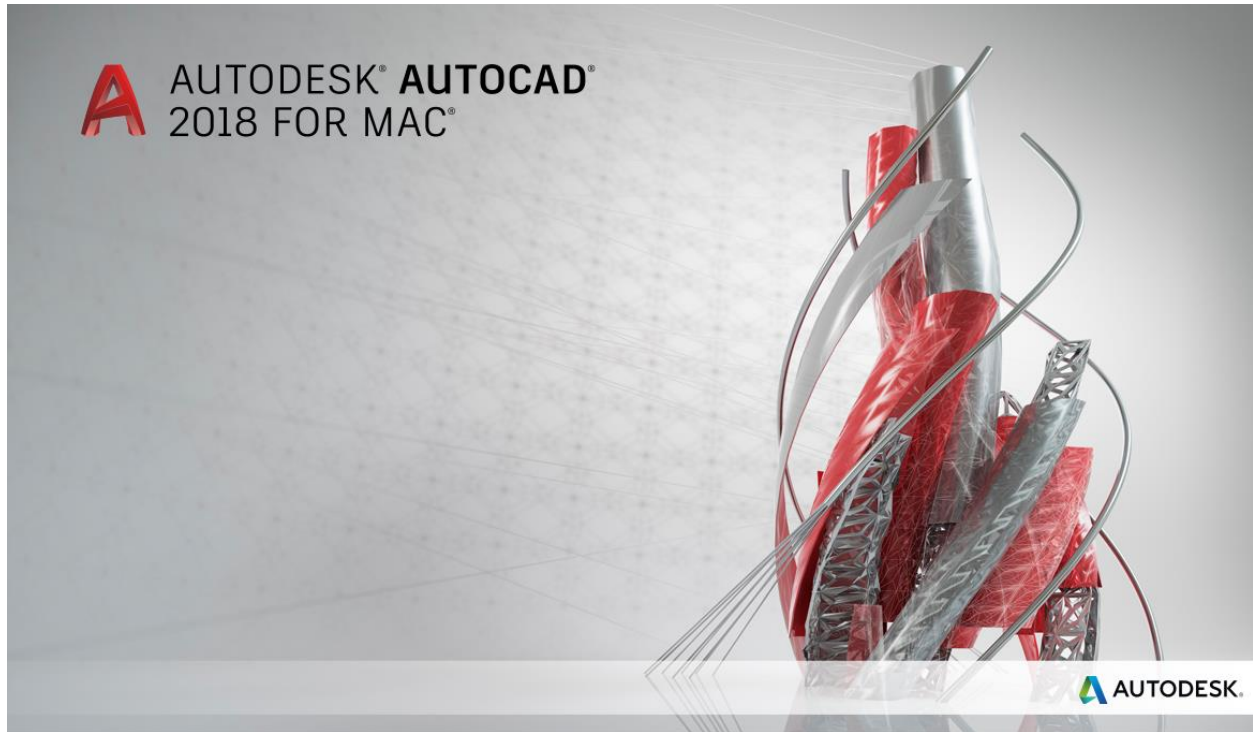


AutoCAD 2018 for Mac and AutoCAD LT 2018 for Mac Preview Guide



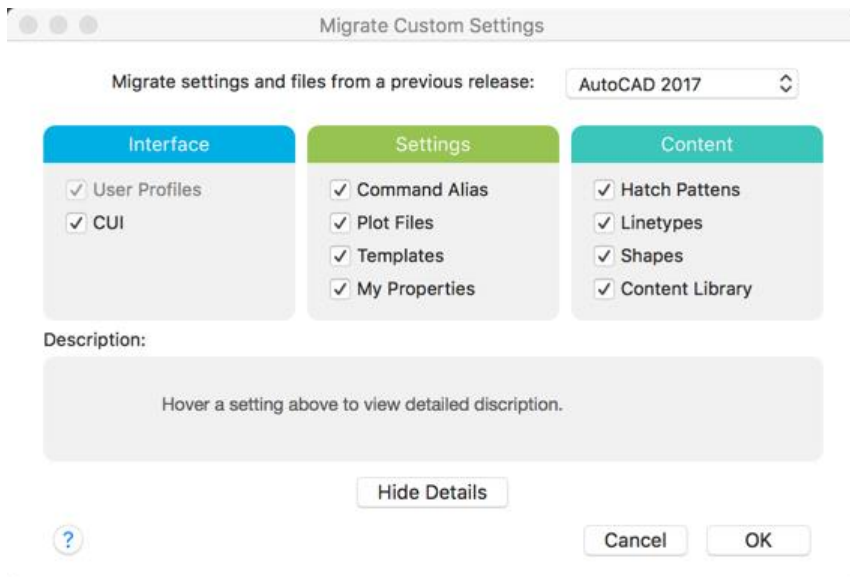
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Migration

Seamlessly migrate your custom files and settings from AutoCAD 2017 for Mac to AutoCAD 2018 for Mac. The migration utility starts automatically when you first open AutoCAD 2018 for Mac.



