

Configuration Guide for Multi-User Installation of AutoCAD Electrical

One: AutoCAD (Core) customization:

1. See: [About Customized File Locations](#) (Including all its sub-topics). Basically, all the paths that are mentioned under App > Options > Files tab. All of those paths can be configured to point to shared, network locations. Among them, the following might be the most related to users:
 - UI and ribbon customization files
 - Main path: "%Appdata%\Autodesk\AutoCAD Electrical {version}\{release}\{country code}\Support"
 - The **acad.cuix** contains the interface customization for the vanilla AutoCAD profile.
 - The **acade.cuix** contains the interface customization for the AutoCAD Electrical toolset profile.
 - Both are needed since the toolset loads the vanilla AutoCAD .cuix as a partial-customization file among other partial .cuix files.
 - Printer support configurations / Plotstyle tables
 - Main path: "%Appdata%\Autodesk\AutoCAD Electrical {version}\{release}\{country code}\Plotters"
 - Printer configuration files .PC3 can be shared among users as long as they all have the same driver version for the specific printer and in some case, same Windows version.
 - Some, plotters need .PMP file to save additional setting. Those are located in a PMP subfolder.
 - Plotstyle tables .CTB or .STB can be shared with no restrictions.
 - Drawing Templates
 - Default path: "%LocalAppData%\Autodesk\AutoCAD Electrical {version}\{release}\{country code}\Template"
 - The templates, .dwt files can be relocated with no restrictions.
 - Tool Palettes locations:
 - See: [How to share a common tool palette in AutoCAD products on a network drive?](#)
 - Font files will always be pulled from local machines. While .SHX font types can be added to the AutoCAD deployment so that they installed by the deployment on every user machine, true-type fonts (.TTF) must be installed manually under Windows\Fonts directly.
2. The customizations to the above parts of the program must be done on one of the computers > then the AutoCAD profile be saved as .ARG file. See: [How can I include a custom profile into a deployment?](#)
 - If needed, see: [Installation for administrators](#) for broader, admin-related installation and licenses. For more information, see: [Add fonts to AutoCAD network deployment image.](#)

Two: AutoCAD Electrical Toolset-specific customization:

METHOD A- Using Network Deployment

- See: [How to deploy AutoCAD Electrical with shared catalog content and libraries on a network drive?](#)

You can alternately install AutoCAD Electrical toolset databases, symbol libraries, part footprint files, and support files to a shared network location, so all users can work from a common standard database and simplifying database management and configuration.

You can create a deployment image to install in client systems. To start the network deployment,

1. Select Create Deployment in the AutoCAD Electrical toolset installation program.
 2. During deployment configuration, select the manufacturers and libraries to install.
 3. Check Shared Symbol Libraries and define the shared network path for the libraries.
 4. Check Shared Catalog Database and Support Files and define the shared network path for the catalog and other support files.
- See this short video about the deployment: [Shared symbol libraries and content files in AutoCAD Electrical 2022.](#)

Part 1 - Creating the Deployment

1. Create a custom Install with the type: Deployment from Autodesk Account > Custom Install
2. On the Add Product pane > under Customization section, do the following:
3. If you want to share the symbol libraries:
 - a. Check the 'Shared symbol libraries' checkbox in customizations section.
 - b. Specify the network path under the field 'Shared symbol libraries location' and add a backslash to its end:
 - Example: "**G:**\Acade\SharedLibs\" where **G:** is a mapped drive for a network folder like "\\Server\Programs\". (You need the trailing backslash).
4. If you want to share the catalog databases:
 - a. Check the 'Shared catalog database and support files' checkbox in customizations section.
 - b. Specify the network path under the field 'Shared support files location' and add a backslash to its end:
 - Example: "**G:**\Acade\SharedContent\" where **G:** is a mapped drive for a network folder like "\\Server\Programs\". (You need the trailing backslash).
5. Click Next to move to the Install Settings part.
6. On the Install Settings pane, choose Deployment.
 - a. Specify a package name and a package description for the deployment.
 - b. Specify a deployment image path as default. (After the image is extracted, it can be relocated if needed).
 - c. Agree to the User Terms to proceed.
7. Click Download to download the deployment creator EXE file.

