

Changes to the Autodesk® Inventor® family of products FAQ

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1. General product information

1.1 What are the changes that are taking place for the Inventor family of products?

Autodesk® has made the difficult decision to retire Autodesk® Inventor LT™ and Autodesk® Inventor LT™ Suite. After May 7th, 2021, you can no longer renew a maintenance plan or subscription for Inventor LT, Inventor LT Suite, or Inventor.

The changes to the Inventor family of products **do not** affect Inventor® Professional or the Product Design & Manufacturing Collection.

1.2 Why is Autodesk making this change?

Our goal is to provide you with powerful and reliable tools to help you design your products. This change to offer only one version of Inventor will focus our development efforts so we can continue to serve you with professional-grade 3D modeling and documentation tools.

1.3 What is the final release of Inventor LT and Inventor?

Inventor LT 2021 and Inventor 2021 are the current and final major releases. If you are on maintenance or subscription, you will have access to future point releases.

1.4 What is the final date that I can renew my maintenance plan or subscription?

If you are on a maintenance plan or subscription, you can renew Inventor LT, or Inventor LT Suite, or Inventor until May 7th, 2021.

2. Key dates

2.1 When will these changes take effect?

- Starting **November 7th, 2020**, you will not be able to purchase new subscriptions for Inventor LT or Inventor LT Suite.
- Starting **May 7th, 2021**, you can no longer renew maintenance plans or subscription for Inventor LT, Inventor LT Suite, or Inventor.

3. Alternative offerings

3.1 What is recommended as an alternative if I need similar functions that come with Inventor LT?

If you currently use Inventor LT, either standalone or as part of the Inventor LT Suite, we recommend that you consider subscribing to Fusion 360 when your maintenance plan or subscription ends. Fusion 360 delivers similar functionality that you have access to in Inventor LT, and it provides additional capabilities like assembly modeling, sheet metal design, and CAM. While this is a suitable path for most Inventor LT users, some workflows require Autodesk® Inventor® Professional software.

If your workflows or customers require native Inventor compatibility, then you should consider subscribing to Inventor Professional. It is a comprehensive professional-grade design tool that provides the technology to help automate your processes and connect with stakeholders to get your product to manufacturing faster.

The table below provides an overview of common Inventor LT workflows enabled by Fusion 360 and those that require Inventor Professional.

Fusion 360 workflows	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Part modeling that does not require native Inventor compatibility. Inventor assemblies can include Fusion 360 part models via AnyCAD, but they will not display the parametric history.• Drawing creation that does not require DWG formats to maintain associativity with the 3D model.• Translate and work with non-native CAD data. Translators used by Inventor and Fusion 360 are based on the same underlying technology.• Prepare parts for manufacturing, such as direct editing of model geometry.
Inventor Professional workflows	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Part modeling with native Inventor compatibility. This supports modeling parts that are eventually used in Inventor assemblies or if there are clients that require native Inventor models.• Working natively with data already created in Inventor LT, such as editing existing model parameters and drawings.• Create documentation using 3D annotations and model-based definition tools.• Drawing creation in native DWG format that maintains associativity to the 3D model for collaborating with others using AutoCAD® software.

3.2 What is recommended as an alternative to Inventor LT Suite if I primarily use [AutoCAD LT](#)?

If you primarily use AutoCAD LT® software as part of the Inventor LT Suite, we recommend you subscribe to AutoCAD LT.

3.3 What is recommended as an alternative if I am on maintenance to Inventor?

If you would like to remain current on the enhancements and improvements for Inventor after your maintenance contract ends, you should consider subscribing to Inventor Professional. It includes the professional-grade 3D modeling tools you use today plus tube and pipe, electromechanical design, dynamic simulation, FEA, and more.

If you use Inventor as part of Product Design Suite or Factory Design Suite, you should consider the benefits of moving to the Product Design & Manufacturing Collection. The collection offers additional integrated applications for advanced simulation, tolerance analysis, nesting, CAM, factory layout design, and advanced rendering and animation capabilities.

4. Additional questions

4.1 What happens if I do nothing when my maintenance expires?

Since you purchased a perpetual license, you will have access to the software release available at the end of your maintenance plan. After this date, you will continue to have access to that software version indefinitely.

4.2 What happens if I do nothing when my subscription expires?

You will have access to the latest software release until the end of your subscription. After this date, we recommend that you consider Fusion 360 or Inventor Professional based on your current design and engineering workflows. See the table above to help guide you in your decision or speak to your Autodesk representative or Autodesk reseller.

4.3 Are third party programs that use Inventor API affected when moving from Inventor to Inventor Professional?

Third-party programs created with Inventor will run the same in Inventor Professional without editing.

4.4 Where can I go to learn more about alternative recommendations?

The following websites will provide an overview of the alternative recommendations in this FAQ.

[Fusion 360](#)

[Inventor Professional](#)

[Product Design & Manufacturing Collection](#)

[AutoCAD LT](#)

4.5 How can I find more information on these changes?

Reach out to your Autodesk representative or Autodesk reseller.

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