

AUTODESK®  
FMDesktop

# Questions and Answers

Autodesk® FMDesktop is a powerful but easy to use suite of applications that have been designed to directly address the needs of Facilities Professionals

## What is FMD?

FMD is an acronym for Autodesk® FMDesktop.

Autodesk® FMDesktop is a Computer Aided Facility Management (CAFM) system. It is a full suite of scalable Facilities Management (FM) products that use industry standard components to help manage your facility drawings, data, assets and occupants graphically. Autodesk® FMDesktop addresses the four major functions of facility management:

- Space / Asset Management
- Project Management
- Emergency Management
- Maintenance Management

## How is Autodesk® FM Desktop unique from other CAD-centric Facilities Management Software?

Autodesk® FMDesktop has greatly simplified the process by which the drawing spatial information is connected to the database. Autodesk® FMDesktop has the ability to "batch-connect" polylined spaces to the facility database. This unique functionality is easy, and extremely powerful.

Autodesk® FMDesktop also provides non CAD users with simple, intuitive tools for viewing and managing graphical spatial information. The use of Autodesk® DWF file format to manage drawing information easily outside the CAD environment.

Autodesk® FMDesktop is different from other CAD-centric CAFM software because it is a simple to use. The software is intuitive and looks similar to Microsoft® Outlook® so users get up to speed and are productive almost immediately.

## Do I have to have CAD drawings of my facility spaces in order to use Autodesk FMDesktop?

No, the information can also be entered into the database. This option allows companies that don't have supporting CAD drawings to use our FMDesktop effectively.

If and when facility drawings become available, the user has the choice of using the entered area or the area derived from the drawing polyline. This provides maximum flexibility and versatility.

## **Most CAD-centric CAFM software applications talk about the need to "polyline the drawings" what does that mean?**

In order for a facility's space information to be connected to a database, each space must be defined digitally. The easiest way to do that is to draw a closed polygon around each space to identify it. This process name got shortened to "polylining". This process is done in any CAD application such as, AutoCAD®.

Autodesk® FMDesktop Facility Link module provides a comprehensive set of tools that function inside of AutoCAD or Autodesk Architectural Desktop to simplify and automate this function.

## **How can I get my existing facilities data into FMDesktop?**

Autodesk® FMDesktop is built on a Microsoft® Access® database platform. MS Access® has robust data import features already built in. When you combine the data import abilities MS Access® with the robust drawing management aspects of FMDesktop's Facility Link application, virtually any data you have in electronic form is easily imported into the Autodesk® FMDesktop database.

## **What's the difference between CAFM and CMMS?**

CAFM software focuses primarily on space management issues: who owns it, which employee lives in it, where it is, how much of it is there, how much does it cost etc. It also is used to manage moves and renovation projects that change how the spaces look and work. There is also usually a graphical component to CAFM so that users can connect CAD plans to facilities database information.

CMMS software focuses primarily on maintenance related issues and problem resolution. Assets in a facility break down and somebody has to fix them. The primary vehicle for communicating problems and resolutions are the initial work request which is logged when something is wrong and the work order which is created to track the actual steps to fix the problem outlined in the work request.

The world of CMMS also includes tools to manage preventative maintenance. Preventive Maintenance centers around processes and activities designed to maintain assets before they break and to extend their life. CMMS software may include tools to manage parts, equipment documentation, fleet maintenance, staff and subcontractor activities, etc.

Where CAFM and CMMS overlap each other sometimes is in the area of Work Orders. Most CAFM software will use work orders to drive staff and department relocation moves as well as renovation projects. The work order provides a convenient and efficient tool to manage the details that go with these activities.

In large facilities different groups are generally responsible for facility and maintenance related issues. Each group may want software tools that meet their specific needs. In smaller facilities the same team may be responsible for both functions and prefer a tightly integrated solution that meets all their needs.

FMDesktop is a CAFM application that also has a competent set of CMMS functions built in. Facility Managers typically want a single application to manage both facilities and CMMS processes. FMDesktop fills both needs nicely.

## **Do the Facility Link and Facility Manager Components of FMDesktop have the ability to have a networked license or floating licenses?**

Facility Link and Facility Manager do not currently support networked licenses or floating licenses. A separate Facility Link and Facility Manager license is required for each named user that is using each of these applications.

## **Is subscription available for FMDesktop?**

Yes, subscription is available for many of Autodesk's products including FMDesktop. Autodesk® Subscription is the best way to keep your design tools and learning up to date.

For more information about Autodesk Subscription, contact your Autodesk Authorized Reseller or visit <http://www.autodesk.com/subscription>.

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