Part 2 - Deployment Image Preparation on The Network Drive (by IT Admin)

1. Double-click the EXE file to start download the product with all these deployment settings.
 - The specified folder for the deployment image during the creation process on Autodesk Account need to be empty before running the EXE to download the installation package.
 2. Once the image is extracted, navigate in the created subfolders to:
 - ".\image\ACAD_E_2022_en-US\x64\en-US\Acade\acadecontentlp" (example for en-US deployment).
 3. Right-click the BAT file called "AceSharedContentPacker.bat" and choose "Run as administrator".
 - a. This will extract the shared content into the deployment image for now. A folder with the name: ".\shared-content" will be created in the same location mentioned above.
 - b. Open the "shared-content" folder and copy the subfolder called "**Libs**". Then paste it inside the location of the 'Shared symbol libraries' defined during the creation of the deployment.
 - c. Also copy the subfolder called "**AeData**" and paste it inside the location of the 'Shared catalog database and support files' during the creation of the deployment.
- At this time, the deployment is ready to be installed by users.

Important:

- The image needs to be deployed by an Administrator user.
- The users should have access to the location of the shared content prior to installation. They will be able to access the content directly after the installation. There is no need to copy this shared content for users.

Part 3 - Install from User's Machine

1. Install the product from the image located from its specified folder during the creation of the deployment.
 - a. It is called "**Install <specifiedname>.bat**" file - where "<specifiedname>" is the name specified for the deployment.
2. The product is ready to use, and it is configured to work with the shared content.

General notes for this method:

- Since the content is now located on a shared network drive, the latency for accessing the files from the network drive might become noticeable.
- You cannot create a network deployment after installing AutoCAD Electrical toolset as a stand-alone program on individual machines.

METHOD B- Sharing files.

- See: [About Setting Up AutoCAD Electrical Toolset for Multiple Users](#)

You can manually move any shared files to a new central location after installation by using normal Microsoft Windows operations to cut or copy and paste from their local location to a central shared location.

The following shared files can be pasted from your local machine to a shared location.

The table lists the *file names*, *default location*, and *any WD.ENV file lines* that must be modified.

The main executables and static support files are located under
C:\Program Files\Autodesk\AutoCAD {version}\Acade\

The user-modifiable support files and database content are found under
C:\Users\{username}\AppData\Roaming\Autodesk\AutoCAD Electrical {version}\{release}\{country code}\

Note: It is not required that you share these files, but sharing makes it easier for multiple users to work with projects in AutoCAD Electrical toolset.

Databases

File Names	Default Location	Relevant lines in the WD.ENV file
default_cat.mdb, footprint_lookup.mdb, schematic_lookup.mdb, wd_lang1.mdb, wd_picklist.mdb, wddinrl.xls, ace_electrical_standards.mdb	C:\Users\{username}\Documents \Acade {version}\AeData\{language code}\Catalogs	<i>Original</i> <i>path: WD_CAT,%WD_DIR%/catalogs/,AE</i> catalog file path <i>Edited</i> <i>path: WD_CAT,N:Electrical/Shared_Files/Cat</i> alogs/,AE catalog file path

Note: All these files must be kept in the same location since the program locates them according to the same WD.ENV file entry.

Symbol Libraries

File Names	Default Location	Relevant lines in the WD.ENV file
ieee, jic1, jic125, iec- 60617, iec2, iec4, jis2, gb2, panel, pneu_iso12 5	C:\Users\Public\Documents\Autodesk\Acade {version}\Libs	> <i>See the notes below!</i> SETQ:GBL_WD_BASELIBS,N:/custom/path/Libs, custom symbol library subfolder

Notes:

- The symbol library path is stored with each project in its .wdp file and must be modified.

- There is a default symbol library path, which is used for resetting to paths to current default. The path is:
 - "C:\Users\Public\Documents\Autodesk\Acade 20xx\Libs\"
 - Inside the WD.ENV file, it is referred to with non-modifiable: %SL_DIR%. But it can be overridden by the GBL_WD_BASELIBS global variable, adding the following line to the WD.ENV:
 - **SETQ:GBL_WD_BASELIBS,N:/custom/path/Libs**, custom symbol library subfolder

Circuit Builder Spreadsheet

File Names	Default Location	Relevant lines in the WD.ENV file
ace_circuit_builder.xls	C:\Users\Public\Documents\Autodesk\Acade {version}\Support\{language code}	<p><i>Original file</i> <i>name:</i> WD_CIRCBUILDER_FNAM,"ace_circuit_builder.xls",Circuit Builder spreadsheet file name</p> <p><i>Edited</i> <i>name:</i> WD_CIRCBUILDER_FNAM,"my_ace_circuit_builder.xls",Circuit Builder spreadsheet file name</p>

