How to Take Advantage of A360 Drive WEB, Mobile, and A360 Desktop Sync with AutoCAD

Bud Schroeder – Autodesk Inc.

This class will cover the uses of the A360 cloud services-based products including A360 and A360 Drive. We will look at the A360 Drive Sync service and discuss how to use it with AutoCAD, and AutoCAD LT software. We will cover syncing your files as well as your customization. Do you need to sync everything, or just specific files? We will also look at the A360 Drive web app and how it ties to the A360 Drive Desktop Sync service, and we'll discover how to upload files without using the A360 Drive Sync service. Last but not least, we will go over the Autodesk 360 mobile app and how you can use it to view your files in the field and collaborate with others. At the end of this class you will have a much better understanding of each of these features, and you'll know when you really need to use them, or not use them.

Class ID: AC6217

Learning Objectives

At the end of this class, you will be able to:

- What is A360 and A360 Drive

- Learn about A360 Drive Sync software and figure out if you need to sync everything

- Learn about the A360 Drive web app and discover if you need the A360 Drive Desktop Sync service to use it

- Learn about the A360 mobile app and how it can be used it to view your files

- Learn about the A360 platform and gain a greater understanding of the cloud

About the Speaker

Bud is a Senior Customer Success Engineer for Autodesk Inc.and has been with Autodesk since 1997. Before joining Autodesk, Bud was a CAD Manager/IT Manager for a Power Utility in Northern California. Started using AutoCAD with version 2.6 and before that used drawing boards. Bud spent the first 15 years working on the AutoCAD Team as a Senior Test Engineer and is currently working on the Autodesk Cloud Team as a Senior Customer Success Engineer. You can also find Bud on the discussion boards for Autodesk as well as running the Autodesk Mobile BETA Programs for Autodesk 360. Bud can be reached on eMAIL at…

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What is A360 and A360 Drive:

Let's start out by talking about what A360 and A360 Drive are. To do that lets go back to Autodesk University last year. The Cloud Platform Team was at AU showing off a very cool new tool and it was being called the "Tech Preview" Many people signed up for it here at AU and many more signed up for it after AU. That was the pre curser for a product that we released in September called A360.   A team based collaboration site that uses Project to share with other team and even non team members.   This is the current direction that Autodesk is heading with cloud based collaboration.

Before the Tech Preview we had a Cloud collaboration based option and it was called "Autodesk 360"   That has since been re-named and re branded to A360 Drive. Included in A360 Drive is also A360 Drive Desktop Sync component. Sync will allow you to do just that. Sync your files to the A360 Drive web site.   We will get into more detail on this later on in the paper and the AU Class.   A360 Drive is also a collaboration site, but it's designed for a single user and is file based rather than project based. The Desktop Sync Client is designed to work with AutoCAD 2013 and forward. It also works with AutoCAD based vertical products and with Inventor.

The other difference between A360 Drive and A360 is that the Desktop Sync client only works with A360 Drive.

How do I get to A360 Drive?
http://360.autodedsk.com

How do I get to A360?
http://autodesk360.com

The key difference between A360 Drive and A360 is that one is file and folder based, while the other is Project and collaboration based.

Learn about A360 Drive Sync software and figure out if you need to sync everything:

Starting with AutoCAD 2013 there has been the ability to sync your drawings and your customization to the A360 WEB Site. Sync used with AutoCAD will let you sync drawings and also customization.   By default sync is turned off when you first install AutoCAD. You will get prompted to enable it the first time you log in.   Once it's enabled, then you can make changes to what is synced.   The first place you can make changes to what gets synced to A360 Drive is in the options dialog. Type "OP" at the command line to bring up the options dialog, and then click on the Online TAB.
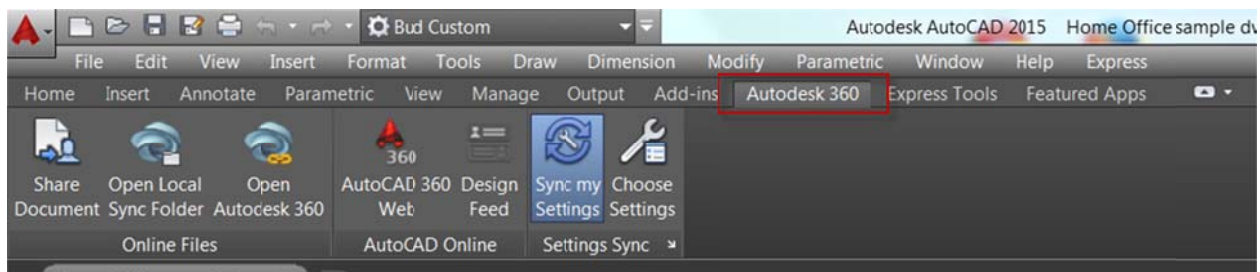
TIP: If you are not logged into A360 you will not be able to make changes to what gets synced.
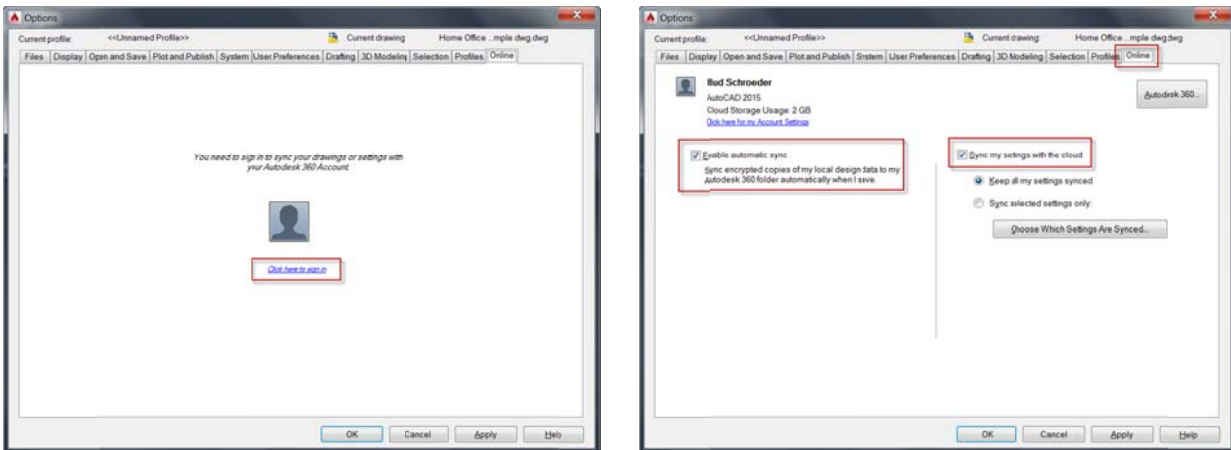
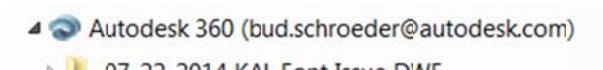You can find the A360 Sign In in the upper right hand corner of AutoCAD.
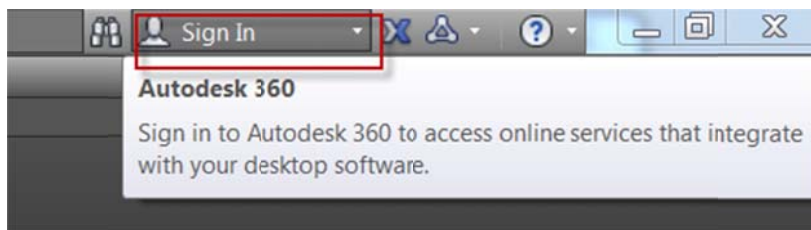
Once signed in you will also see there is an A360 Ribbon panel.

***TIP:** If you role your mouse over each Ribbon icon, you will get a rollover tip that tells you what each feature does.*

Sync will create a drive folder that shows up in your Explorer Window.

If you click the "Share Document" in the ribbon, you can share files with coworkers or clients right from inside of AutoCAD.   When you click this, it will bring up the file navigation dialog so

that you can select the drawing that you want to share. That brings up the share dialog. First add the eMAIL address of the person you want to share with, then select the right s you want to share the file with. You have four options. View Document, View & Download document, View, Download & Update document and Full Access.
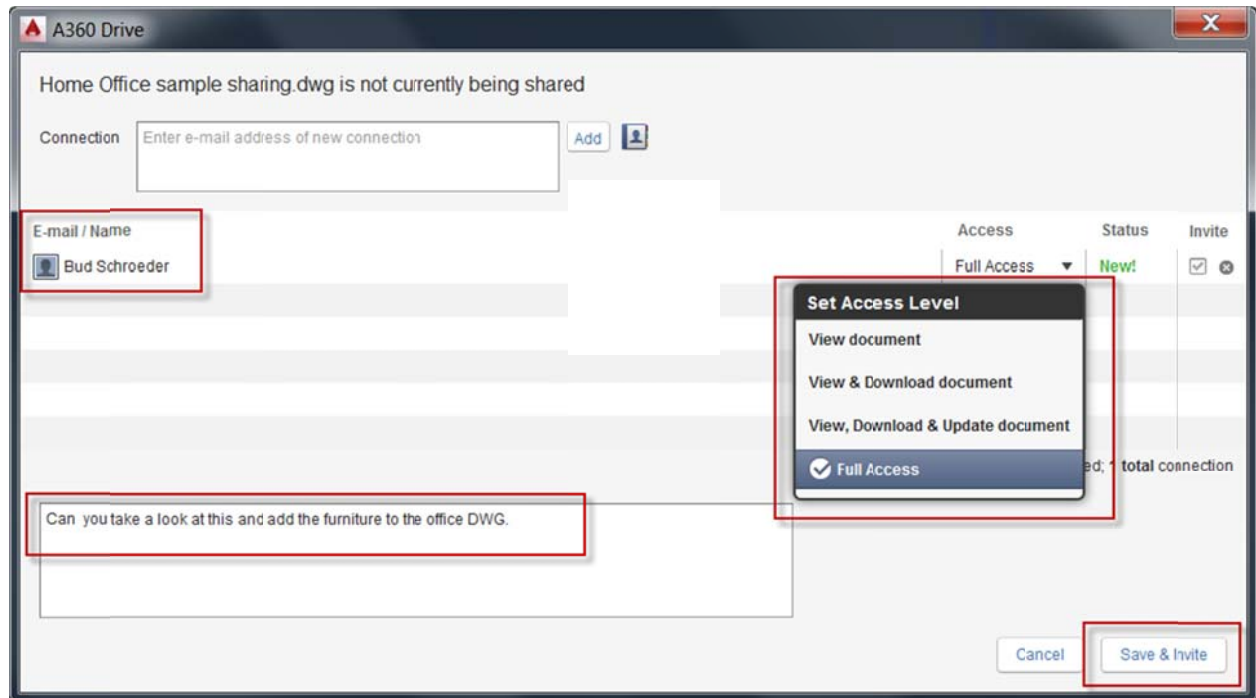