Click View Details to select which files and settings you want to migrate.



User Interaction

Touch Bar*

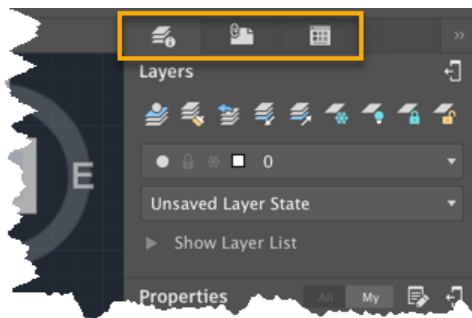
Support for the Apple touch bar has been added. While you are using AutoCAD for Mac, the Touch Bar displays icons for function key shortcuts.

Note: Press **fn** to revert to the standard F1-F12 function keys.

You can customize the touch bar by clicking View menu > Customize Touch Bar.

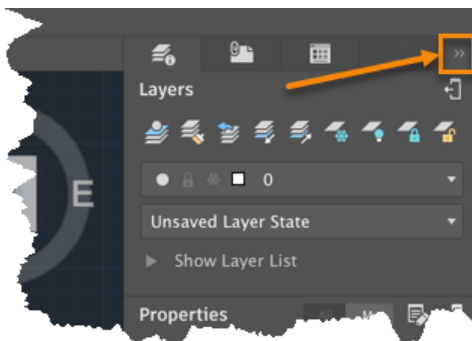
Tabs for Multiple Palettes

To make it easier to keep multiple palettes open without using valuable screen space, some of the palettes can be docked and are organized using tabs when docked.



Auto-Hide Docked Palettes

You can now auto-hide your docked palettes to increase your drawing area. Click where indicated to set the docked palettes to auto-hide.



The palette title bars remain visible. If you have multiple tabs for the palettes there is a title bar for each tab. Mouse over the title bar for the palette you want to show, and the palette automatically expands.

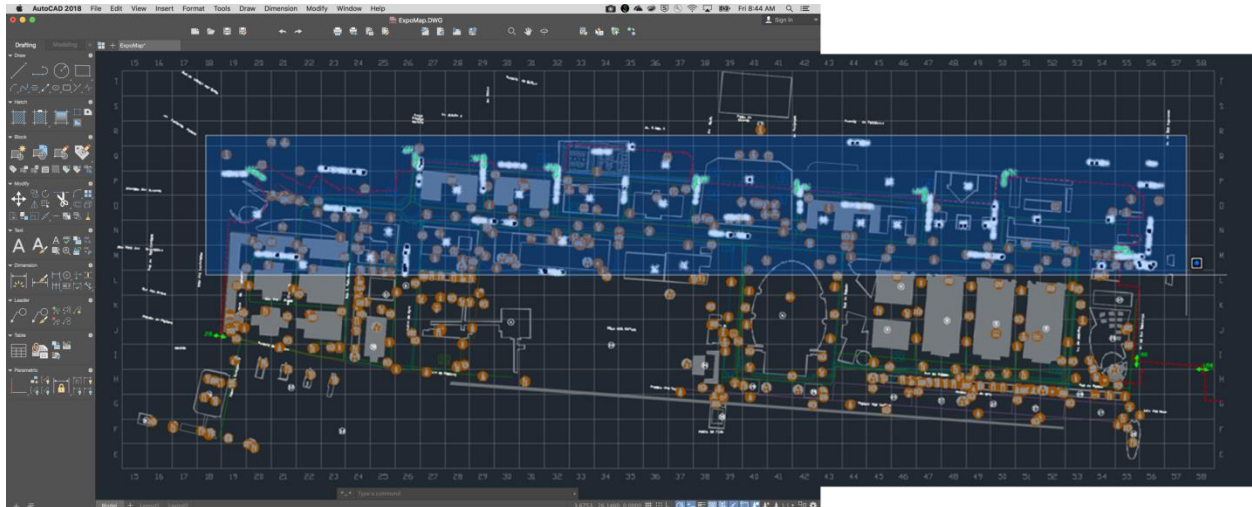
Icons

Icons have been updated for a clean, modern look. Some examples:



