Working with DWG files

Working with DWG™ files from other products in the
AutoCAD® Freestyle Technology Preview

The AutoCAD® Freestyle Technology Preview is simplified 2D drafting, drawing and sketching software that provides a concise set of drawing tools in an easy-to-use interface. This application is intended for entry-level and infrequent users who do not have time to learn technical drawing and/or technical software. As such, the way that AutoCAD Freestyle Technology Preview opens DWG™ files created in other applications has certain limitations. The behavior is similar to that of an xref drawing in AutoCAD.

The AutoCAD Freestyle Technology Preview is useful in many workflows:

- Drawings created in the AutoCAD Freestyle Technology Preview can be opened in AutoCAD for accurate visual communication between non-technical and technical colleagues.

- DWG files created in other applications (such as AutoCAD) can be opened in the AutoCAD Freestyle Technology Preview in order to add sketches, notes, and drawing enhancements before sending it back to a colleague[1].

Here's how this process works:

- When a DWG file from another application is opened in the AutoCAD Freestyle Technology Preview, the original objects cannot be edited. That is, all geometry and text are on a locked layer. This helps to preserve the integrity of the original drawing when it is opened in the AutoCAD Freestyle Technology Preview.

- The AutoCAD Freestyle Technology Preview only opens one paper space layout at a time. If a DWG file created in another application contains multiple paper space layouts, the user can select a single layout to use. The other layouts are retained in the file and can be opened later in other applications as well as in the AutoCAD Freestyle Technology Preview.

- If the DWG file from another application contains only model space information, the AutoCAD Freestyle Technology Preview displays all model space objects in its workspace.

- All text, geometry, and fill elements added using the AutoCAD Freestyle Technology Preview are automatically placed on a new, AutoCAD Freestyle Technology Preview-specific layer.

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[1] It should also be noted that the AutoCAD Freestyle Technology Preview is not intended to be an application used for complex editing of DWG drawings or for the printing and plotting of large drawings sets. For that purpose, a user is better served by professional level applications such as AutoCAD LT or AutoCAD.
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If you are an AutoCAD (or other DWG based software application) user, follow these guidelines for working with AutoCAD Freestyle Technology Preview files:

- Any layers not created in the AutoCAD Freestyle Technology Preview are locked when they are opened in the AutoCAD Freestyle Technology Preview. Therefore, if you edit a file created or opened in AutoCAD Freestyle Technology Preview and you want the AutoCAD Freestyle Technology Preview user to be able to modify those objects, make sure that new objects, text, and fills are on one of the AutoCAD Freestyle Technology Preview-specific layers. These layers are marked with a prefix "Cooper" when you open the file.

- If you are working with colleagues who are unfamiliar with DWG drawings, the best approach is to create a DWG file with a single viewport in a paper space layout.

As this is a technology preview, we are eager to hear your feedback on this workflow. Please post your feedback to the AutoCAD Freestyle Technology Preview discussion board at www.autodesk.com/autocadfreestyle-discussion or e-mail the team directly at labs.cooper@autodesk.com