Once you select the person and click Save and Send, you will get a confirmation dialog that the invite was sent.
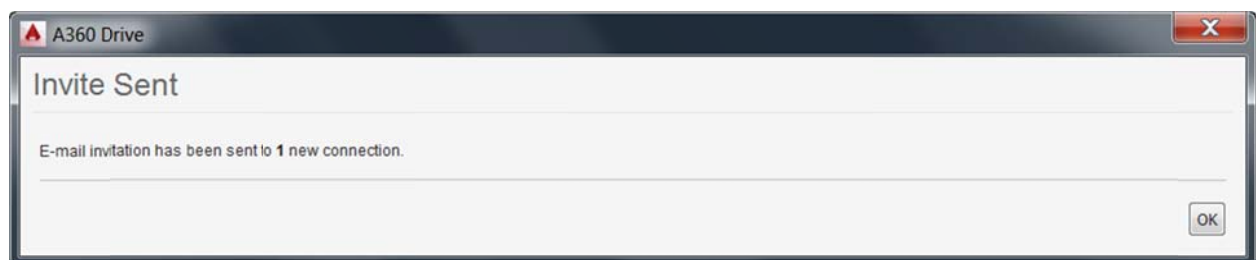

These files are first saved in the A360 Drive folder, and then uploaded to the A360 Drive WEB Site.

TIP: When sharing a file with someone it's a good idea to add a comment to let them know what the share is for. In this case I put in a note letting Bud know I wanted him to add furniture to the Office drawing.

Here is what the shared eMAIL looks like.
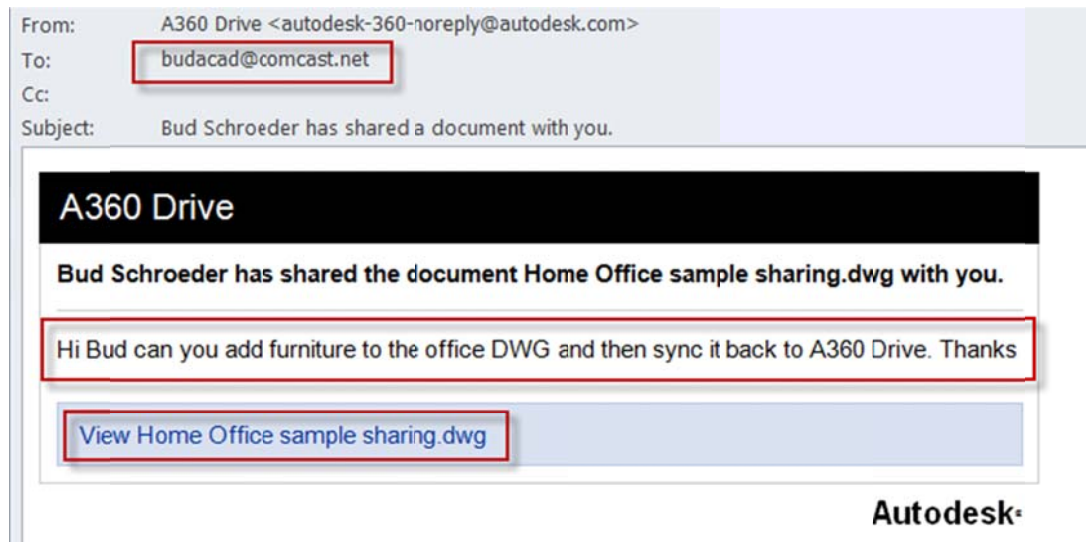
Now let's take a look at the A360 Drive site and see that our Office Drawing shows up.
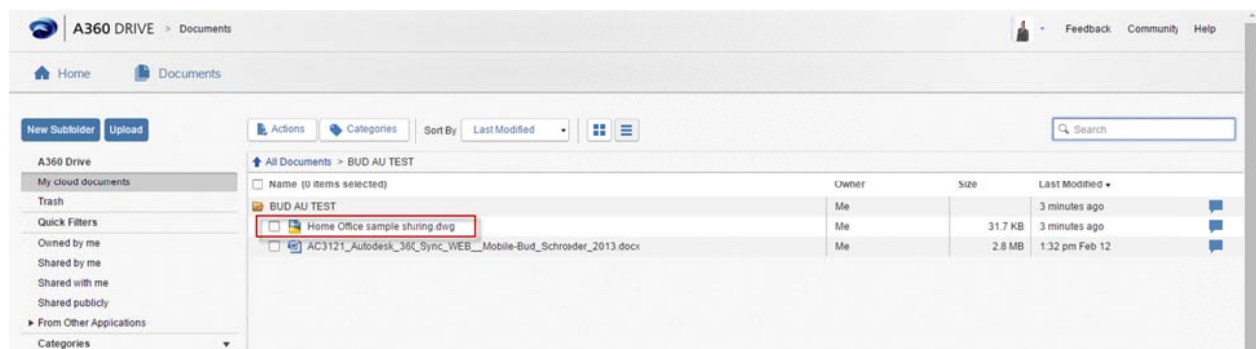

So now we have shown you how to sync and share a drawing, let's take a look at the options on how to sync your files from inside of AutoCAD.

Bring up the Options dialog and click on the Online TAB. Note that you can break the Online TAB into two options. The left side is for drawing files and the right side is for customization. We will talk more about the customization later on. If you want to automatically sync any drawings that you are working on and saving them make sure that the "Enable automatic sync" option. My recommendation is at least while you are getting used to using the sync feature that you uncheck this. That way only files that you specifically save to the cloud get saved there.
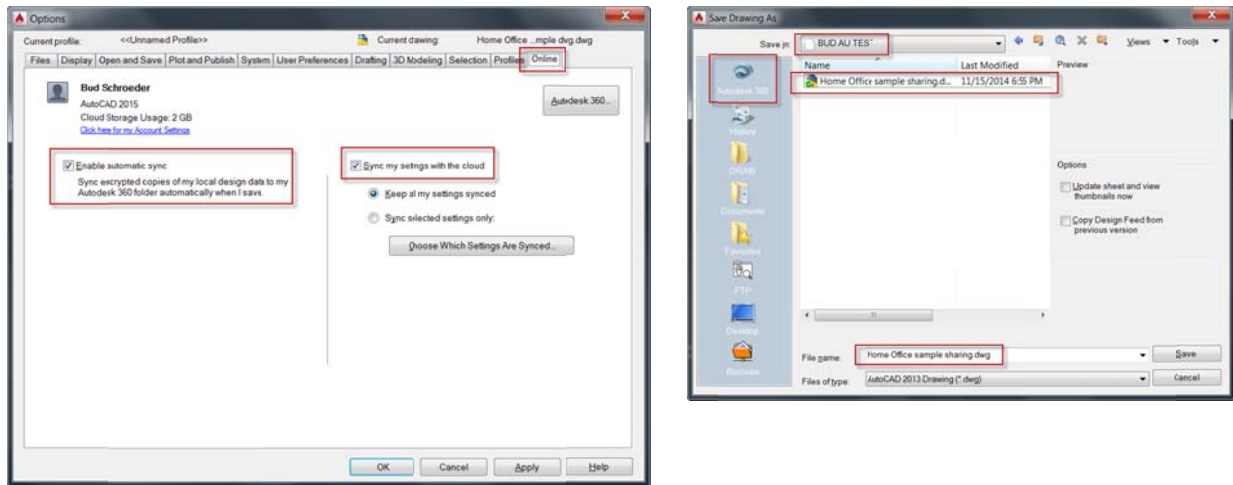
If you decide to use the "Enable Automatic sync" feature then anything that you work on in AutoCAD and save will get saved to the cloud. But in this case it gets saved to an "Automatic Copy" folder.

TIP: If you are working from multiple computers then you will see the C _DRIVE(Computer name) for each computer that you are logging into sync with.
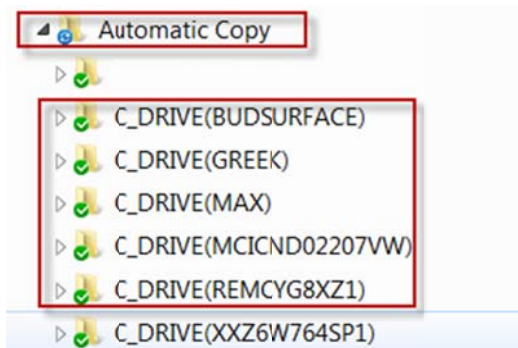
Now let's take a look at the Customization sync. In the options dialog you can make changes, or let A360 sync all the customization on your system. NOTE that you will not be able to see this on the A360 site, but the files are synced.

