NORICAD

# BricsCAD

## Migration Without Frustration

Migration doesn't have to be complicated. In just a few easy steps, you'll be ready to start working in BricsCAD. This guide walks you through everything to get started, so you can see for yourself how simple it really is!

# Introduction

Making the switch to BricsCAD® is now simpler than ever. This guide will take you through the process of moving from AutoCAD® efficiently and with ease.

BricsCAD functions in much the same way as AutoCAD®, supporting many familiar features such as external references, plotting tools, sheet set management, attaching/importing PDFs, and working with viewports. The tips provided here will help make your transition seamless.

Follow these four straightforward steps to move from your current CAD software to BricsCAD:

**Step 1:** Install BricsCAD
Start by downloading and setting up BricsCAD on your system.

**Step 2:** Get familiar with the interface
Take some time to explore the layout, which closely mirrors what you are used to.

**Step 3:** Begin the migration process
- Plan your migration approach
- Implement the migration steps
- Check your settings after migration
- Convert your existing Dynamic Blocks

**Step 4:** Trial a project in BricsCAD

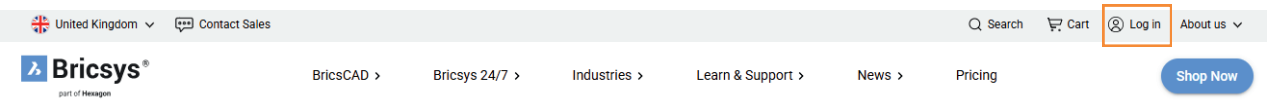
Test a real project in BricsCAD to ensure everything is functioning as expected.

The transition should only take a few hours, leaving you with a fully operational version of your design in BricsCAD. Let's get started!

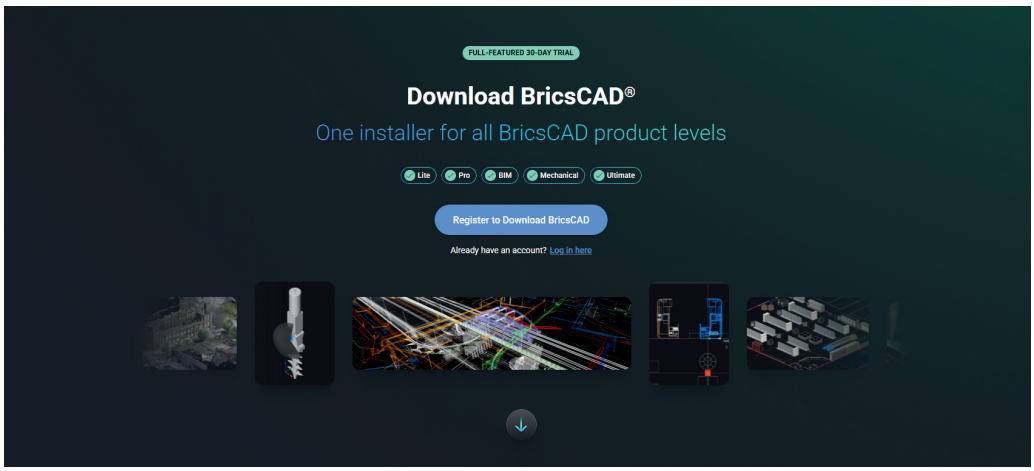
# Step 1: Installing BricsCAD

To begin using BricsCAD, you'll need to download and install the software. Follow these quick steps to get started:

**Create a Bricsys Account** – Signing up takes only a few seconds. Once registered, log into your account.




**Download BricsCAD** – The software is available in multiple languages. Choose your preferred version and agree to the Terms of Use before proceeding with the download.

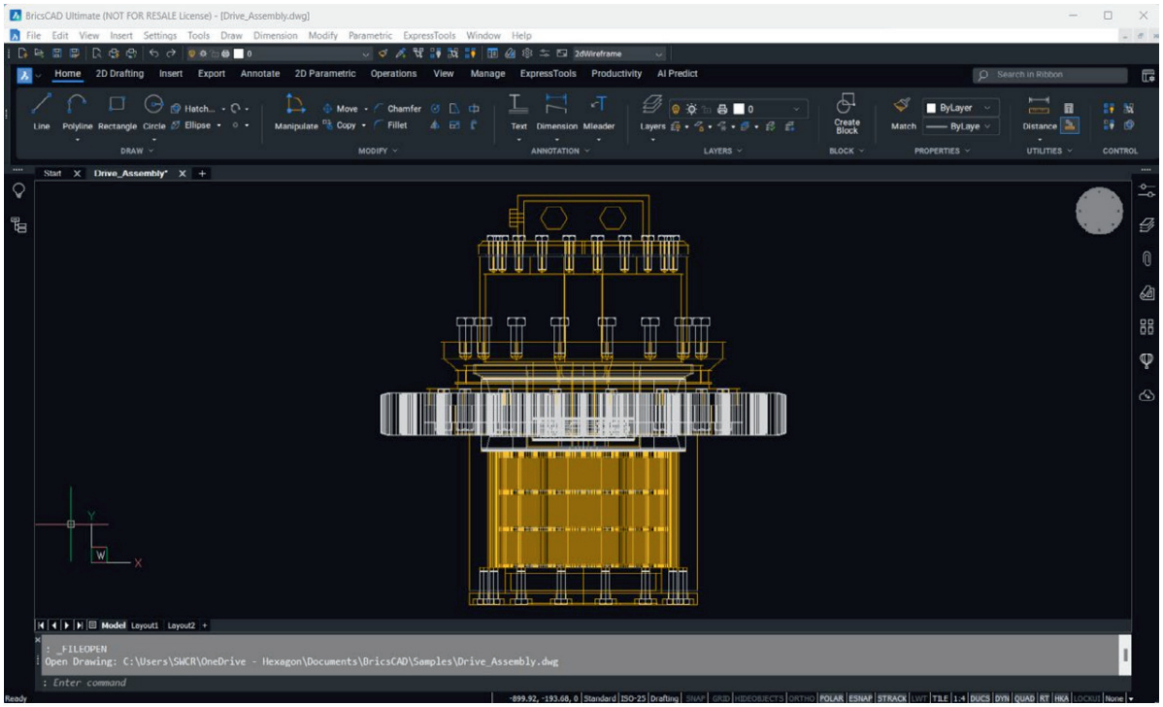



**Install BricsCAD** – Once the download is complete, locate the installer file and double-click to start the installation process.

