

SkyTOP DemosCAD®: *The demos'AutoCAD'*

SkyTOP DemosCAD® is a skills-based software solution that enables users become skilled in AutoCAD software without having to undergo conventional training by demonstrating the tools and commands of Autodesk AutoCAD software within an environment similar to that of Autodesk AutoCAD®. Indeed, with SkyTOP DemosCAD®, it's like having an expert around you demonstrating how the tools of AutoCAD software work.

And since the interfaces of the two software products are similar, users of SkyTOP DemosCAD® are able to seamlessly transit into AutoCAD® software to try the tools they have learnt in SkyTOP DemosCAD®.

Background of SkyTOP DemosCAD®

Autodesk® AutoCAD® software is the leading Computer Aided Design (CAD) software in the world. Developed by Autodesk Inc. USA, Autodesk® AutoCAD® is used by millions of professionals in the construction, design and engineering sectors for drafting, documentation and modeling tasks. It is also used in the manufacturing industry.

Yet, through surveys carried out by various industries, majority of professionals are unable to benefit from AutoCAD® software because they find the tools and commands of the software challenging to use. And many users find the help menu available in AutoCAD® either inadequate or too difficult to understand and are thus unable to competently use the software.

And for many college students in Africa, despite its relevance, CAD is yet to be integrated into the curriculum as a course unit and students pursuing disciplines that require CAD are left to learn CAD on their own or arrange alternative training by external resources in order to fit into the modern labour market. Furthermore, such training requires commitment in both time and money.

The alternative is to use the internet to access the many tutorials available through the web but this also requires reliable internet connection which is usually not the case in Africa. Still, searching for relevant tutorials from the millions posted in the web may be time consuming, costly and risky to your ICT systems since most of them are from dubious sources.

Features of SkyTOP DemosCAD®

1. The interface of DemosCAD is similar to that of Autodesk AutoCAD. This lets users learn how to work with the tools and commands of AutoCAD without struggling to locate them.
2. When you click on a tool or invoke a command in SkyTOP's DemosCAD, a dialogue box appears which allows the user to run a demonstration, procedure and tutorial. Further, each of the tools in DemosCAD desktop application contains a project file that is linked to AutoCAD that lets users try out similar tasks as demonstrated in DemosCAD within the AutoCAD environment. Through such exercises, users are able to enhance their AutoCAD skills.
3. DemosCAD has integrated sample command tutorials which let users learn how to carry out a task using any given AutoCAD command/tool in different ways.
4. Also integrated in DemosCAD are sample project tutorials found in the application window for disciplines including: Architecture, Civil, Electrical, Mechanical, Surveying and Product Design which lets users learn how to carry out design tasks using multiple AutoCAD commands. These include drafting, documentation, 3D modelling and animation tasks that AutoCAD is known for.

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5. On the Resources tab under the Discipline-based menu, DemosCAD introduces users to industry-specific products from Autodesk. These include AutoCAD Mechanical, AutoCAD Electrical, AutoCAD MEP, AutoCAD Map, AutoCAD Architecture, AutoCAD Civil 3D, Autodesk Inventor, Autodesk Maya, Autodesk InfraWorks and Autodesk 3Ds Max among others.

6. DemosCAD provides a gallery of fascinating work created with AutoCAD and other Autodesk products in order to inspire users to optimize their use of the Autodesk software solutions.

7. The auto-complete commands feature in DemosCAD lets users to easily invoke any AutoCAD command to learn how that command/tool is used, thus saving valuable time.

8. The AutoCAD User Guide – a publication from Autodesk that contains information about sing AutoCAD has also been integrated in SkyTOP DemosCAD to help users acquire additional skills and knowledge in the use of AutoCAD.

9. Through SkyTOP DemosCAD, AutoCAD users can link with Autodesk Authorized Resellers and Trainers should they wish to acquire Autodesk products or need assistance from an Autodesk source.