TIP: when syncing customization sometimes you don't see everything on the second system. Typically that is because not everything has completed syncing. Be sure to give it some time to let all the files sync.

The main idea behind the Customization Sync is that you can use it to share your customization between the office and home. Or maybe you have a desktop for the office and a

laptop you use when on the road or going out in the field.   What Customization Sync was not intended for is sharing customization between coworkers, it's really meant to be used by the same person between systems.

What does Customization Sync actually sync? If you have ever used the Export and or Import Settings, it works just like that except for saving this customization to the cloud.   It saves your menus, PGP, LIN, PAT, PMP, PC3, Tool Palettes, Templates, and settings in the options dialog that are not saved in the drawing file. You can also sync custom fonts, shape files and line types. But you will need to restart AutoCAD after syncing these files before they will show up.

TIP: In the options dialog you see the DWG icon next to a lot of the options. This is to show you that this is not saved in the registry, but in the DWG.

You can also change what gets synced. From the Options dialog, you can uncheck multiple settings.
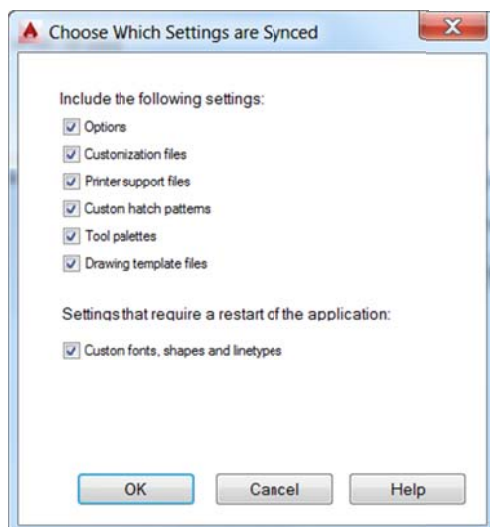
So next I am going to make some basic changes to AutoCAD. I'm going to change the background to white, crosshairs to red, command line to blue and command line text to white. In other words you're classic AutoCAD Release 12. Once you make these changes, you will see a bubble notification letting you know that the settings are being uploaded to A360 Drive.

Here is a screen shot showing AutoCAD how it was installed. The second screen shot shows the customization synced from A360 Drive back to AutoCAD. Notice the screen is white; the command line is blue with white text.   This is just a quick example of how this works.
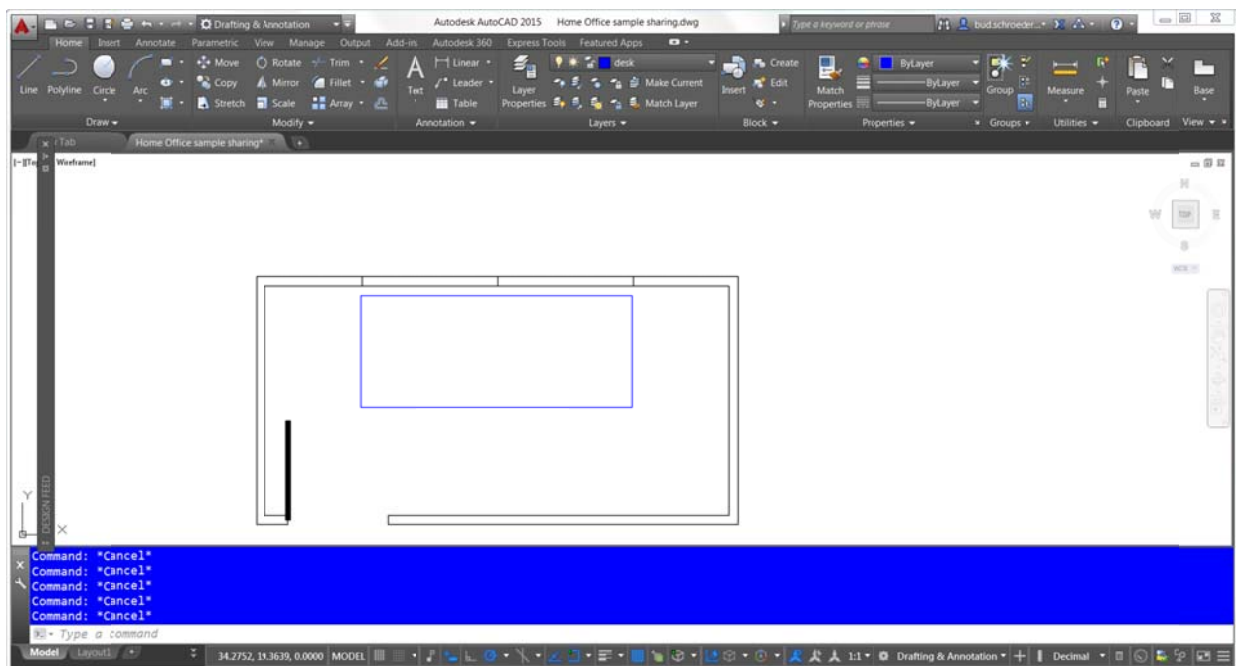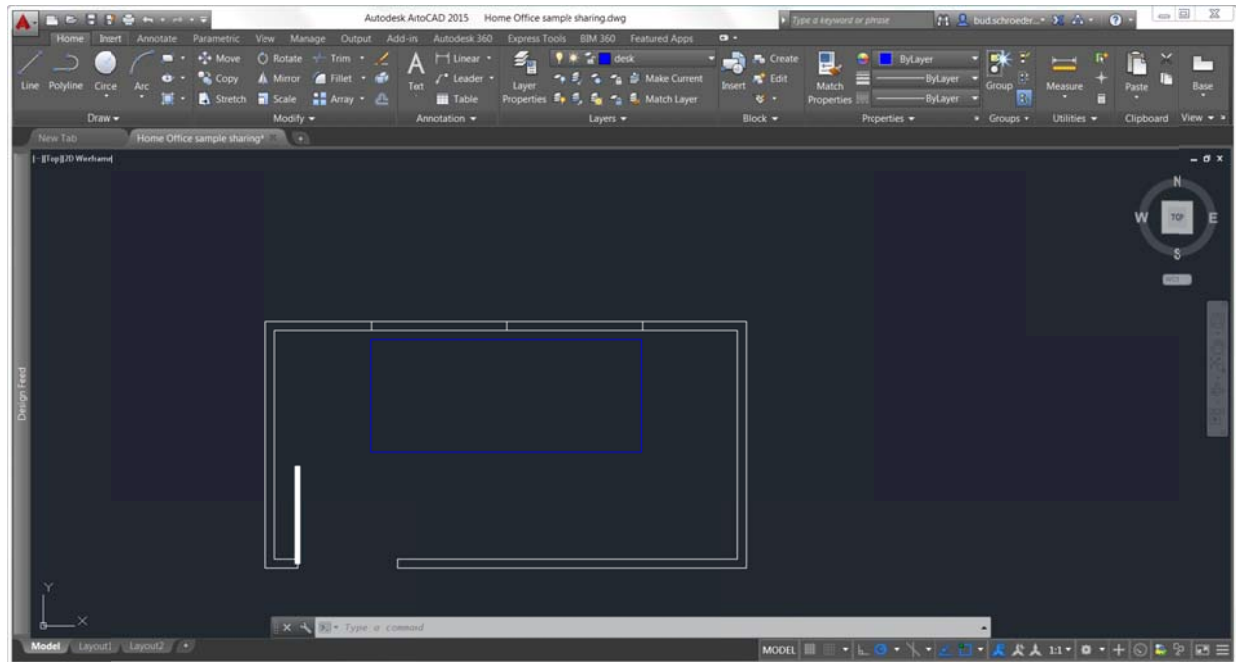
So we have covered both drawing and customization sync and how it works. Now why would you want to want to use the sync feature instead of just dragging and dropping your files to A360 Drive.   With the sync feature, any reference files will get uploaded to A360 Drive along

with the parent drawing.   If you use drag and drop to upload your files to A360 Drive, it will not know how to find your reference files.