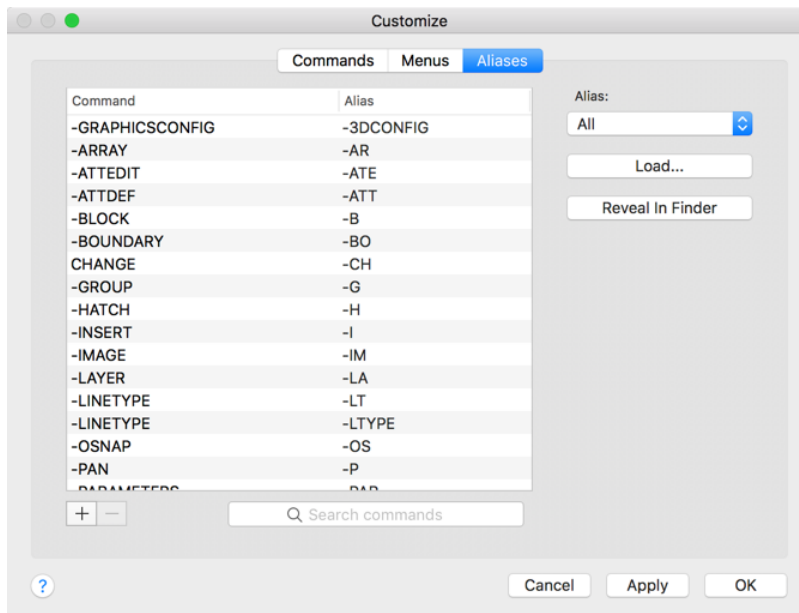
Off-screen selection

You can begin a selection window in one part of your drawing and then pan and zoom to another part while maintaining selection of the off-screen objects. You can control the behavior of off-screen selection using the SELECTIONOFFSCREEN system variable.



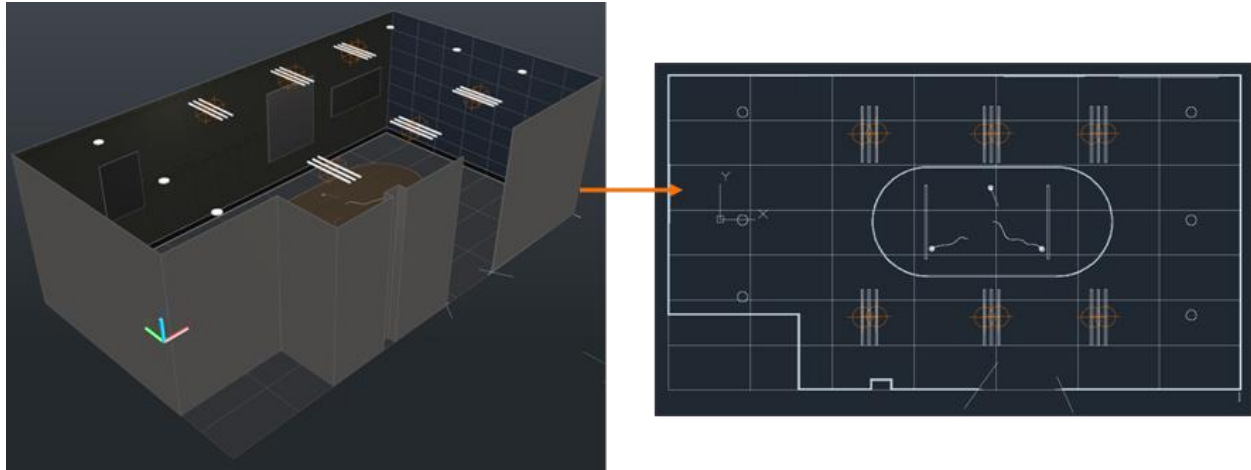
Command Alias Editor

Command aliases are shortened command names that can be entered at the Command prompt as an alternative to the standard full command name and are stored in a program parameter (PGP) file. Previously, the command aliases were edited using a text editor, but for AutoCAD 2018, a new tab has been added to the Customize dialog making it easy to edit, add, and remove command aliases.



Flatten Command (Not available in AutoCAD LT)

A new command, FLATTEN, is available. FLATTEN creates a 2D representation of selected objects and projects them onto the current viewing plane. FLATTEN results in 2D objects that retain their original layers, linetypes, colors, and object types where possible. You can use FLATTEN to create a 2D drawing from a 3D model, or you can use it to force the thickness and elevations of selected objects to 0.