**Launch BricsCAD** – Open BricsCAD from your desktop or start menu and begin exploring its features.

With BricsCAD successfully installed, you're ready to move on to the next step: getting familiar with its interface!

# Step 2: Get Acquainted with the User Interface



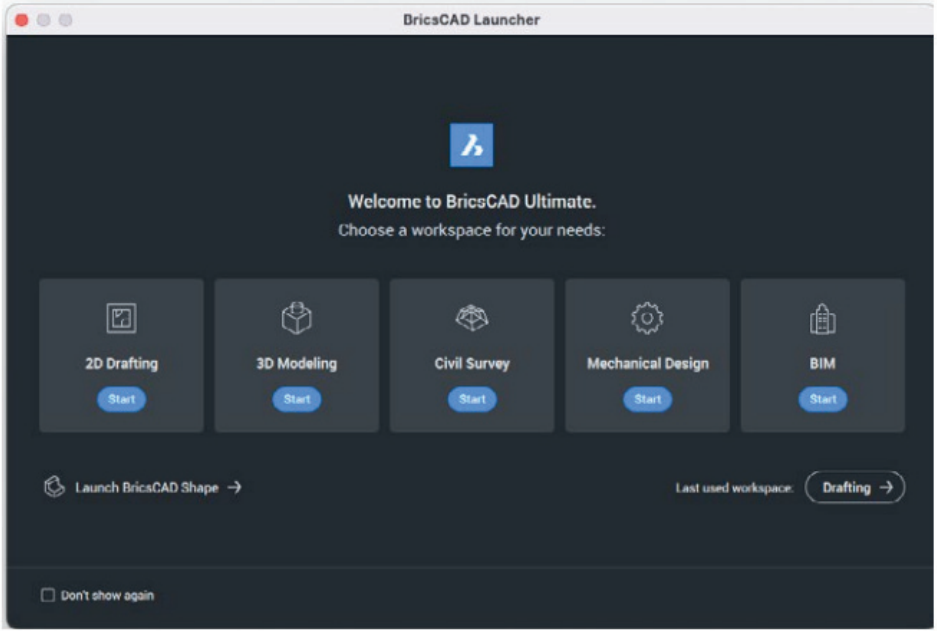

BricsCAD® is designed to be intuitive and user-friendly right from the start. The default installation provides a familiar layout for a smooth transition.

### Key Interface Features:

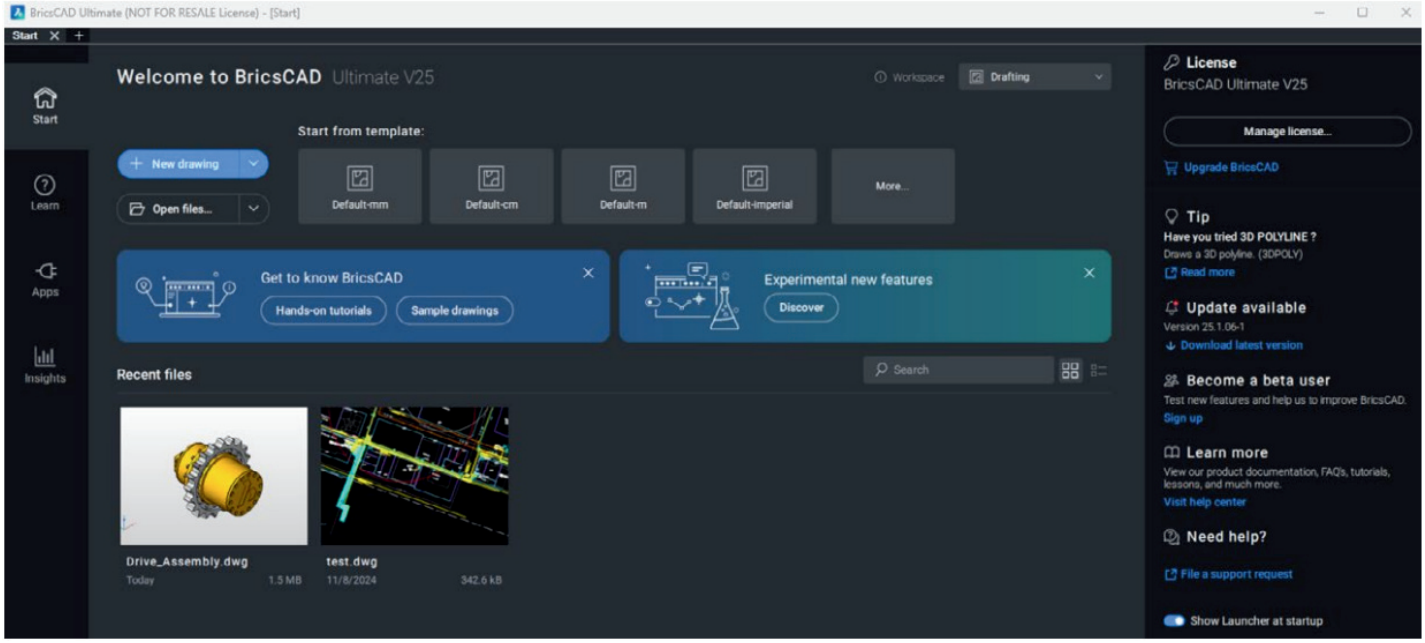
- Model and Paper Space Navigation
- Ribbon and Panel-Based Interface
- Command Line and Status Bar for Quick Access
- Similar Menus and Commands to Traditional CAD Software
- Customisable Toolbars for Efficiency
- Flexible Panels – Dockable or Floating
- Context-Sensitive Menus for Quick Actions
- Multi-Document Tabs for Easy Project Management
- Multiple Workspace Configurations

### Multi-Language Support & Global Accessibility

Need a different language version of BricsCAD? Simply download and install your preferred language. Your existing license key is compatible with all 15 currently supported localised versions at no extra cost, and it works worldwide without restrictions.