Last but not least there are some controls in A360 Drive Sync that you can get to from your computer's system tray.   Right click on the Sync icon and you will see a menu. It has multiple options.   Sync now, Open Autodesk 360 Drive, Launch Autodesk 360 web, Pause sync, Preferences, Help and Exit.
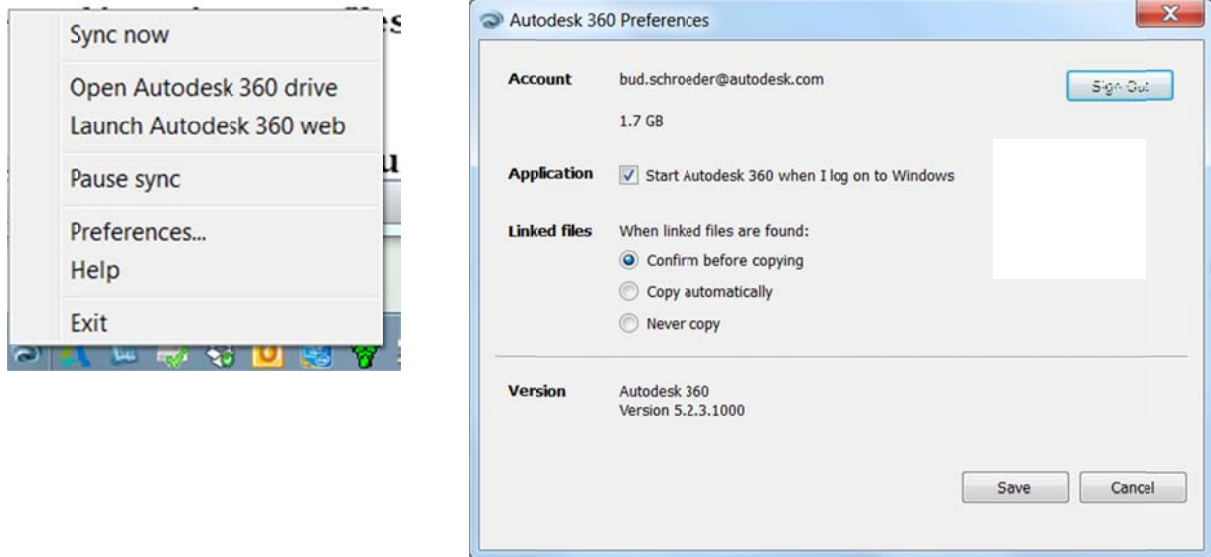
You can use this right click menu for multiple things. For example you may want to force a sync. Just click on the Sync now option. You may also want to pause sync while working on something and then sync now once you are done.

If you click on Preferences… you will see more options about sync including what version you are running. Also if you are trouble shooting any sync related issues, you can uncheck the "Start Autodesk 360 when I log on to Windows".

Learn about the A360 Drive web app and discover if you need the A360 Drive Desktop Sync service to use it:

We looked at the desktop sync and how to use it, now let's take a look at A360 Drive and how that works. Also how you can use it without using sync. You can get to A360 Drive by going to the following URL.

http://360.autodesk.com

TIP: *If you have both A360 and A360 Drive, you can use the same Autodesk ID to access both.*

A360 Drive is a collaboration site that is based on file and folder sharing. It's also designed as an individual site, that will let you share files and folders. The first time you log into A360 Drive you will see a getting started panel. On the left side pane there are multiple tips. Getting Started Now, Online Viewing, Sharing Documents and Folders, Folders and Categories, Edit Documents Online, and last but not least Try A360. If you are new to A360 Drive be sure to check these out.
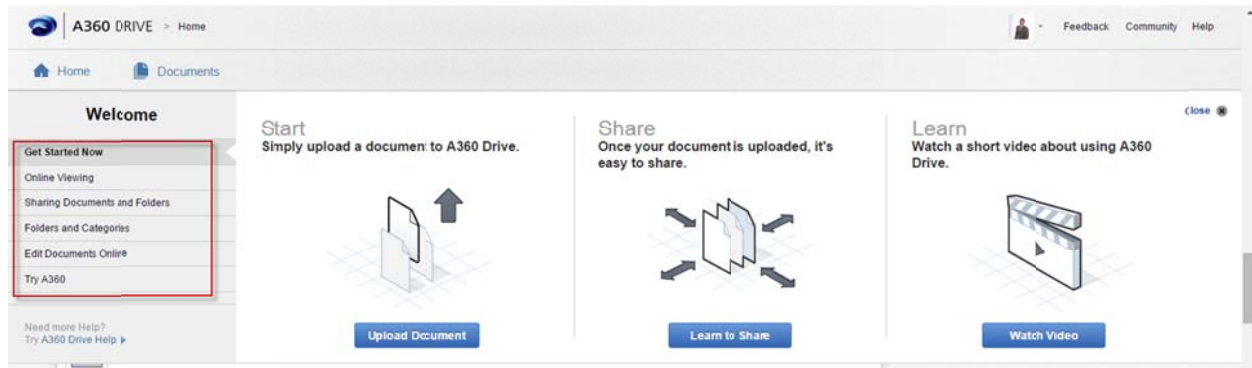
TIP: *If you close the tip window, you can bring it back up by clicking help and selecting settings Then select Getting Started.*
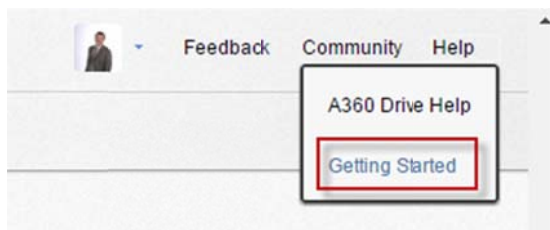
Now let's take a look at how to navigate A360 Drive. There are two panels at the top. First row is A360 Drive, and Home. You can click on either one of these to get back to the home view.
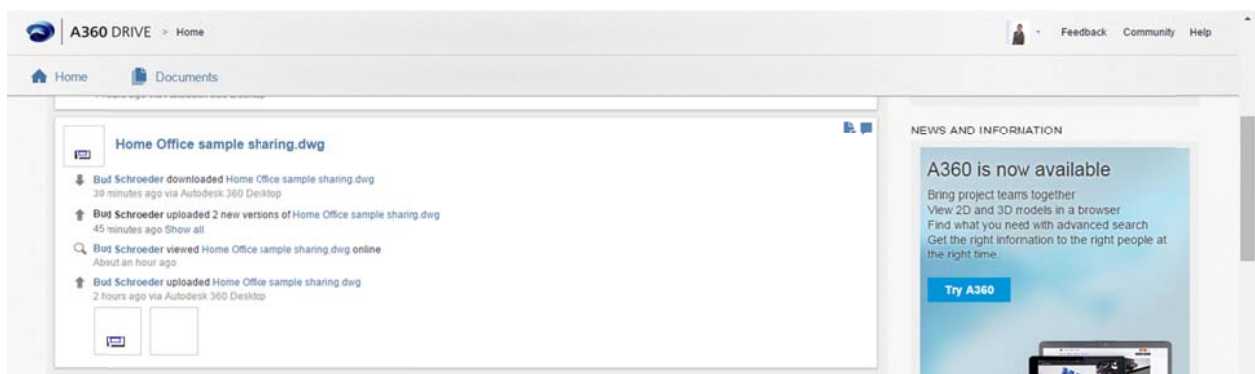

Next we have your profile photo, Feedback Community and Help. If you click on your photo, it will let you go to your profile and sing out of A360 Drive. Click on Feedback and this will take you to the A360 Drive forum to post a message.

http://forums.autodesk.com/t5/forums/postpage/board-id/203

If you click on Community, that will take you to the A360 forums landing page.

http://forums.autodesk.com/t5/a360-drive/ct-p/201

There are two forums.   A360 Drive General Discussion and A360 Drive IdeaStation. General Discussion is where you would post questions on A360 Drive or share general feedback. The IdeaStation is where you can post ideas for new features or enhancements on existing features. Be sure to look at the existing ideas first to see if your idea is already posted. If it is, you can add comments as well as kudos. We look at these ideas all the time to see what we can add to new updates to 360.
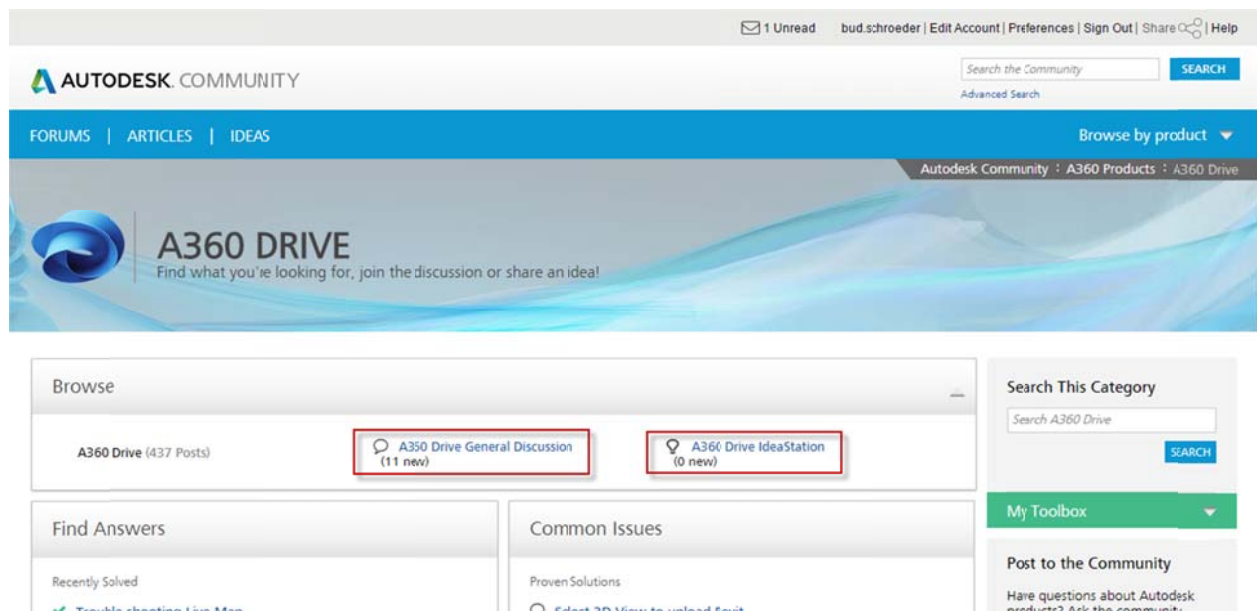

