

A SmartDraft White Paper



Powerful Software Tools For The A/E/C Professional  
[www.smartdraft.com](http://www.smartdraft.com)

**SmartDraft. You could work without it— but *should* you?**

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## AutoCAD® Land Desktop® and Civil 3D®.

You’ve got some miles on the old AutoCAD® odometer (maybe a LOT of miles) and you’ve been around the block. You have your set routines. You could work without SmartDraft, but should you? We’ll begin to answer that question by illustration:

AutoCAD® is like an automobile – it gets you from point-A to point-B. You’ve got your grab bag of customized utilities and that old modified PGP file in the trunk. Have tools, will travel and all of that. You’ve retired the old DCA®/Softdesk® beaters, and Land Desktop® is your ride now. It’s lost the new car smell, but it’s dependable, and you know what most of the knobs and switches do. It’s Monday morning, and it starts - like it does every morning - on the first turn.

Fast forward to the morning commute. You’re cruising down that familiar project highway. You glance in your rearview mirror and observe someone flying up on your six, and as the car comes into view you groan. It’s one of those Civil 3D® coupes you’ve been hearing about. Anxiety overcomes you. You’ve toyed with the idea of trading in your Land Desktop® for one of them and you wonder if you’re missing out.

Another glance back and it’s gone. But you feel it, hovering there in your blind spot. You know it’s only a matter of time and it’ll pass you up.

## SmartDraft – What It’s Not

What is SmartDraft? Let’s begin by describing what it is not: SmartDraft is **not** a replacement for AutoCAD® Land Desktop® or Civil 3D®.

## SmartDraft – What It Is

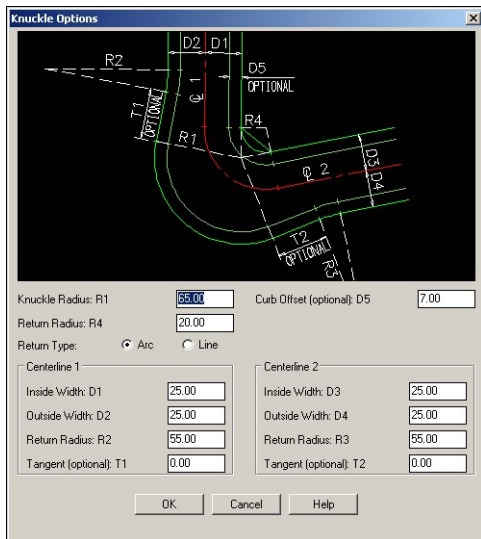
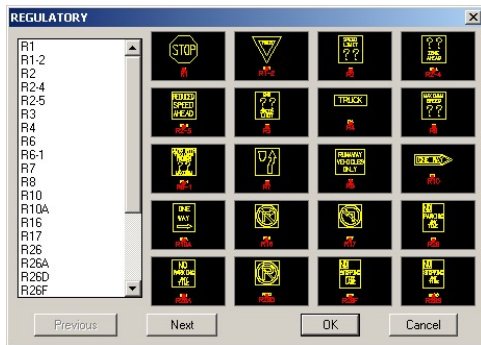
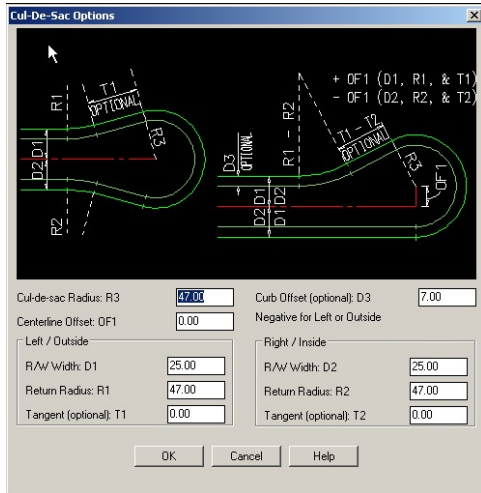
SmartDraft is like octane booster in your gas tank. It’s a suite of powerful and effective software tools that enhances the performance of either AutoCAD® platform. SmartDraft plugs many of the gaps unaddressed by an out-of-the-box installation of Land Desktop® or Civil 3D®. SmartDraft promotes effective workflow procedures for the civil engineering, surveyor, mapper or drafting professional. And it’s easy to install, learn, manage and use. To return to the car analogy, it’s takes what you’ve got and makes it quicker, improves your gas mileage and helps it run cleaner.

