodesk DWF Writer compresses large amounts of data for easy file exchange via email or on the web.

Multi-Sheet Support

The Autodesk DWF Writer allows users to publish multi-sheet designs into a single DWF file, eliminating the need to publish each sheet separately.

High Fidelity Viewing and Printing

Users can take advantage of the advanced viewing and printing capabilities of Autodesk Express Viewer. The DWF file format leverages patented Autodesk technology, so the DWF files are assured to look just as designers intend.

How it works

The Autodesk DWF Writer is a certified Microsoft Windows system printer driver that enables customers to quickly and easily convert files to DWF. Creating a DWF file is as easy as printing a document. Customers simply create a DWF file by selecting the Autodesk DWF Writer from the printer name drop-down menu within any Windows application.

Product Availability

Autodesk DWF writer is immediately available as a free downloadable application from www.autodesk.com/dwfwriter.

About Autodesk

Autodesk is the world's leading design software and digital content company, offering customers progressive business solutions through powerful technology products and services. Autodesk helps customers in the building, manufacturing, infrastructure, digital media, and wireless data services fields increase the value of their digital design data and improve efficiencies across their entire project lifecycle management processes. For more information about the company, see http://www.autodesk.com .

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