The second pane has two options, Home and Documents. Home will take you back to the main screen when you logged in. Documents will display all the documents that are on your A360 site. When you click on documents, you will change the view to show the folders and files in your A360 Drive account.
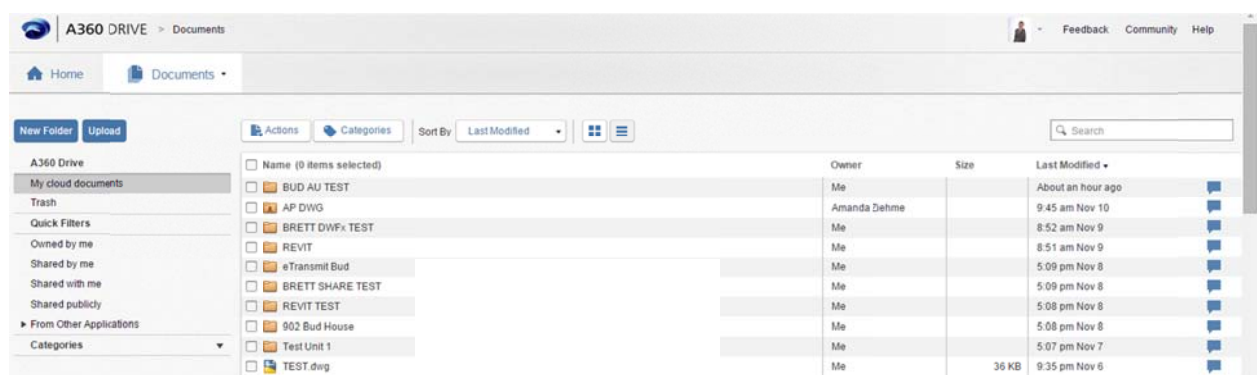
Once you are in the document view there are multiple options. On the top row of the document view are multiple options. New Folder, Upload, Actions, Categories, Last Modified. With these options you can create a new folder and then upload files to that folder.   Actions will allow you to do multiple things, but you need to select a file or folder first. Once you select one of these the dropdown will show a lot of options including sharing files just like we did above in AutoCAD. You can also download the file, modify it and then upload a new version.   If you use AutoCAD 360, you can also use the "Edit Online in AutoCAD 360"

TIP: Upload a few test files and try these different actions to get comfortable with how they work.
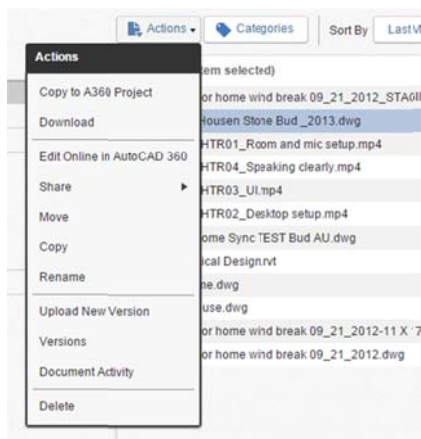
Continuing across the top, you can click on Categories. Note that there will not be any categories unless you create them. You can create custom categories that will allow you to sort your files based on these categories. You could create a category that represents a specific project. Then you can sort n these categories later.
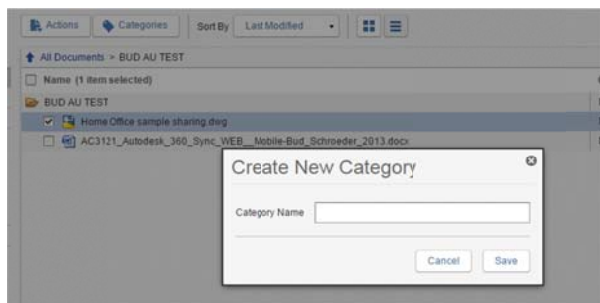

Next we can change the type of view. The default is list view and you can switch this to thumbnail view. All the way to the left is the search box. You can use this to search for specific files. For example if you know your drawing name, or folder name, you can search that way.

So now we have a basic idea of the navigation of A360 Drive, so let's take a look at uploading files.

TIP: *For the best experience with A360 Drive you want to use Chrome or Firefox. Note that the latest version of Safari also works. You can use Internet Explorer, but it will not allow you to view 3D files. So Chrome or Firefox are your best option.*

Let's create a folder and upload a file. Note that you should always create folder and upload your files to that folder. It will make it simpler to find the files if you start adding a lot of files to the A360 Drive. Click on the "New Subfolder" button and create a folder.
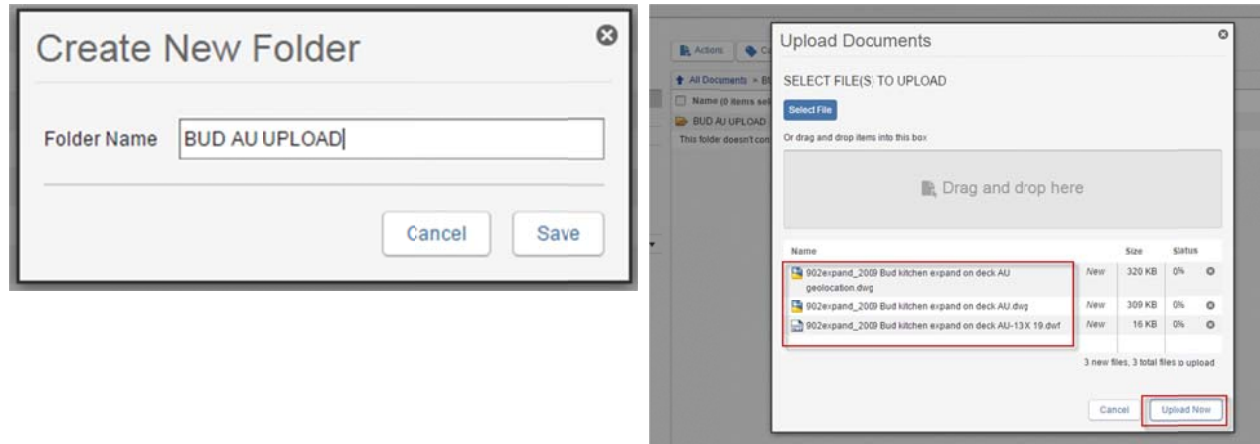
Using Chrome or Firefox you can drag and drop the files onto A360 Drive. First I created a new folder, and then uploaded 3 files to the folder. Notice that the drawing icons have blue circles on them. That is to show you that the files are still translating so that they can be viewed online. Once the blue icons clear you can now click on the file and view it.

Once the viewer opens up you can see Sheets, Properties, Views, Layers and Comments. There are also Actions like above, Categories and new in this view is Comments. This is where people you are sharing the files with can add comments about the file.
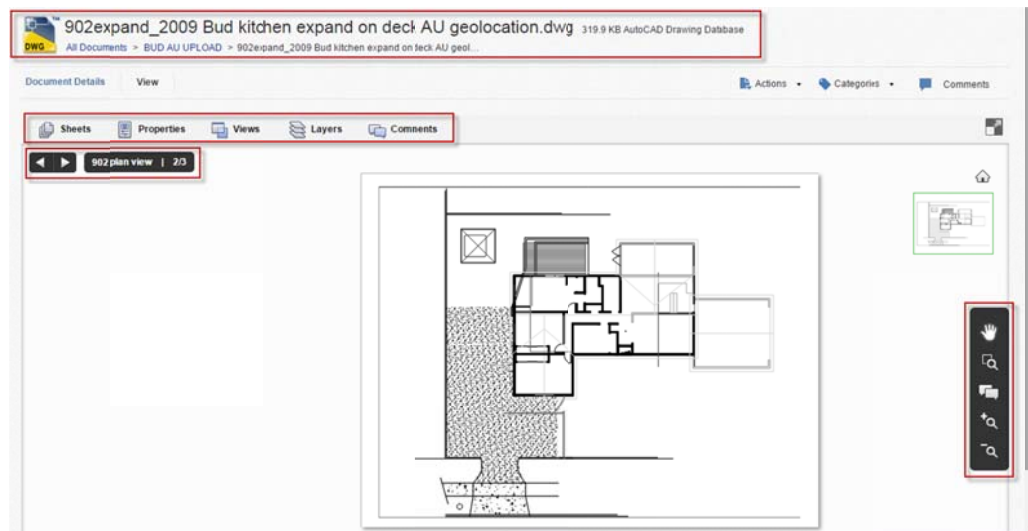
You can also click on "Document Details" where you can share the file including a public share. If you need someone to be able to access this file and they don't have an Autodesk A360 account, you can use Public Share. Note that this only works on individual files. You also see the recent activity of the file. Note that if you are using A360 Desktop Sync client, you may see activity that shows syncing between the desktop and A360 Drive web site.   There are more options here, so be sure to use those test drawings to explore all the options in this view.

We also have something that we added not too long ago. "Copy to A360" What this does is allow you to copy this file to the new A360 account.

http://autodesk360.com

Note that this is not linked, so if you make changes to a file on A360 it will not be linked back to A360 Drive.

That is a very basic overview of A360 Drive and how you can use it without using the sync client.

Learn about the A360 mobile app and how it can be used it to view your files:

We have looked at how sync works, and how A360 Drive works. Now let's take a look at A360 Mobile.   There are two supported platforms for A360 Mobile.   iOS and Android. Both of these can be downloaded for free.

iTunes:

https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/id874184071

Google Play:

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.autodesk.a360

 The mobile version of A360 is a great way to view files in meetings, or on construction sites. The workflow is that you first upload the files to A360 Drive or A360, and then once you can view them on the WEB site, you will be able to view them on your mobile device. We are

continually adding new features to A360 so be sure to check that you have the latest version installed on our mobile device.