## Who uses SmartDraft?

Transportation Engineers use SmartDraft for its advanced geometric and profiling tools. Civil Engineers use SmartDraft for its land development design tools. Surveyors use SmartDraft for its mapping, closure, legal description writing and input reduction tools. And drafters of all three disciplines use SmartDraft’s plan production and management tools to quickly create and modify clean and concise construction documents.

## SmartDraft History

We’ll keep the history lesson short. SmartDraft began in 1989 and has grown alongside AutoCAD® ever since. It complemented the civil engineering-specific software once known as “DCA®” and has kept pace with the “Softdesk®” evolution to its present-day incarnations.



## SmartDraft Future

SmartDraft is a member of the Autodesk® Developer Network, or ADN®, and as a member we are plugged into the programming future of AutoCAD®. The future is Civil 3D®, and the future is now. We realize, however, that migrating between platforms is a measured, deliberate process that takes time.

SmartDraft version 8 works in both Land Desktop® and Civil 3D® environments and employs software tools replete with dynamic functionality. SmartDraft version 8 uses more dynamic blocks, allowing the user to modify the location, placement and text directions of labels placed in either plan or profile views. Elevation flags placed in plan view can be updated with a touch of a button when a new vertical alignment gets updated. No more “erase and replace.”

## What Does SmartDraft Do? Who Should Use It?

We’re glad we asked. To list everything SmartDraft does would take a while, we might lose you and defeat the purpose of this white paper. So, here’s what the average user – sorted by discipline – may use in any given session:

### Transportation

- ∞ Reverse Curve Tool
- ∞ Knuckle Generator
- ∞ Cul-de-sac Generator
- ∞ Transportation Signage, Striping and Symbols

### Survey and Mapping

- ∞ Final Map and ALTA Labeling
- ∞ Parcel Data Management
- ∞ Improved Closure Calcs
- ∞ Legal Description Writer
- ∞ Input Reduction

### Civil Engineering Design

- ∞ Driveway Slope Calculation and Labels
- ∞ Elevation Flags (static and/or dynamic)
- ∞ Profiles (generate 3-line profiles)
- ∞ Quantity Estimate Generator

### Drafting (Plan Production and Management)

- ∞ Useful Plan and Annotation Tools (a ton of them!)
- ∞ Viewport Creation and Management
- ∞ B-Keeper (enhanced block manager - Coming soon!)
- ∞ Sheet View Rotation and Orientation Tools
- ∞ Construction Note Manager (Coming soon!)

### Hydrology

- ∞ HEC-RAS Tools (coming soon!)



## **Hey, Customize This!**

Get SmartDraft to play by your rules. Customize SmartDraft's blocks and entities to conform to your own standards and layer-naming conventions.

## **SmartDraft Clients**

We consider those who purchase SmartDraft more as Clients than as Customers. The following link delineates some of our gifted and talented users and the companies they work for:

<http://www.smartdraft.com/clients.htm>

## **SmartDraft Subscription**

Many existing SmartDraft users have participated in the subscription program from inception. For those of you who are new to SmartDraft, or haven't upgraded your software in a while, now is a great time to do it. Subscription is included for the first year after purchase and becomes renewable in yearly increments. Site, individual-seat and multiple-seat subscription allows the user(s) to download, install and use SmartDraft as each new version or upgrade becomes available. Each new upgrade or version brings with it a host of advancements and new utilities designed to further your productivity, and nearly all of our clients and customers participate in the program.

## **Try It Before You Buy It**

SmartDraft version 8 is available for download:

<http://www.smartdraft.com/download.htm>

Use the fully-functioning software risk-free for 30 days. It usually plays out like this:

You try the software for 30 days and then one day it'll stop working, inconveniently. Probably as you're rushing to meet a deadline. Then you'll get cranky because those familiar SmartDraft tools no longer work. Then you'll miss your deadline, and your boss will get cranky. You'll point out that your SmartDraft trial ran out, and to prevent this tragedy from happening again the company should at least buy YOU a seat.

Disclaimer: Actual user experiences will vary. But not by much.

(Incidentally... that Civil 3D coupe in your blind spot? It passed you about 5 minutes ago. Maybe if you'd had some SmartDraft in your tank...?)