Icon Menus (Insert Component Menus)

File Names	Default Location	Relevant lines in the WD.ENV file
ACE_AS_MENU.DAT, ACE_GB_MENU.DAT, ACE_HYD_MENU.DAT, ACE_IEC_MENU.DAT, ACE_IEC-60617_MENU.DAT, ACE_IEEE_MENU.DAT, ACE_JIC_MENU.DAT, ACE_JIS_MENU.DAT, ACE_PANEL_MENU.DAT, ACE_PID_MENU.DAT, ACE_PNEU_MENU.DAT	%Appdata%\Autodesk\AutoCAD Electrical {version}\{release}\{country code}\Support	

Note: The menu path is stored with each project in its .wdp file and must be modified.

Slide Images

File Names	Default Location	Relevant lines in the WD.ENV file
ACE_GB.slb, ACE_GB.dll, ACE_JIS.slb, ACE_JIS.dll, ace_as.slb, ace_as.dll, ace_hyd.slb, ace_hyd.dll, ace_pid.slb,	%Appdata%\Autodesk\AutoCAD Electrical {version}\{release}\{country code}\Support	<p><i>Original path:</i> <i>*WD_SLB,x:some path/, to override path pointing to ".slb" slide lib support files</i></p> <p><i>Edited</i> <i>path:</i> WD_SLB,N:/Electrical/Shared_Files/Slides/, to override path pointing to ".slb" slide lib support files</p>

ace_pid.dll, bb.slb, iec1.slb, iec.dll, loc2.slb, pn0.slb, pn0.dll, pn1.slb, pn1.dll, pn2.slb, pn2.dll, pn3.slb, pn3.dll, pnl2.slb, pnl2.dll, pnl.slb, pnl.dll, s1.slb, s1.dll, s2.slb, s2.dll, Ww.slb		
S_LDPC.SLB, WD_LOCAL.SLB, WDSIG.SLB, WDSIG_1.SLB, gepb.slb	C:\Program Files\Autodesk\AutoCAD {version}\Acade\Support\{language code}	> same as above!

Note: For the path in the .env file to be recognized, the asterisk (*) in front of the line must be removed. These slide files may be relocated using this path, or they can just be placed in the same location as the menu files.

PLC Database and Images

File Names	Default Location	Relevant lines in the WD.ENV file
Content of PLC folder (ace_plc.mdb and bitmap files)	C:\Users\{username}\Documents\Acade {version}\AeData\{language code}\PLC	

Note: These files must be in a location that is specified as an AutoCAD Support path. They can be placed in a location that is already defined as being a support path, or you can add a new support path pointing to this location.

Description Selection List

File Names	Default Location	Relevant lines in the WD.ENV file
wd_desc.wdd	%Appdata%\Autodesk\AutoCAD Electrical {version}\{release}\{country code}\Support	

Note: This file must be in a location that is specified as an AutoCAD Support path. It can be placed in a

location that is already defined as being a support path, or you can add a new support path pointing to this location.

Installation, Location Code Selection Lists

File Names	Default Location	Relevant lines in the WD.ENV file
default.inst, default.loc	<p>Optional files, are not supplied as part of the installation.</p> <p>To create in Notepad, create a file with the project name and an <i>.inst</i> or <i>.loc</i> extension and save to an AutoCAD Support path so the program can find it.</p> <p>To create a file used by all projects, save it as "default.inst" or "default.loc".</p>	

Note: These files must be in a location that is specified as an AutoCAD Support path. They can be placed in a location that is already defined as being a support path, or you can add a new support path pointing to this location.

Additional, related topics to AutoCAD Electrical files:

- Referencing icon menus from other menu files
 - You can also share custom symbols to be accessed by multiple users. The easiest way to do this is to create and link to your own menu file. You can set up AutoCAD Electrical toolset's icon menu system so that you can switch back and forth from the default menu file (such as ACE_JIC_menu.dat) to your own menu (for example "special_menu.dat").
 - [To Add a Link to a Custom Icon Menu](#)
- Information about the related files
 - [About Project Related Files](#)
 - [About the WD.ENV File](#)

Network type:

Consider a network setup, where all the project users have read and write rights and the latency is as low as possible. Here is more information about supported networks:

- [Autodesk support for non-Microsoft networks](#)
- [Autodesk support for Distributed File System \(DFS\)](#)