A360 Mobile emulates A360, so it's designed to look at Projects and data.   You can also view your A360 Drive files.   But for the best viewing experience you want to view the files from an A360 site.

http://autodesk360.com

Let's take a look at the layout of mobile. Once you sign in, you will see Activity, Projects, Data, Recent Data, and Offline Data.
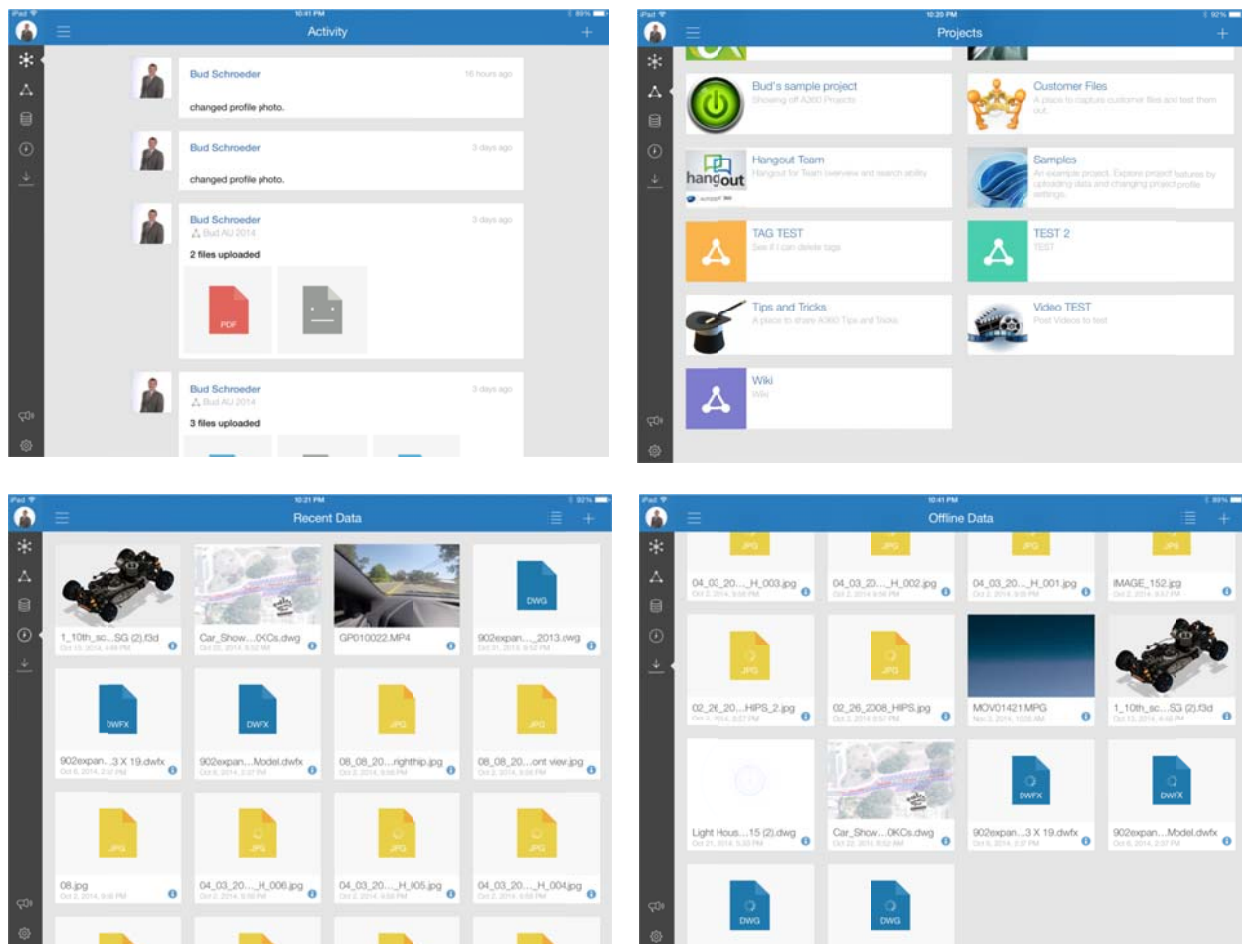
TIP: *If you know that you are going to be in a location that will not have internet access then view the files before you leave. That will download the files to your device so that you can view them offline.*

As you look down the left side toward the bottom, you will see Survey and Settings.   Be sure to take some time out to take the survey. The mobile team looks at this all the time and uses it to help us choose what new features to add going forward.   We also have Settings.
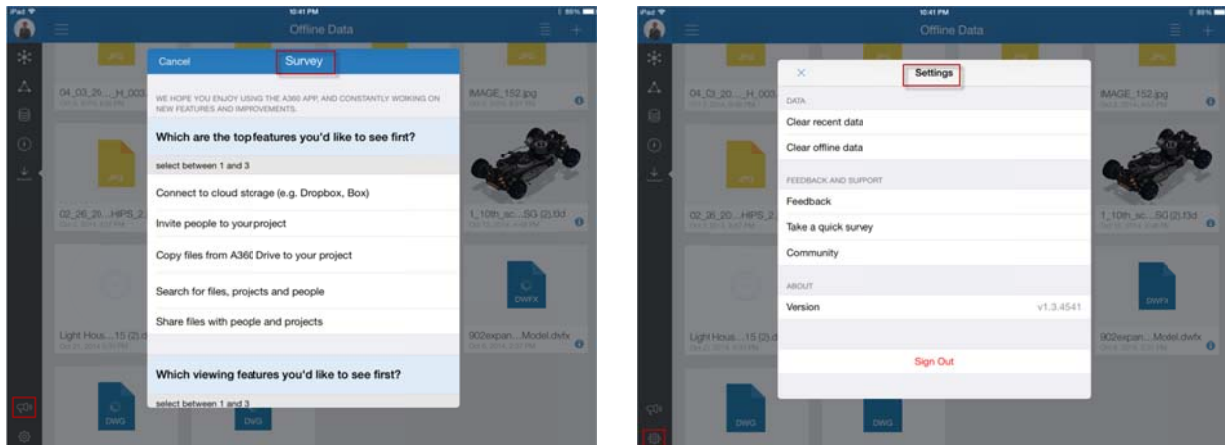
Here you can control data by clearing recent data as well as offline data. You can also send in feedback to the team. You also get another link to take the survey. Community will take you to the A360 General Discussion forum. Here are the direct links to both the General Discussion and the IdeaStation. In the IdeaStation you can post new ides as well as ideas on enhancements of existing ideas. As mentioned above, be sure to check the existing ideas to see if one of these is the same as your idea. Then add a comment and kudos so that we know you like it.

A360 General Discussion:

http://forums.autodesk.com/t5/a360-general-discussion/bd-p/205

A360 IdeaStation:

http://forums.autodesk.com/t5/a360-ideastation/idb-p/206

This is also where you can see the version of A360 Mobile as well as sign out of the mobile version.

Now let's take a look at the new LMV (Large Model Viewer). Here is the power of the mobile version. You can open up different file types both 2D and 3D. Let's take a look at a 3D model of a remote control car. You can use two finger gestures to rotate the model, zoom in and out. There is also a menu toolbar on the right hand side. You can change views if the drawing has them, and also isolate parts for viewing. Note that you can click on the parts in the list to isolate the parts, or if you don't know the part name, zoom in and select it, and isolate it that way. See screen shots below.

