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CAD Manager's Newsletter (#350)

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By: [Robert Green](#)

Autodesk Software Goes Subscription-Only in 2016

With major licensing policy changes on the way, it's essential to make a plan for how you'll seats of AutoCAD and other software titles.

I've received many questions about the big changes in 2016 licensing terms from Autodesk. These policies will force companies to decisions with long-term impacts by January 2016, so you must start planning now — while you still have time to get your manage edition of the *CAD Manager's Newsletter*, I will address these questions and give CAD managers some key pieces of information f Here goes.

Note: *I realize that not everyone reading this uses Autodesk software, but if Autodesk's changes take hold, it is reasonable to assu software vendors will implement similar policies, which will require similar planning strategies.*

Transition to Rental Software

If you've been following the past few editions of the *CAD Manager's Newsletter*, you're already aware that Autodesk will no longer products, such as AutoCAD, under "perpetual licensing" terms after January 2016. Starting next January, an annual rental plan — desktop subscription — will require you to rent the software in monthly or yearly installments. More comprehensive software suites programs are bundled together, are not subject to the new policy yet, but are slated to make the transition in 2017, according to pre earlier this year.

Before we delve deeper into evaluating the transition from perpetual to rental licensing, let's clarify the vocabulary involved. In addi key terms below, I include a reference price for each type of plan, based on an AutoCAD-only license. This way we'll have a consis terminologies and a reference point so we can perform cost analyses.

Perpetual license: This is the traditional "buy it once" software license we've all purchased in the past. For a single seat of AutoCA license cost is currently $4,195.

Maintenance subscription: Often simply called "subscription," this is the annual support contract for perpetual licenses that entitle to the product. The maintenance subscription keeps your perpetual license up to date and gives you access to utilities and cloud se renew it each year. The single-seat AutoCAD maintenance subscription cost is $545 per year.

Desktop subscription: This is Autodesk's term for software rental. If you renew your desktop subscription each year, you are enti utilities, and cloud services. A single-seat AutoCAD desktop subscription costs $1,680 per year.
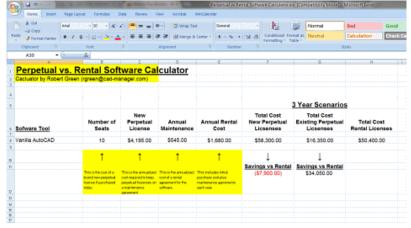
What Are Your Options? » **Read more**

CAD Manager's Toolbox

Autodesk Software Calculator

When you're ready to start planning your company's licensing future, you can use this sample spreadsheet to calculate 3- and 5-ye vs. buy software decisions. While this spreadsheet is intended to help analyze software strategies for Autodesk products in 2016, y software vendors as well.

You can download the spreadsheet from my web site at: www.cad-manager.com/tools

To compute more scenarios, just input more values for other software titles as required.

Do you have a helpful tip, recommendation, or question for the CAD Manager's Newsletter? Send it to me at rgreen@cad-manage
in the newsletter, you'll receive a Cadalyst prize!

:: Resources

U.S. CAD Market Forecasted to Grow 4%
Online market research firm Research and Markets has published "CAD Market in the US 2015–2019" ($2,500, PDF, single user),
CAD market in the United States will grow 4% CAGR during that period. The report also includes a discussion of the key vendors o
market.

As-Built BIM and Urban Renewal Webinar Available On-Demand
ClearEdge is offering an on-demand webinar that discusses as-built building information modelling (BIM) and urban renewal. Prese
studies of mixed-use redevelopment projects in Los Angeles and Puerto Rico as examples of the possibilities of as-built BIM. The v
no charge after registering on the website.

:: Events

Analyzing Optimizations in Inspire
August 27, 2015
2 p.m. ET
This solidThinking 20-minute tip will discuss analyzing optimizations in Inspire. Read more »

Introduction to Ideate Sticky
August 27, 2015
11:30 a.m. PT
This Ideate webinar will discuss Ideate Sticky, which reportedly connects non-BIM (building information modeling) data from an Exc
project. Read more »

Revit Technology Conference 2015 Asia
Sept. 10–12, 2015
Singapore
This user conference focuses on the use of Revit and other BIM processes in the architecture, engineering, construction, and facili
industries. Read more »

3D Printshow California
Sept. 11–12, 2015
Pasadena, California
This event focuses on the 3D printing/additive manufacturing industry, featuring industrial AM machines, desktop 3D printers, and e
Read more »

28th Annual Additive Manufacturing Users Group (AMUG) Users Group Conference
April 3–7, 2016
St. Louis, Missouri
The annual Additive Manufacturing Users Group Conference was developed for both novice and expert users seeking insights, ass
guidance on technologies, applications, and processes. Read more »

For a complete list of CAD meetings, conferences, training sessions, and more, check out our calendar of events on Cadalyst.com
event that you would like to include in our calendar? Submit details at least two weeks in advance to news@cadalyst.com.

:: What's New at Cadalyst.com

Free Whitepaper: Is Cloud-Based CAD Ready for Prime Time?
This whitepaper, compiled from a three-part series by CAD hardware expert and Cadalyst contributing editor Alex Herrera, examin
the challenges — of running CAD on the cloud. Read more »

First Look Review: MSI WT72 20M
Affordable mobile workstation with big, bright display is well suited to client presentations, but not equipped for demanding design v

Cyon Research Launches New CAD Use Survey
Help shape the direction of engineering software, and learn what your peers — and competitors — are doing as well. Read more »

Video Tip: Super-Speedy In-Place Attribute Editing
In AutoCAD, when you double-click on a block with attributes, you can easily edit many aspects of your attributes. But what if you j
attribute values — and you want to do it in place right on the screen (not in a dialog box)? In this video tip from Cadalyst and Lynn
special key combination that allows you to do just that — so you can be the fastest attribute editor in your company! Watch the vid

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