Plotting

The Plot dialog box contains the following updates:

- Directly modify all plot settings including paper size, scale, offset, plot stamp, and more
- Switch, save, or import a page setup
- "None" printer support
- PDF plotters support
- Inherit the paper size information from the drawing
- Apply the current plot settings to the active layout

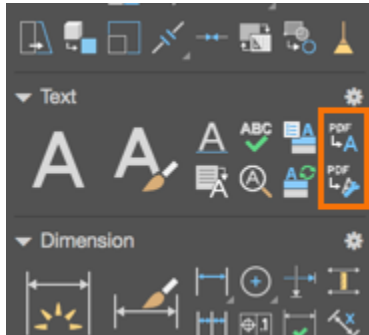
Documentation

PDF files are the most common file format used when exchanging design information between designers, contractors, clients, and others. AutoCAD 2017 for Mac introduced the ability to import PDF files. The PDFIMPORT command imports PDF data into AutoCAD as 2D geometry, TrueType text, and images.

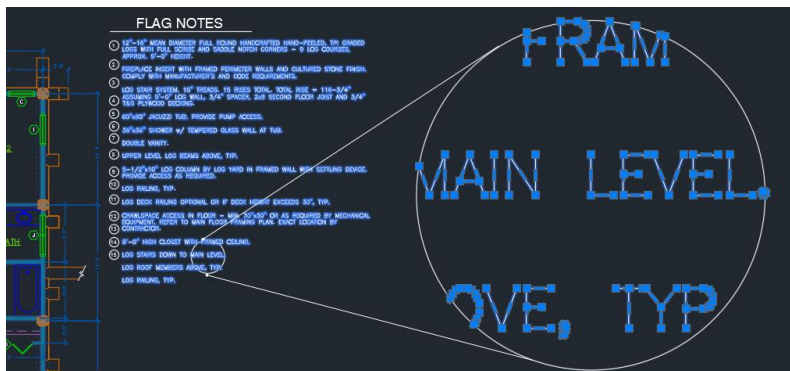
SHX Text Recognition

Adobe's PDF file format doesn't recognize AutoCAD SHX fonts, therefore, when a PDF file is created from a drawing, text that was defined with SHX fonts is stored in the PDF as geometry. If that PDF file is then imported into a DWG file, the original SHX text is imported as geometry.

AutoCAD 2018 for Mac offers a SHX text recognition tool that enables you to select imported PDF geometry representing SHX text and convert it to text objects. Access this functionality from the Recognize SHX Text tool (PDFSHXTEXT command) on the Text panel on the tool sets.