Use the BricsCAD® Launcher to "Get Started". The 30-day BricsCAD Trial contains 2D, 3D, Civil Design, Mechanical, and BIM workspaces. Most new users start by selecting the "2D Drafting" icon.




Access recent drawings, open new .dwg/.dwt or browse to an existing dwg file and you're ready to start.

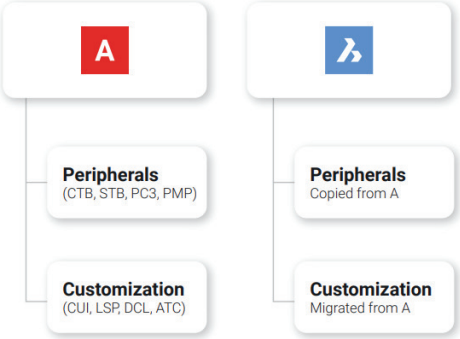
# Step 3: Start Your Migration to BricsCAD

### Plan Your Migration

Like any CAD software, BricsCAD relies on various files to function efficiently. Many of these files may be stored on a network. To ensure a seamless transition, use the SETTINGS command in BricsCAD to configure paths for support files, external references, plotter settings, and more. Once set, test these configurations to confirm everything is working correctly.

### Run Parallel A and B installations

- Establish network folders
- Migrate customisation
- Replicate peripherals
- Clean, minimum, migration
- Test B while still running A



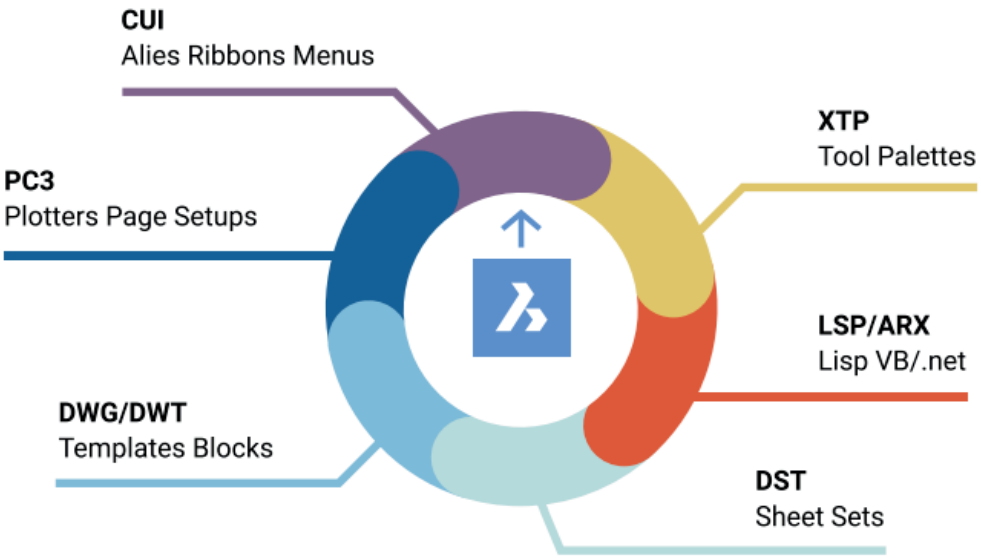

### Identify the tools that you want to migrate

- Custom CUI's, Custom Alias' from .pgp.
- LSP/ARX Files including customisations in ACAD.LSP and ACADDOC.LSP, VB, and .NET routines

*Some files may need to be recompiled. See BricsCAD Developer Portal

- Tool Palettes (.xtp)
- Fonts (.shx files)
- DST Files (Sheet Sets)
- DWG/DWT Templates and Blocks
- PC3 Files, PMP, Plotters, Plot Styles
- Custom Hatch Patterns

A new BricsCAD® Profile (.arg) will need to be created based on the information above and the respective file locations. The use and location of third-party applications are also needed.
**Profiles from other CAD software will not import correctly.*

