

TIME to EVALUATE LICENSING OPTIONS for CAD?



Software vendors are increasingly offering their products through subscription plans, also known as software rental. If you're contemplating a choice between outright ownership — known as perpetual licensing — and subscription, be sure to **answer these questions before you decide.**

SOFTWARE

- Are there any differences in functionality between the rental and permanently licensed versions?
- Will I have any control over when, or how frequently, updates take place?
- How will updates affect my customization of the software?
- Will I have access to previous versions of the software, if needed?
- If the software is cloud-based, how do demanding operations (3D modeling, rendering, etc.) perform, compared with desktop-based applications?
- Will I receive physical copies of the software?

LICENSES

- Can a license be shared among users and workstations (or mobile devices, if applicable)?
- If so, is there a limit?
- How easy is it to increase or decrease the number of licenses to accommodate staffing changes?
- For a perpetual license, how long does the software developer typically support each version?
- What is the duration of included tech support?

DATA

- Where is my data stored, and what security measures protect it?
- What happens to it if my subscription lapses — will I be able to access and edit my files?
- Is an Internet connection required to operate the software and/or access my files?
- If so, what happens in the event of a server outage, Internet downtime, or other problem?

COSTS

- Can I apply paid rental fees toward purchase of a permanent license, should I decide to make that change?
- Are rental fees refundable under any circumstances — for example, early cancellation?
- What is included in the rental price: tech support, major/minor upgrades, training sessions, etc.?

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