

2008 ShipConstructor®



ShipConstructor 2008 Q&A

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General

Q: What is ShipConstructor 2008?

ShipConstructor® 2008 is a 3D, user-friendly and powerful modeling tool specifically designed for ship builders and naval designers. It is a database-driven, parametric modeling program that runs inside AutoCAD 2007/2008 and interfaces easily with many powerful programs such as Inventor, Rhino, MaxSurf, Multisurf, Navisworks, and more.

Q: How can I be sure that ShipConstructor 2008 will be a good product?

ShipConstructor 2008 is the result of three years of development. It builds directly from the production experience of ShipConstructor 2006 and integrates the superior capabilities of AutoCAD 2007/2008. In addition to a thorough development cycle, ShipConstructor 2008 has undergone a rigorous QA process and has been reviewed by experienced ShipConstructor customers in BETA form. This BETA started in May 2007 and consisted of updates on a 2-4 week cycle until the software was judged ready for full production purposes.

Q: Why would I want to upgrade to ShipConstructor 2008?

ShipConstructor 2008 is a better platform than either of its predecessors. Compared to ShipConstructor 2006, it is a much more robust, much more user-friendly version of the same, ground-breaking technology that revolutionized ShipConstructor. Compared to ShipConstructor 2005, it is a quantum leap forward with its DDROM technology.

Q: How does ShipConstructor 2008 compare to ShipConstructor 2006?

ShipConstructor 2008 is an “evolved” version of ShipConstructor 2006. It is very similar in overall functionality (and requires no new training for a ShipConstructor 2006 user) but it improves upon ShipConstructor 2006’s stability and capability. Many functions are more accessible in ShipConstructor 2008, and overall performance has been greatly improved. Also, as ShipConstructor 2008 runs in AutoCAD 2007/2008, the user can take advantage of many of the Autodesk-driven improvements in the new AutoCAD.

Q: What will happen to ShipConstructor 2006?

ShipConstructor 2006 will be phased out in favor of the ShipConstructor 2008 product. Major issues in ShipConstructor 2006 have been fixed in the 2008 version.

Q: How does ShipConstructor 2008 compare to ShipConstructor 2005?

ShipConstructor 2008 is a far superior product to ShipConstructor 2005. Developed with our customers and having undergone a robust QA process, ShipConstructor 2008 incorporates the powerful, parametric functionality of DDROM, resulting in huge savings for the user in design time. ShipConstructor 2008 is populated with "SmartParts" that know where they are in the model and can automatically adjust themselves when a related part is changed. Combined with the increased power of AutoCAD 2007/2008, ShipConstructor 2008 is a revolutionary improvement over ShipConstructor 2005.

Q: What will happen to ShipConstructor 2005?

ShipConstructor 2005 will be supported while users finish off projects which are already underway in 2005. Issues in the software will be fixed when they can be demonstrated to have a significant impact and do not have a reasonable workaround. Effort will first be made to find a reasonable workaround to the issue before the software will be updated. This will allow SSI to focus more resources on the ShipConstructor 2008 product.

Q: Why develop ShipConstructor 2008 ?

No software can remain static and expect to stay relevant in today's world. The initial impetus for developing ShipConstructor 2008 was to create a version of ShipConstructor that will run in the newest versions of AutoCAD. Building on the experience of ShipConstructor 2006, ShipConstructor 2008 introduced new AutoCAD compatibility with a continued, evolutionary improvement on ShipConstructor 2006's powerful DDROM architecture.

Q: Why doesn't SSI continue to develop the older versions of the software along with ShipConstructor 2008?

To ensure a quality product, SSI has dedicated our resources to ShipConstructor 2008 development. It is simply a better product than both ShipConstructor 2005 and ShipConstructor 2006, and we are confident that our customers will agree when they try this newest version of ShipConstructor. If SSI was to split resources between ShipConstructor 2008 and older versions, development would be slower on all fronts, resulting in reduced quality and support. By focusing development solely in ShipConstructor 2008, SSI can focus on providing the best product possible.

Q: Which versions of the software will include new modules and features?

All new modules and features will be in ShipConstructor 2008 only. Modules currently in development include Split & Merge, Electrical, and Weld Management.

Q: How can I get more information?

To obtain more information about features and upgrade concerns in ShipConstructor 2008 please contact support at support@shipconstructor.com. To obtain sales or licensing information about ShipConstructor 2008 please contact sales at sales@shipconstructor.com.

MIGRATION

Q: Will I require training if I am moving from ShipConstructor 2005 to ShipConstructor 2008?

