

DraftSight Frequently Asked Questions

What is DraftSight®?

DraftSight is a free, professional-grade 2D CAD product available for download at DraftSight.com. DraftSight provides professional and commercial CAD users, students and educators with a better way to create, edit and view DWG files.

Based on an advanced architecture, DraftSight generally takes a few minutes to download and runs on multiple operating systems, including Microsoft Windows XP, Windows 7, Windows 8 (64 bit), Mac (64 bit only), and Linux (Mac and Linux are currently in Beta).

In addition to the free product, users can invest in the DraftSight Premium Pack - an affordable technical support and services package designed to help companies and educational institutions manage their CAD requirements by providing support with software deployment, customization, and integration. Plus, all users can access an open, online community, accessible through DraftSight.com. This community delivers support and learning resources, along with an environment to interact, ask questions and share opinions.

Why did Dassault Systèmes launch DraftSight?

The decision to launch DraftSight is based on a comprehensive series of customer interviews that showed an overwhelming need for the ability to share DWG files.

The online community created through DraftSight.com and the immediate availability of the DraftSight product represents a natural next step in our efforts to drive user-based knowledge sharing and high-quality service that will provide real value to our customers and all CAD users around the globe.

What is DraftSight used for?

DraftSight can be used to:

- Create 2D drawings
- Update and maintain .dwg and .dxf files
- Create PDF files
- Exchange files with companies who either provide or require data saved in either .dwg or .dxf file formats.

How much does DraftSight cost?

The standalone, single-user version of DraftSight is free* to download at DraftSight.com.

Is DraftSight free for commercial use?

Yes. DraftSight is free* for all users- commercial, professional, students and educators.

What is involved in downloading and activating DraftSight?

There is no information required to download and install DraftSight. However, the user will be asked to activate the product and will need to provide a valid email address to do so. Users will also have to reactivate after six months and thereafter at 12-month intervals. Users will need an Internet connection to download and activate.

Who is eligible to download DraftSight?

Anyone can download DraftSight. The product was developed with professional and commercial CAD users, students, and educators in mind.

What are the qualifications / minimum requirements for installing and running DraftSight on Windows? *Your system must conform to the following minimum requirements to successfully install and run DraftSight for Windows:*

- **System Requirements (Minimum):**
 - **32bit version:** Microsoft Windows XP (SP2), or Windows 7
 - **64bit version:** Microsoft Windows XP (SP2), Windows 7 or Windows 8
 - Intel Pentium 4 processor (2 GHz or faster)
 - 300 MB free hard disk space depending on accessory applications installed
 - 2 GB RAM
 - High Color (16 bit) graphics card
 - XGA (1024 x 768) display
 - Mouse
 - An Internet connection for installation from download and for activation (optional)
- **System Requirements (Recommended):**
 - **32bit version:** Microsoft Windows 7 32bit or 64bit
 - **64bit version:** Microsoft Windows 7 64bit, or Windows 8 64bit
 - Intel Core™ 2 Duo, AMD Athlon™ X2 Dual-Core processor, or better
 - 1 GB free hard disk space depending on accessory applications installed
 - 4 GB RAM
 - 3D Graphics accelerator card
 - 22 inch display
 - Wheel mouse
 - An Internet connection for installation from download and for activation (optional)

What are the system requirements for DraftSight on a Mac? *Your system must conform to the following minimum requirements to successfully install and run DraftSight for Mac:*

- **System Requirements**
 - Mac with Intel processor
 - Mac OS X v10.6 (Snow Leopard) or v10.7 (Lion)
 - 1GB of RAM (2GB recommended)
 - 500 MB of available hard-disk space for installation
 - 1024x768 display (1280x800 recommended) with 16-bit video card
 - Mouse

- An Internet connection for installation from download and for activation (optional)
- DVD-ROM drive for installation from DVD (not required for installation from download)

What are the system requirements for DraftSight on Linux? *Your system must conform to the following minimum requirements to successfully install and run DraftSight for Linux:*

- **System Requirements**
 - Ubuntu 9.10 Gnome, Mandriva 2010 Gnome and KDE, or higher versions (others in progress), 32bit
 - 1 GHz x86 processor
 - 1GB of RAM (2GB recommended)
 - 1GB of available hard-disk space for installation
 - 1024x768 display (1680x1050 or higher recommended) with True Color graphics card
 - Mouse (wheel mouse recommended)
 - An Internet connection for installation from download (optional)
 - DVD-ROM drive for installation from DVD (not required for installation from download)

Note: Virtual machines, such as VMWare, are not supported. It is not possible to either run or install the Dassault Systèmes License Server on a virtual machine.

How long does it take to download and install DraftSight?

Based on an advanced architecture, DraftSight has a small footprint and should take only a few minutes to download. With just a couple of clicks, DraftSight can be installed and running within minutes after downloading.

What does DraftSight offer if assistance or some type of support is needed?

DraftSight offers services for enterprises, educational institutions and individual users.