TIP: When isolating through the right side menu, the rest of the model dims. This makes it simpler to see what you have isolated in the drawing.
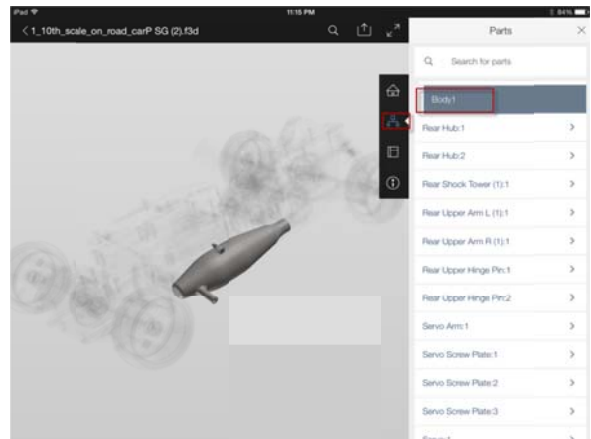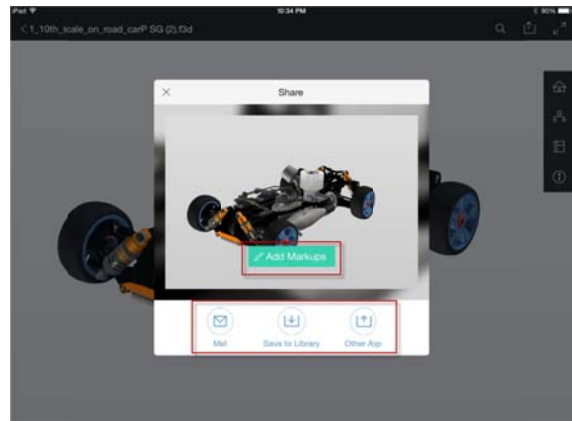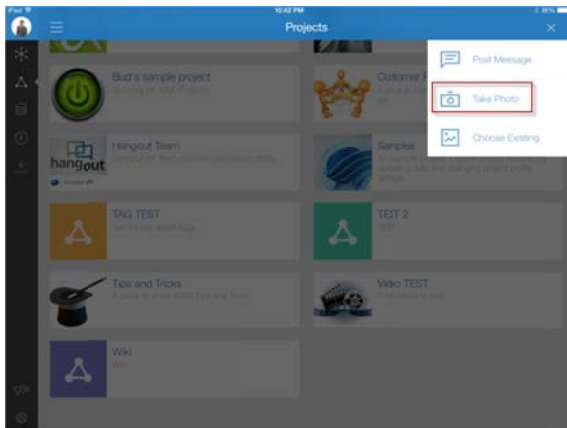
Zoom in on the head and exhaust spring. Then using your finger click on the spring, and notice the color changes. You have now selected the spring.
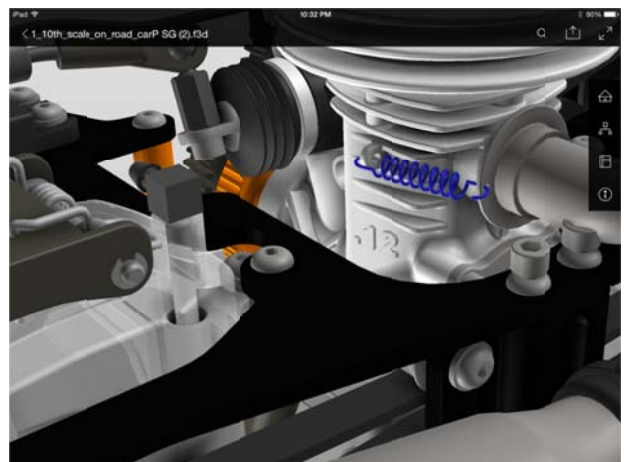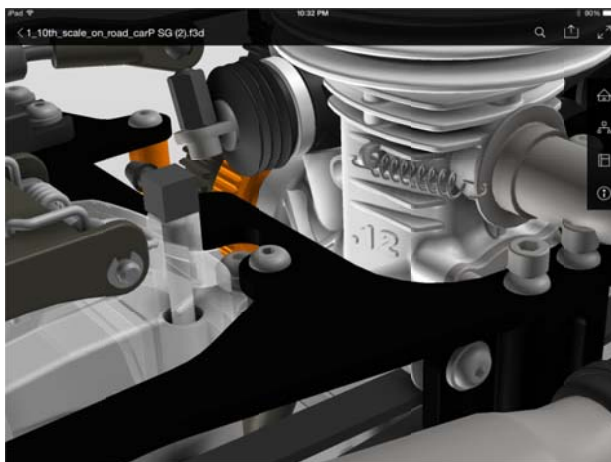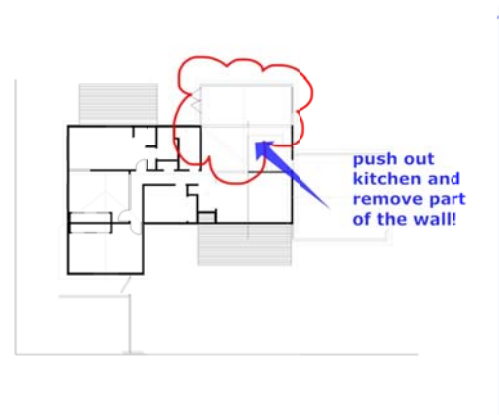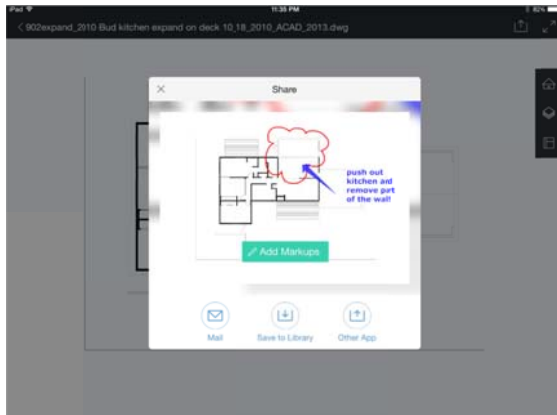

One of the new features recently added to A360 Mobile is the ability to take a photo, markup that photo and then upload it to A360. You can also take a screen shot of a drawing you have open and mark it up as well.
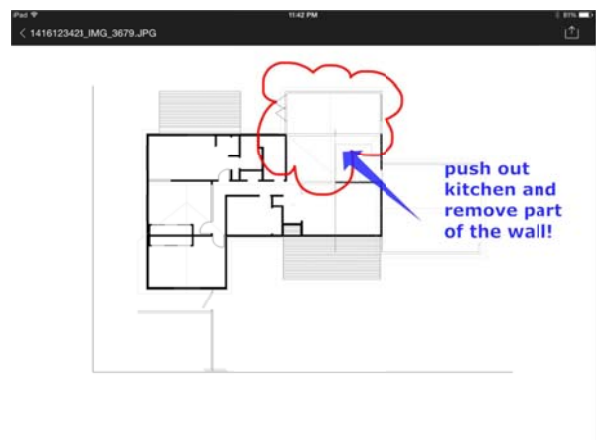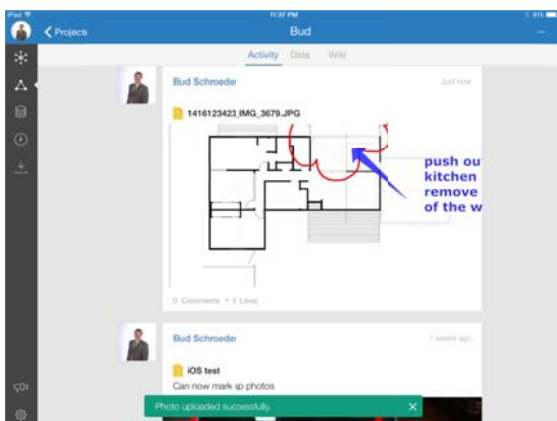
Here you markup the image, then save it to your camera roll.

Now you can upload the image to your project and view or share it with others.

That covers the mobile version. Note that you need to use the A360 WEB site to be able to view your files. So in this case you need both A360 WEB and Mobile. You can also use A360 Drive, but if you move to A360, you will be able to take advantage of the LMV (Large Model Viewer) that supports larger models and more file types. If you have not already done so, be sure to download the latest version of A360 Mobile and take it for a test drive.

Learn about the A360 platform and gain a greater understanding of the cloud:

Now that we have spent time going over A360 Drive, A360 Sync and A360 Mobile, let's take a look at A360 in general. As noted above we have the LMV, Large Model Viewer that supports a lot more file types as well as larger models. You can sign up for the A360 Team Trial account at the following link. A360 is a project and team based collaboration site. So you can create projects and share them with other team members inside and outside of your company.
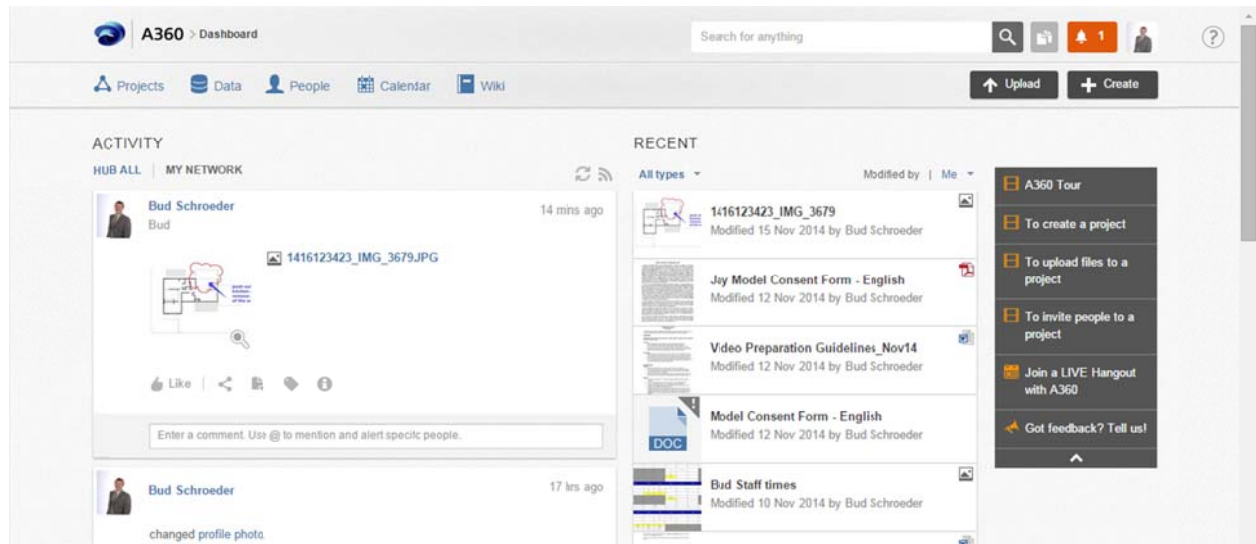
http://autodesk360.com/

We also have the A360 FAQ that can tell you more about A360.

http://autodesk360.com/faq

In the mobile section we had created a markup and uploaded it to A360 Project. Notice we can see that in the activity feed on the A360 WEB Site. A360 Mobile is designed to work closely with A360 WEB.

If you are going to be sharing files with different people and work on projects then A360 is most likely the best option for you. If you just want to use A360 like an FTP site then A360 Drive will be fine.

If you are new to A360 and want to learn more about it be sure to check out the following locations.