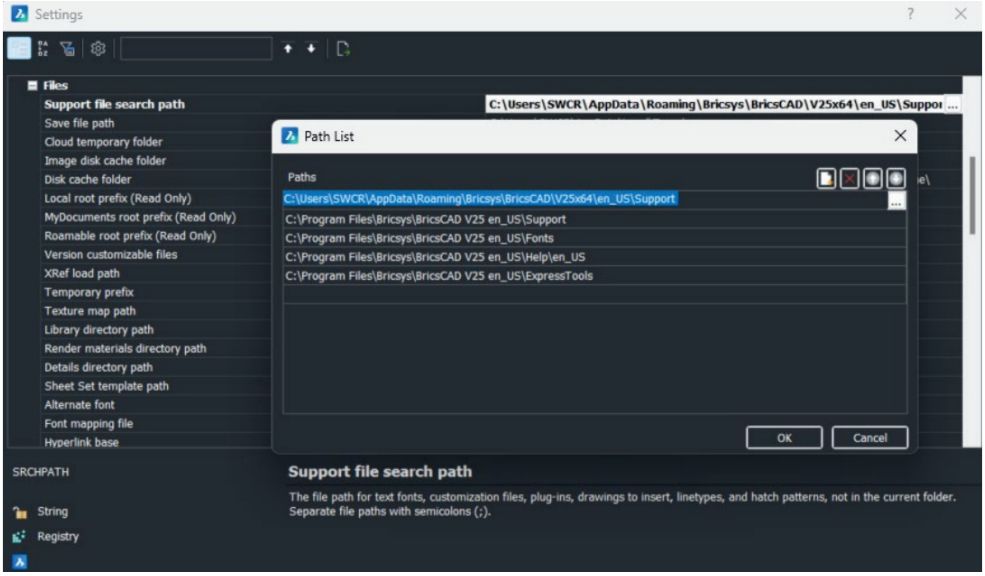


### Clean-up as you migrate!

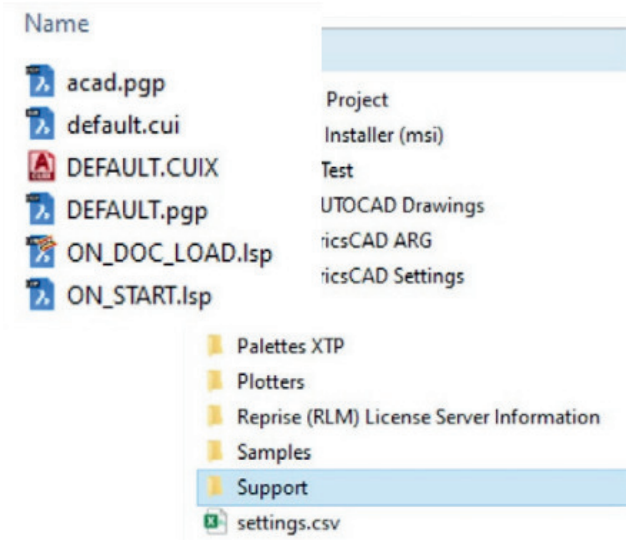
- Remove backup files
- Remove obsolete
- programs
- Simplify folder structure
- Clean blocks/palettes
- Migrate the minimum!

### Migrate environmental folders and content

- Create folders to replicate environment folders for library content like blocks and LISP files
- Copy/clean as you go
- Rename key files as you go




If your users are already familiar with customised programs (LSP), template files (DWT), block libraries (DWG), menus (CUI), tool palettes (XTP), or other essential components, you'll want to transfer them to BricsCAD®. Consider how you'd like these files to be organised within folders and begin migrating the necessary files from their previous locations to the new BricsCAD directory. As minor adjustments may be required, it's important to modify the copied files carefully to maintain a stable environment. This approach ensures both environments can be tested concurrently without disruption.




Where are the existing support files located?

- Centralised Server?
- Individual Local Machines?
- A combination of network and individual drives?

Exact Files for potential renaming and appropriate folder placement need to be provided.

## Customise BricsCAD to Suit Your Needs

Configuring BricsCAD to operate similarly to the previous system your users are familiar with is an effective way to enhance user satisfaction, improve productivity, and reduce the time required for training during implementation.

## Basic Support Files

Set up a dedicated BricsCAD® folder to store all modified files. Creating subfolders for different types of support files should be straightforward.

## Simplifying Migration

Copy the customised content from your existing support files and their respective subfolders, then paste them into the appropriate locations within BricsCAD.

Simple support folders are recommended!

- Copy the custom content from ACAD.PGP paste into DEFAULT.PGP in BricsCAD
- Copy the custom content from ACAD.LSP paste into ON_START.LSP in BricsCAD
- Copy the custom content from ACADDOC.LSP paste into ON_DOC_LOAD.LSP in BricsCAD

## PGP File

Command aliases are saved in a *.pgp file (ProGram Parameters file). By default, the "DEFAULT.pgp" file in the support directory of the Roamable Root folder is used.

Copy custom aliases from "ACAD.pgp" from AutoCAD® location. Paste into "DEFAULT.pgp" within BricsCAD® Support Folder

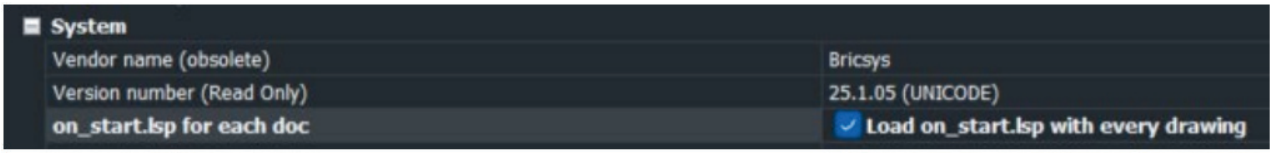
## LISP (.lsp)

When BricsCAD® launches, it automatically searches for an AutoLISP file named **ON_START.LSP** and executes any code within it. To ensure this process runs correctly, the file must be present and accessible to BricsCAD. Simply place the **ON_START.LSP** file inside BricsCAD's support directory, which can be managed through the Settings command under **Program Options > Files**.

Copy the custom content from **ACAD.LSP** in the AutoCAD® directory and paste it into **ON_START.LSP** within the BricsCAD support folder.

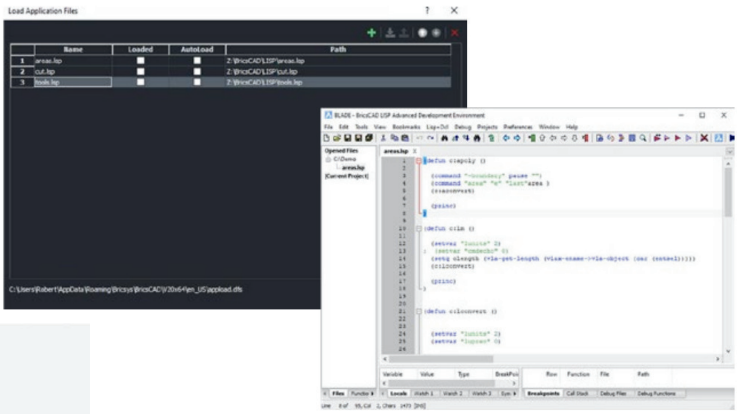
- Rename key files appropriately.
- Be mindful of hard-coded pathing and AutoCAD®-specific directories.

To enable automatic program launching, set the **ACADLSPASDOC** system variable to 1, or toggle the option via **Settings > Program Options > System**. If this option is **Off**, BricsCAD will only load these files for the first drawing.