Enterprises:

The DraftSight Premium Pack for the enterprise is an affordable worldwide technical support and services package designed to help companies manage their CAD requirements by providing support with software deployment, customization, and integration. The Premium Pack is a subscription-based service and can be renewed on an annual basis.

The Pack includes:

- Telephone and email technical support (in 8 languages).
- A network license to help companies deploy 2D CAD across their organizations, eliminating headaches related to license management and versioning data incompatibility.

- The Deployment Wizard: an easy-to-use administrative tool to enable large groups of users to install or upgrade DraftSight.
- Access to DraftSight APIs (application programming interface) and API updates. The DraftSight APIs allow companies to customize and automate DraftSight. Companies that have automated, customized or integrated their current DWG-based CAD system through LISP or other macros will find significant value in the APIs offered via the DraftSight Premium Pack.
- Upgrades to the most up-to-date versions of DraftSight, including major releases and service packs.

A minimum of five licenses is required to purchase the Premium Pack. For more information users can send an email to: premium@draftsight.com or visit DraftSight.com.

Educational Institutions:

The affordable DraftSight Premium Pack for educational institutions includes the same elements included in the Premium Pack for Enterprises (noted above), plus a comprehensive curriculum that focuses on the fundamentals of DraftSight. The guide is a 10-Chapter, 260-page training manual that includes more than 80 practice problems and seed files. Each chapter has a review section and an exam section.

This service is offered in a Classroom Pack (45 licenses) and a Campus Pack (200 licenses).

For more information users can send an email to: DraftSight.Education@3ds.com or visit DraftSight.com.

Individual Users:

The Prosumer Service was created to help individual users install, activate, configure and use DraftSight. This paid-for service includes e-mail and telephone support and is a renewable service available for 3 or 12 months. Users can [purchase this service](#) online at the 3DS store.

Please be advised that this service is currently not available in all countries.

DraftSight On-Line Community Support:

Users have access to an open, online community accessible via DraftSight.com, where they'll find support and learning resources, along with an environment to interact, ask questions and share opinions.

What does DraftSight offer for students and educational institutions?

In addition to the free, professional-grade standalone product, DraftSight offers the Premium Pack, which is an affordable technical support and services package designed to help educational institutions manage their CAD requirements by providing support with software deployment, customization, and integration.

The Premium Pack includes the following:

- Telephone and email technical support (in 8 languages).
- A network license to help deploy 2D CAD across the organization, eliminating headaches related to license management and versioning data incompatibility.
- The Deployment Wizard: an easy-to-use administrative tool to enable large groups of users to install or upgrade DraftSight.
- Access to DraftSight APIs (application programming interface) and API updates. The DraftSight APIs allow organizations to customize and automate DraftSight. Organizations that have automated, customized or integrated their current DWG-based CAD system through LISP or other macros will find significant value in the APIs offered via the DraftSight Premium Pack.
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- A comprehensive curriculum that focuses on the fundamentals of DraftSight. The guide is a 10-Chapter, 260-page training manual that includes more than 80 practice problems and seed files. Each chapter has a review section and an exam section.

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For more information users can send an email to: DraftSight.Education@3ds.com or visit DraftSight.com.

Are there localized versions of DraftSight?

Yes, DraftSight is currently available in the following languages:

English, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Czech, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Brazilian Portuguese, Turkish and Russian.

Can users use their existing support files with DraftSight?

Yes, users do not have to start from scratch if they have pre-existing support files such as template files (.dwt) or menu files (.cui, .mnu, .mns.). DraftSight can use these and other support files.

What file formats can DraftSight export to?

DraftSight can export to several different raster formats, including PDF, PNG, TIF, SAT and STL.

What file formats can DraftSight open and save?

In addition to the .dwg file format, DraftSight can also read and save .dxf files. Like many other products, DraftSight utilizes libraries from the Open Design Alliance (ODA) for its DWG file format support.

DWG and DXF files are versioned, which versions can DraftSight read and write?

Via the ODA libraries noted above as of July 2013, DraftSight can read .dwg and .dxf file versions as early as 2.5 and can save to any version from R12 to 2013.

If I am familiar with other 2D CAD applications, will DraftSight be easy to adopt?

Yes. Driven by customer feedback, we developed a product that is easy to use allowing experienced 2D CAD users to get up to speed quickly with minimal training requirements. Whether you're an experienced drafter or just getting started, DraftSight includes online learning resources that will help you every step of the way. Plus, we have a free [Getting Started Guide](#) that has more than 180 pages of fundamental skills necessary for the efficient use of DraftSight.

Are there any learning resources available for DraftSight?

Yes. By joining the DraftSight community via DraftSight.com, users will get immediate, open access to an abundance of learning resources including:

- Engaging online training videos
- Easy-to-follow tutorials
- Curriculum
- Collaborative Discussion Forums (iQuestions area)

There is also a [DraftSight Getting Started Guide](#) and [flipbook](#) with tips, tricks and videos.

*Standalone License. Activation required.

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