Many of the concepts in ShipConstructor 2008 are new to the ShipConstructor software package. For users moving from ShipConstructor 2005 training in the software is strongly recommended.

Q: Can I update projects if I am moving from ShipConstructor 2005 to ShipConstructor 2008?

ShipConstructor 2005 projects can be partially updated to ShipConstructor 2008. Standards and stock libraries are updated for all disciplines. Pipe, HVAC and Equipment models are updated with a high level of accuracy. The accuracy of Structure models is dependent on the project being updated. Projects which use mainstream ShipConstructor Structure features will have a higher degree of accuracy than those where creative ideas were used to adapt the software to specific situations. Updated Structure models will not make extensive use of the DDROM as ShipConstructor 2005 does not have the information required to create those relationships. Production drawings are not updated to the 2008 version. At this time, updates will be done by providing SSI with the project you wish to update.

Q: Will I require training if I am moving from ShipConstructor 2006 to ShipConstructor 2008?

No. You will not require training if you are currently using ShipConstructor 2006. ShipConstructor 2008 is essentially an improved, more robust version of ShipConstructor 2006.

Q: Can I update projects if I am moving from ShipConstructor 2006 to ShipConstructor 2008?

Yes. ShipConstructor 2006 projects are completely updateable to the ShipConstructor 2008 version. ShipConstructor 2008 shares the same architecture as the older product. Updating projects to the 2008 version is as easy as applying a software patch.

Q: Does ShipConstructor 2008 require a license update?

Yes. ShipConstructor 2008 will require an updated license. All customers with current UM&S will receive updates with their shipment of ShipConstructor 2008.

TECHNICAL

Q: What are the hardware requirements of ShipConstructor 2008?

ShipConstructor 2008 has slightly higher system requirements in order to stay aligned with the published AutoCAD 2008 system requirements. In general any machine that showed great performance in ShipConstructor 2005 should be fine for ShipConstructor 2008. Due to the increased graphics capabilities of AutoCAD 2008, a workstation level graphics card is recommended for ShipConstructor 2008.

ShipConstructor 2008 Recommended* Resource Requirements					
License Level	Platform	CPU	RAM (GB)	Graphics Card**	Disk Space (GB)***
1 - 9	Client	Intel® 3.0 GHz or greater	1	Any AutoCAD supported card	5
	Server	Intel® 3.0 GHz or greater	2	N/A	5
Unlimited	Client	Intel® 3.2 GHz or greater	2	NVIDIA Quadro FX 560 or equivalent	5
	Server	2 x Intel Xeon 3.0 GHz or greater	4	N/A	10
Unlimited (Large Enterprise)	Client	Intel® 3.4 GHz or greater	2	NVIDIA Quadro FX 1500 or equivalent	5
	Server	4 x Intel Xeon 3.4 GHz or greater	8	N/A	20

*These are recommended specs for satisfactory performance. Specifications above those outlined can result in better performance.

**See AutoCAD 2008 supported graphics cards here: www.autodesk.com/autocad-graphicscard

***Disk space requirements for servers are per project.

Q: Can I run ShipConstructor 2008 and ShipConstructor 2006 at the same time?

No. ShipConstructor 2008 and ShipConstructor 2006 cannot be run at the same time. Due to the similarities between the two products ShipConstructor 2006 projects can be updated to ShipConstructor 2008 with no loss of data. Due to the improved performance of ShipConstructor 2008 it is recommended that all products are updated.

Q: Can I run ShipConstructor 2008 and ShipConstructor 2005 at the same time?

Yes. ShipConstructor 2008 and ShipConstructor 2005 can be run at the same time.

Q: Does ShipConstructor 2008 work with NavisWorks?

ShipConstructor 2008 works with NavisWorks in the same way that ShipConstructor always has. The 2008 version offers greatly improved part properties in NavisWorks. Due to requirements of the NavisWorks software ShipConstructor properties are only available if you are using at least NavisWorks 5.4

Q: What versions of Microsoft SQL Server do I need for ShipConstructor 2008?

ShipConstructor 2008 works with all versions of SQL Server 2000 and SQL Server 2005. ShipConstructor 2008 is now packaged with SQL Server 2005 Express Edition.

Q: Which versions of AutoCAD are supported with ShipConstructor 2008?

ShipConstructor 2008 works with all versions of AutoCAD 2007 and AutoCAD 2008. AutoCAD 2008 is recommended over AutoCAD 2007 due to improvements in performance and features.