## Migrate LISP

- Rename key files
- Open via APPLOAD. BLADE or ON_START
- Restart BricsCAD to verify
- Watch out for:
  1. Hardcoded paths
  2. AutoCAD® specific folders

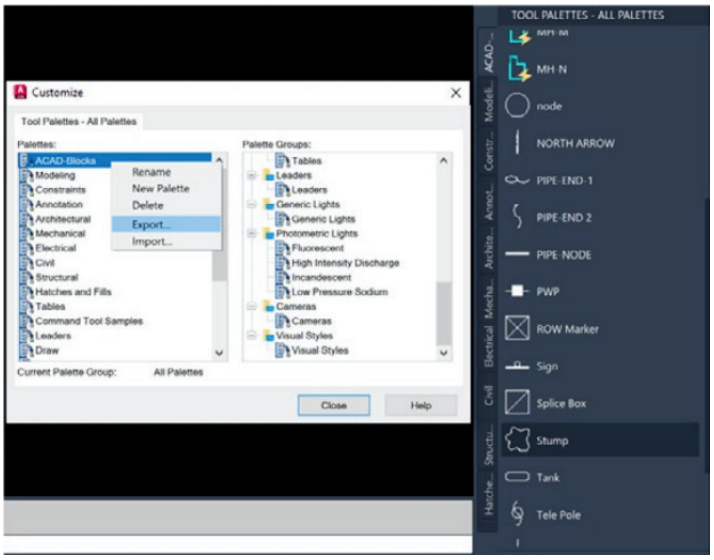


```
(if (findfile "x:\\lisp\\standards.lsp")
(load "x:\\lisp\\standards.lsp")
)

(prompt "\nBricsCAD startup routine loaded.")
```

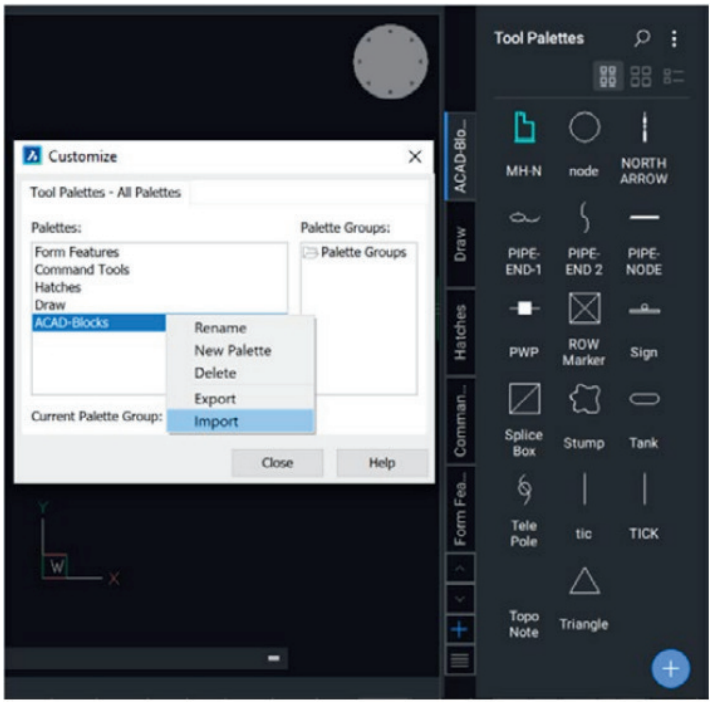
## Tool Palettes

Tool Palettes improve user efficiency, are generally a part of "best practices" and can be imported from your existing CAD platform.




### Export Tool Palettes

- To export a Tool Palette (from AutoCAD®)
- On any drawing, enter CUSTOMIZE to open the Customise
- window.
- Right-click a tool palette and choose Export.
- Choose a location to save the .xtp file.
- On the target system (or on the target program), enter
- the CUSTOMIZE command.
- Right-click on any palette name and choose Import.
- Browse to the desired folder.
- Click Close



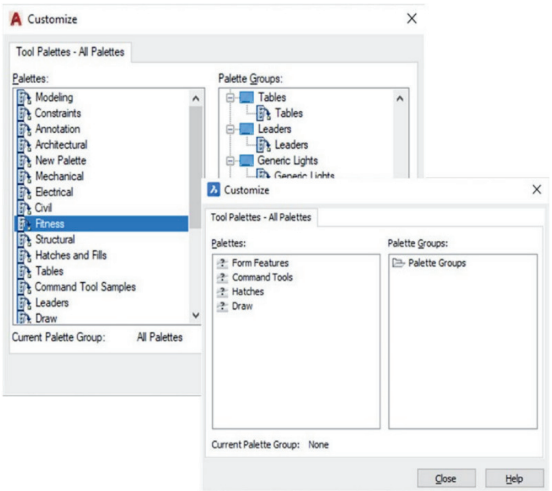

### Import Tool Palettes

To import a Tool Palette (in BricsCAD®)

- Open the Tool Palettes panel.
- In the Tool Palettes panel, right-click and choose
- Customise Palette, which will open the Customise dialog
- box.
- In the Palettes panel on the Customise dialog box, right click
- and choose Import in the context menu.
- On the Import Palette dialog, select a folder, then select a
- palette file (*.xtp).
- Click the Open button or double-click to import the palette.
- The palette is added to the Palettes list.
- Click the Close button to close the Customise dialog box.

### Migrate Tool Palette components

- Export individual palettes as XTP from AutoCAD®
- Note pathing of files and edit if required
- Import into BricsCAD®
- Keep XTP's for later possible edits



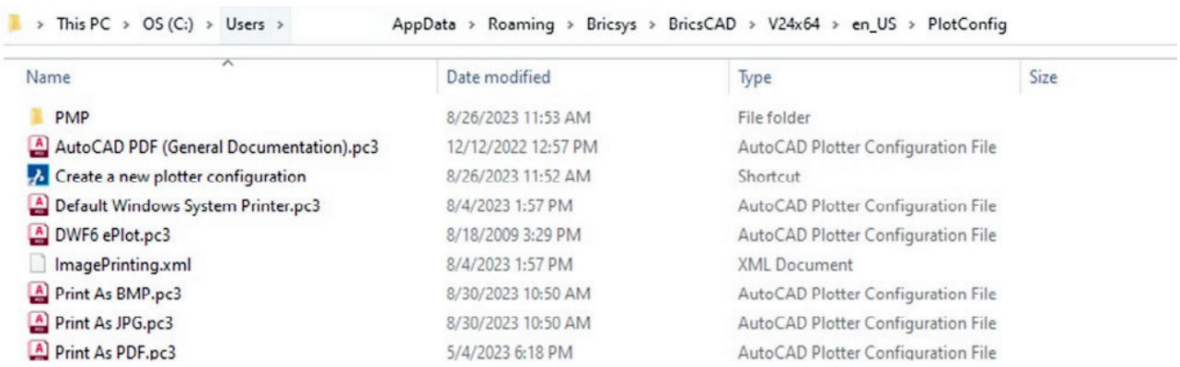
## Plotters/PC3/PMP Files

BricsCAD® uses your current plotters, PC3 files, and PMP.

