



## Overview

### Benefits and Differences

Discreet, the multimedia division of Autodesk currently offers three visualization tools as complements to Autodesk products. These provide state-of-the-art visualization capabilities derived from Discreet's technology leadership in the film and special effects industries.

- VIZ Render
- Autodesk® VIZ 4
- 3ds max™ 5.1

Each of these tools adds incrementally more features and benefits than the previous tool.

#### VIZ Render

Available exclusively as a feature of Autodesk® Architectural Desktop 2004 software, the VIZ Render product was specifically created for the architect. VIZ Render is optimized for visualizing the data created in Architectural Desktop 2004 so the architect requires a minimum of special training to develop state-of-the-art, physically accurate depictions of an evolving design. The value of VIZ Render is in its close relationship to the Building Information Model.

#### Autodesk VIZ 4

Autodesk VIZ 4 software is a visualization solution targeted at the broader design community. Architectural, mechanical, and product designers can make a variety of images and animations with VIZ 4.

Autodesk VIZ 4 can be thought of as a subset of 3ds max software, with a few additional tools specific to design as well as interoperability with other Autodesk design products.

Additional features in Autodesk VIZ 4 include:

- File Link: Enhanced interoperability with .dwg files. Linking provides additional advantages over import by allowing material and mapping assignments in VIZ to be preserved after updating the geometry in the AutoCAD software program.
- AEC objects: These include parametric doors, windows, and walls, as well as foliage
- Region Net Render: Allows rendering of individual high-resolution images to be distributed across networked computers.

### 3ds max 5.1

3ds max software is our flagship application for general design and visualization. It includes many features that are applicable to a wide range of design and visualization tasks as well as tools for advanced animation and special effects.

Additional features in 3ds max 5.1:

- Support for Character Animation
- Particle Systems

Subscription customers who download the Design Extension will add the features listed above, formerly unique to the Autodesk VIZ 4 application.

## Interoperability

### VIZ Render

VIZ Render is launched exclusively from Autodesk Architectural Desktop 2004. Data is transferred from Architectural Desktop 2004 to VIZ Render via a live connection between the two programs. Additional 3ds max files can be brought into VIZ Render through the merge command. VIZ Render saves a .drf file that contains all geometry and visualization data, such as lights and materials. The .drf file is currently not compatible with any other application. Future 3ds max versions will provide .drf compatibility.

### Autodesk VIZ 4

Autodesk VIZ 4 accepts data from all pre-2004 AutoCAD versions and allows for the importing of Autodesk Inventor® 5 and 6 files via the plug-in supplied with Autodesk Inventor software.

For instruction for implementing this plug-ins go to:

<http://usa.autodesk.com/adsk/servlet/ps/dl/item?siteID=123112&id=2909397&linkID=2749257>

Autodesk® Revit® data can be imported or linked to Autodesk VIZ 4 by first exporting an AutoCAD® 2000 format file from the Revit application. Texture mapping materials are not maintained in the .dwg export process

AutoCAD 2004 files can be made compatible with VIZ 4 by selecting **Save As** from the **File** drop-down menu and selecting AutoCAD 2000 as the file format.

Autodesk Architectural Desktop 2004 files can be exported from Architectural Desktop to the AutoCAD 2000 format by selecting **Export** from the **File** drop-down menu. There is no Save As feature in Architectural Desktop 2004. Exporting the Building Information Model (BIM) from Architectural Desktop 2004 removes all BIM data from the file, including texture mapping and materials, so that the resulting file contains generic AutoCAD 3D entities (polyface mesh) organized by layer.

For more information on Autodesk VIZ 4 go to:

<http://usa.autodesk.com/adsk/servlet/index?siteID=123112&id=2753041>

For product support information go to:

<http://usa.autodesk.com/adsk/servlet/ps?siteID=123112&id=2334116&linkID=982821>

### **3ds max 5.1**

As stated above, subscription customers with the Design Extension installed will have the same features as are found in Autodesk VIZ 4. Hence, the same workflow applies with regard to Architectural Desktop 2004 and other Autodesk products.

For more information on 3ds max 5.1 go to:

<http://www.discreet.com/products/3dsmax/>

For product support information goes to:

<http://www.discreet.com/support/max/>

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