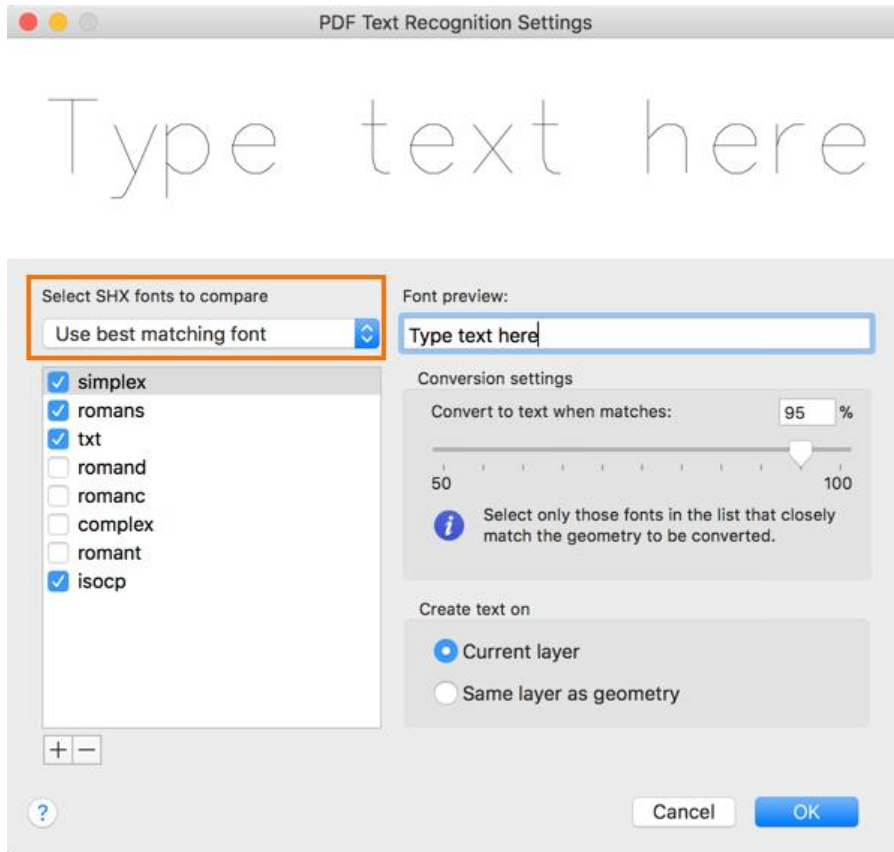


The SHX recognition tool analyzes clusters of geometry (i.e., lines, polylines, etc.) from your selection set and compares them to characters in specified SHX cache files.

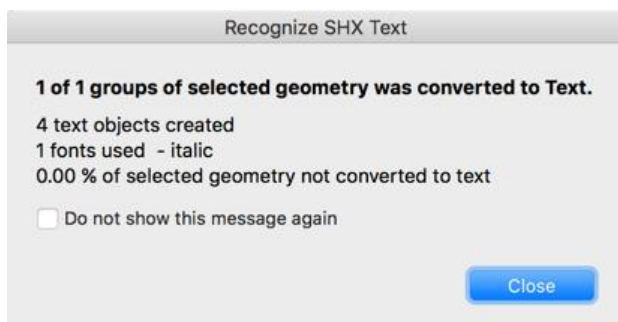


A Settings option is available to help you manage which SHX fonts you'd like to compare against the selected text, as well as to control some settings during the conversion. The most common SHX fonts are listed by default, and you can then add or remove SHX fonts based on your needs, and select which fonts in the list you want to compare against the selected text.

AutoCAD compares each of the selected fonts in order until one is found that matches the selected text within the specified recognition threshold. An option to use the best matching font ensures that AutoCAD compares the text to all of the selected fonts, and chooses the best one.

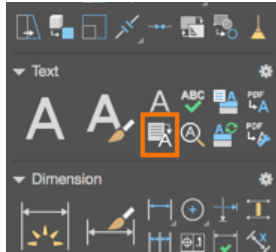


After comparing the geometry to the SHX fonts, the geometry that matches is automatically replaced with one or more Mtext objects. A message box will display the results.



Combine Text

The Combine Text tool enables you to combine many individual text objects into one multi-line text object. This can be particularly useful after recognizing and converting SHX text from an imported PDF file. You can access the Combine Text tool (TXT2MTXT command) from the Text panel on the tool sets.



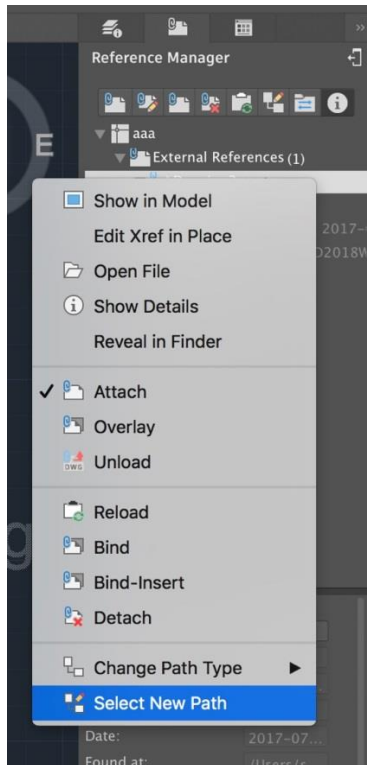
A Settings option on the Command Line displays the Text to MText Settings dialog.



External Reference Paths

The default path type for external references is now set to Relative. Additional capabilities include the following:

- Right-click to use the new Select New Path option. When you fix the path for a missing external reference, you can now apply the same path for other missing reference files.



- When you save the host drawing in a new location, you are prompted to update the relative paths for the external references.
- You can attach references with Relative Path type in unnamed files.

If Relative path isn't your preferred path type, you can use the new REFPATHTYPE system variable to modify the default reference path type. Set the value to 0 for No path, 1 for Relative path, or 2 for Full path.

DWG Format Update

The DWG format for all AutoCAD-based products has been updated to the 2018 version. When saving files back to previous versions of an AutoCAD DWG format, certain data may be ignored and will not be accessible by earlier versions of the software.