- Locate your current plotter files from the current location, and copy/paste them into the BricsCAD Support Folder.
- PC3 files are saved in the Plotconfig subfolder of your Roamable root folder.

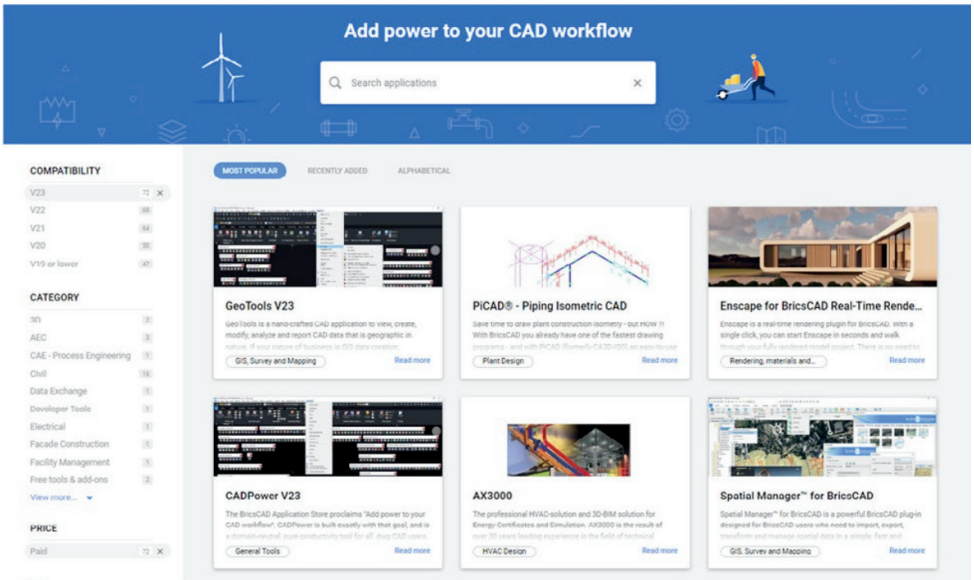
## Copy peripherals

- Use PLOTTERMANAGER command.
- Copy PC3/PMP files from an existing application into the PlotConfig window in BricsCAD.
- These files "wrap-around" system drivers so they may be copies directly as they are not proprietary.




## Application Catalog

The Application Catalog features apps developed by third-party creators to meet specific needs. More than 1,500 external developers create applications for BricsCAD®, with over 400 of them publishing their apps directly in the Bricsys Application Catalog. Some apps and add-ons are available for free, while others can be purchased directly from the publisher.

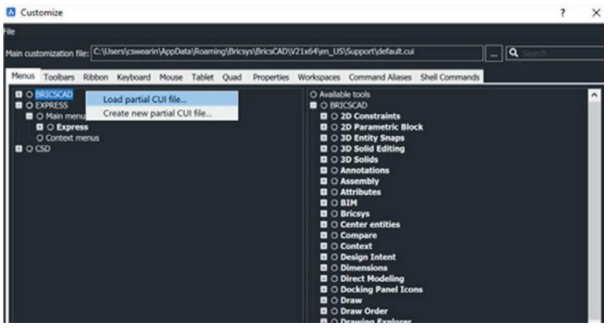


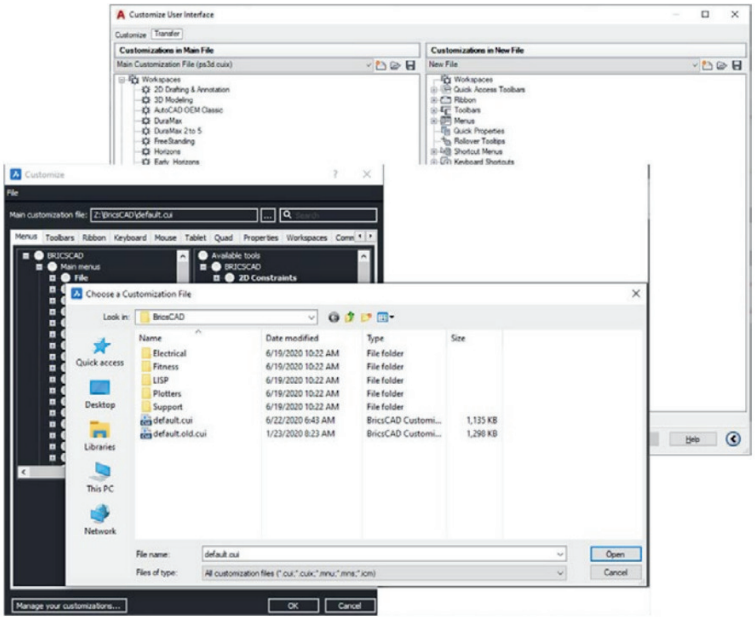

## Make BricsCAD® look the way you want

The most effective way to adapt to BricsCAD is to make BricsCAD look and feel exactly like you want it.
The appearance of the BricsCAD application window varies slightly depending on which profile you selected.
The main user interface elements, however, apply across profiles even if the tools differ. Those elements can be controlled through the settings, CUI, and profile manager.

## Migrate CUI Components

- Create clean CUI with only custom elements.
- Open the CUI in AutoCAD®; Export the custom CUI
- elements using AutoCAD® CUI Transfer Tab.
- Save Partial CUI.
- Read Partial CUI into BricsCAD® CUI.
- Open the Default CUI in BricsCAD; Right-Click to
- "Load Partial CUI File"; Select the previously saved
- Partial CUI file, Add/Load elements to the workspace.




## Check the Settings and Profiles

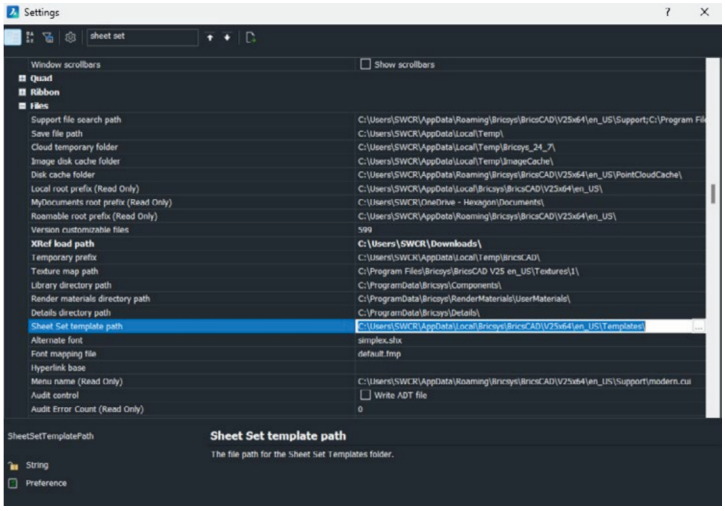
When migrating support files from AutoCAD® to BricsCAD, ensure all necessary files are transferred before removing AutoCAD® from your system. These files must remain accessible to maintain functionality. Do not uninstall AutoCAD® until the BricsCAD environment has been fully tested. Simply open a .dwg file with BricsCAD to begin the process.

## Settings

Familiarise yourself with BricsCAD® settings and options by using the SETTINGS or OPTIONS command. Configure support file pathing, adjust units, customise quad tools, set alternate fonts, define template locations, and more. Use the search bar at the top to quickly find specific settings.

## Sheet Set (.dst), Drawing Templates, Blocks

Sheet set files (.dst), drawing templates (.dwt), and blocks can remain in their current local location. Using the SETTINGS command, browse to the desired pathing respectively, and change accordingly.



## Profiles (.arg)

BricsCAD® allows you to customise settings that define your drawing environment, which can then be saved as a user profile. You can create multiple profiles to suit different workflows—for example, one with a white background and minimal toolbars, and another configured for 3D work with all necessary toolbars and snap settings enabled.

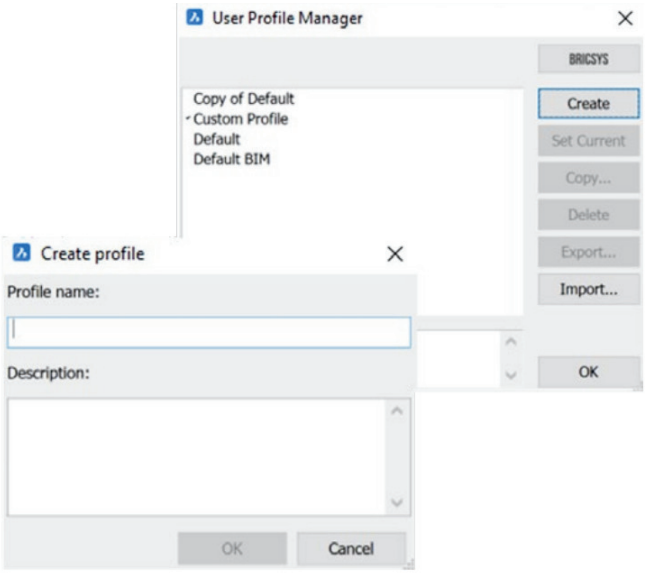
User profiles are also useful when multiple users share the same computer, as each person can set up their preferred drawing environment. These profiles can be exported to a file and imported onto another machine, making it easy to transfer settings to a new computer or apply the same configurations across multiple devices.

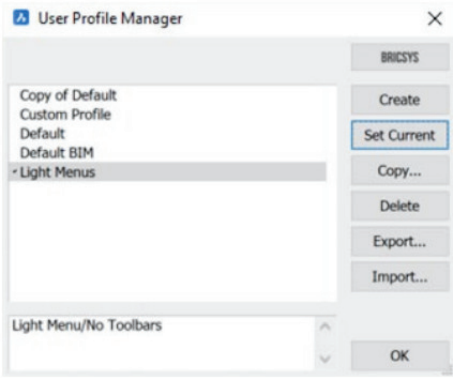
If you use third-party applications within BricsCAD, consider creating a dedicated user profile for each application to ensure compatibility.

To manage user profiles while BricsCAD is running, use the **PROFILEMANAGER** command.

### Work with Profiles

- Use PROFILEMANAGER command
- Share ARG files
- Edit paths in the file if desired



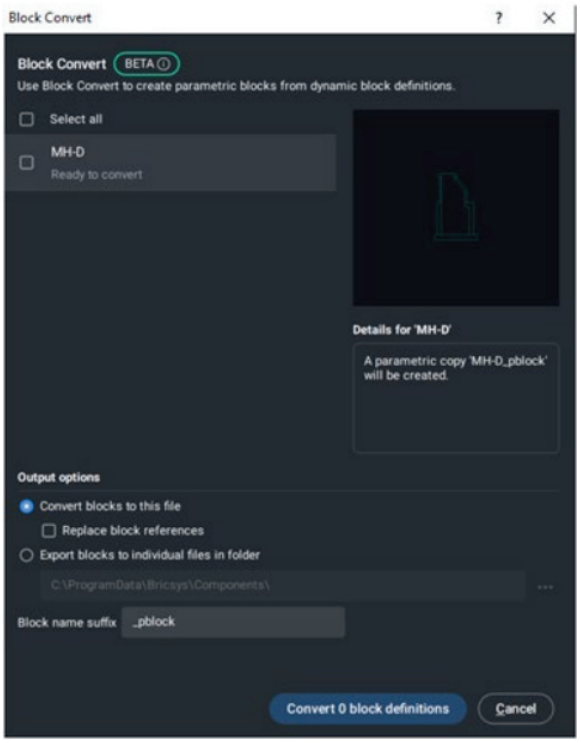




## Convert Your Dynamic Blocks

To assist with your transition from legacy CAD software, BricsCAD® allows you to convert your existing library of Dynamic Blocks into powerful Parametric Blocks. The **PBLOCKASSIST/BLOCKCONVERT** command opens the **Parametric Block Assist** dialog, which scans the file to detect all Dynamic Blocks. Users can then select the blocks they want to convert and, with a single click, instantly transform them into Parametric Blocks.

The conversion process creates a new entity within the file while preserving the original Dynamic Blocks. Additionally, you can choose to export the newly created blocks to a designated folder, making them easily accessible through the **Library Panel**.

For further details on Parametric Blocks and the **BLOCKCONVERT** command, refer to our guide: Parametric Blocks Explained.

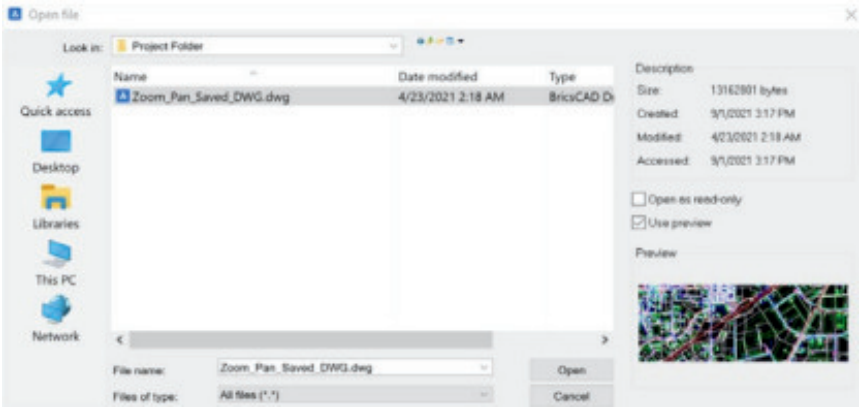


# Step 4: Test a Project with BricsCAD®

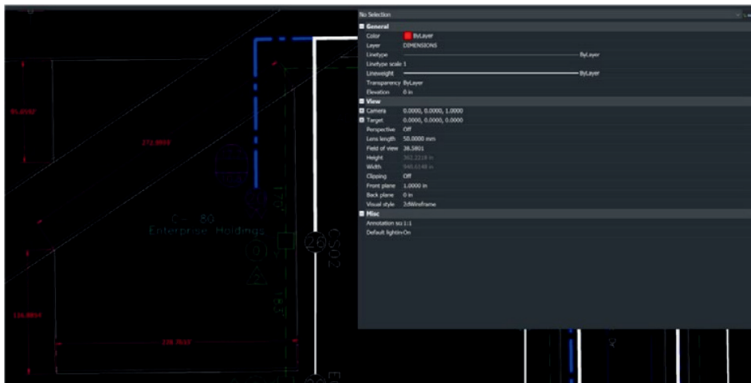
### BricsCAD® Compatibility

BricsCAD® offers the same core functionality, allowing you to open, edit, and plot drawings with ease. Many of your most frequently used commands remain familiar and function exactly as expected.

To evaluate BricsCAD's compatibility, open an existing drawing and observe that its appearance remains unchanged. If desired, you can open the same drawing in your previous CAD software for a direct comparison.

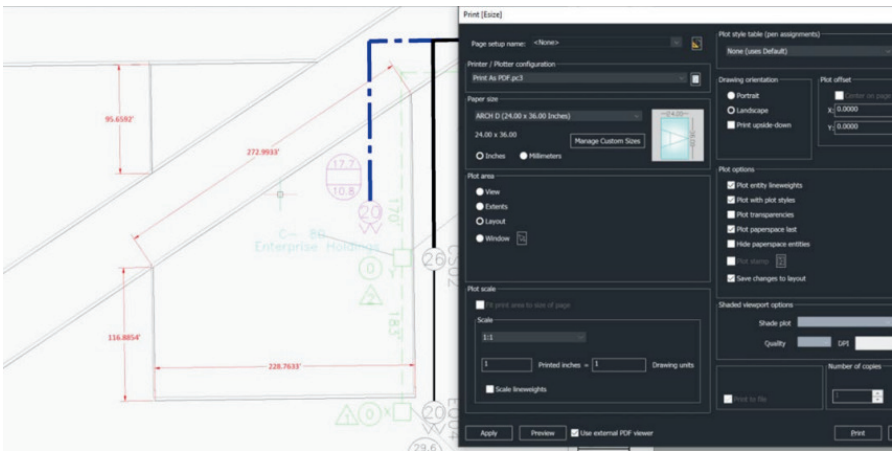



**Modify** entities within the existing drawing. Add text, insert blocks, draw linework, use snaps, check properties, and create dimensions just as you normally would.



Plot your drawing by using the PLOT command. Once you enter the command, the plot settings for your existing drawing will appear as defined.

You can plot to a folder location or directly to the plotter. Inspect the final output to validate that BricsCAD® plotting produces the expected results.



**This guide is to get you started with BricsCAD. It doesn't encompass every aspect of migration, other customisations, tools, development, and materials may also be needed.**

**For additional assistance and resources, please visit:**
https://www.bricsys.com/migrating-to-bricscad
https://lessons.bricsys.com/
https://www.bricsys.com

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# What CAD Professionals Say About Migrating to BricsCAD®

"Tasks that used to take one person approximately six to seven working days in our previous CAD platform are now completed in BricsCAD in less than two days, and with more confidence and accuracy."
**Ben Bentley, Senior Design and Technical Manager, TSL**

"Overnight, I was able to cut down the time it would take to create 2D documentation of a design from 3 hours to 5 minutes."
**Carl Jones, Design Engineer, Independent Design House**

"After 28 years of using AutoCAD®, following a quick and easy installation, we seamlessly transitioned more than 1000 users with various years of experience to BricsCAD. The users are located around the globe, and they made the switch with no additional training required."
**Lorelei Connors, CAD/Drafting Manager, Subsea 7**

"BricsCAD makes it easy to transition from other CAD software. That process went very smoothly."
**Technical Development Department at Nittetsu Texeng**

"The transition from AutoCAD® to BricsCAD is actually very easy: all commands are the same, and I can continue to use the .dwg files that I created with AutoCAD®. After a morning, you will get the hang of BricsCAD."
**Ben van Amersfoort, Owner Tekenbureau van Amersfoort**

"The first advantage of BricsCAD is its pricing, combined with the perpetual licensing. The second big advantage is BricsCAD's high compatibility with other CAD software and the data files made with them."
**Kunihiko Takemura, Technical Department General Manager, Takamiya**

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