A360 Hangouts:

http://autodesk360.com/hangout

A360 BLOG:

http://autodesk.typepad.com/a360/

Let's take a look at a project in A360. You can see right away that it is very different from A360 Drive in that you can create a project and upload data. You have the Activity feed that shows all the comments and files that have been uploaded. You can feature content to the team that is working on a project so that they can see this on the main project page.   There is a data section to create folders and upload files.   You also can see people that are part of your project. There is also a calendar where you can add events to the calendar.   Last but not least is the Wiki where you can post notes, create tables and add assignments for other tasks.
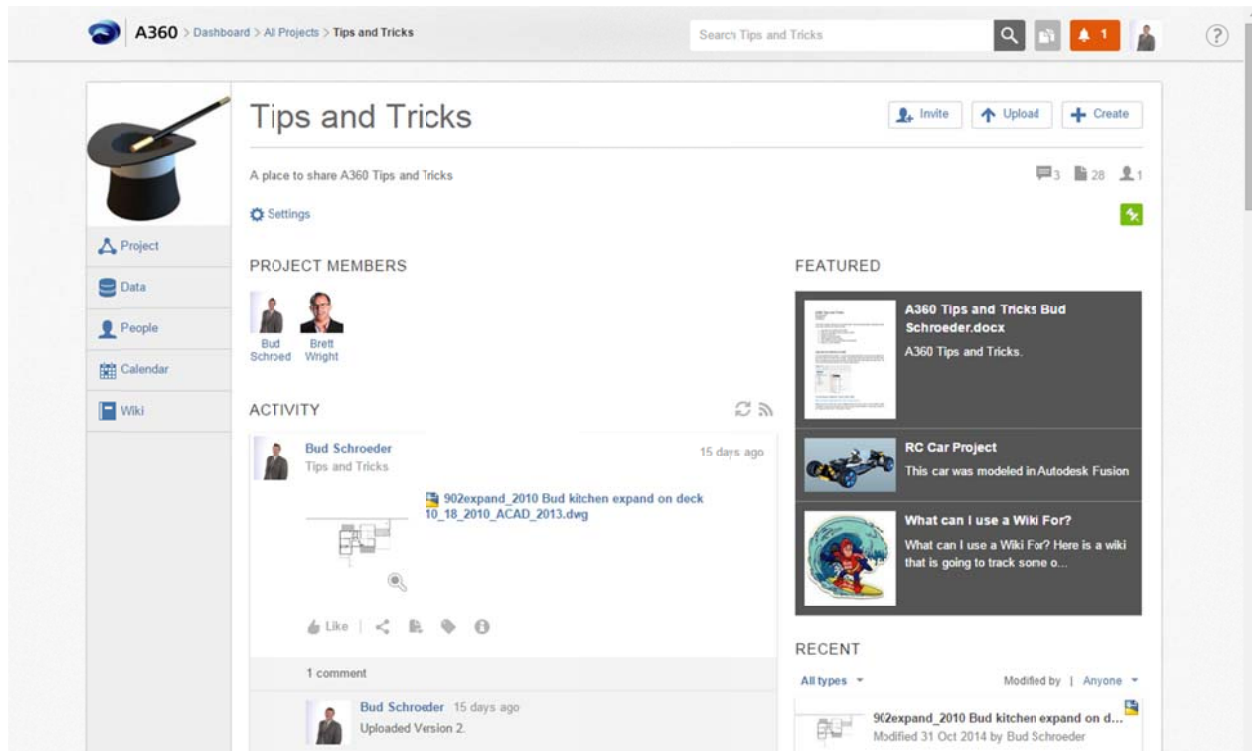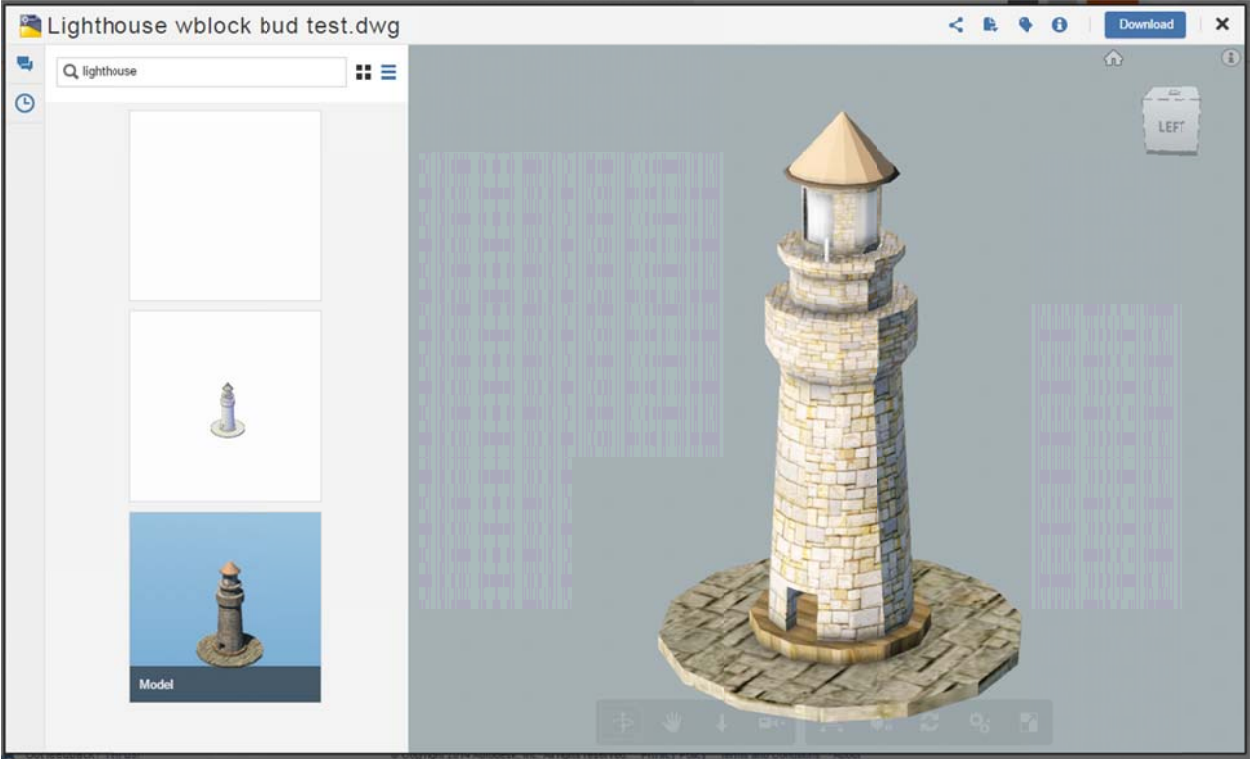
Then we have the very powerful LMV viewer. We take that same remote control car and explode it.
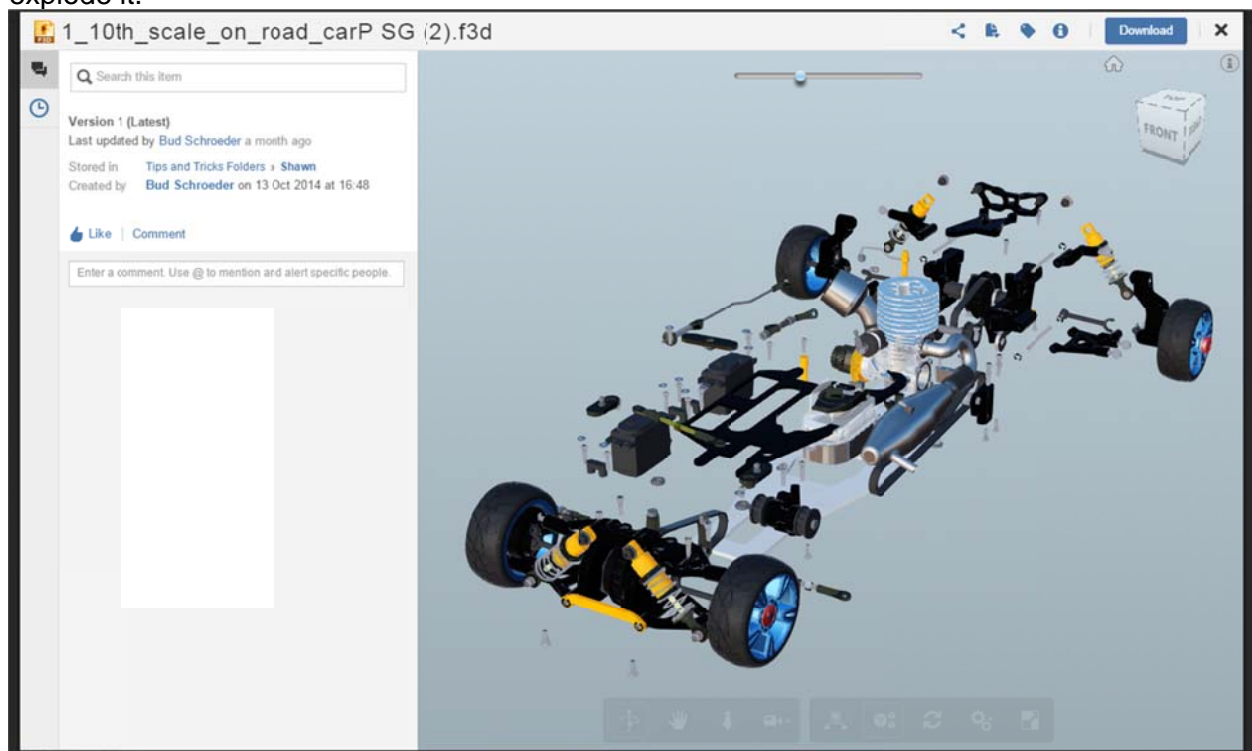
Here we have a Revit sample file that shows both 3D and 2D.
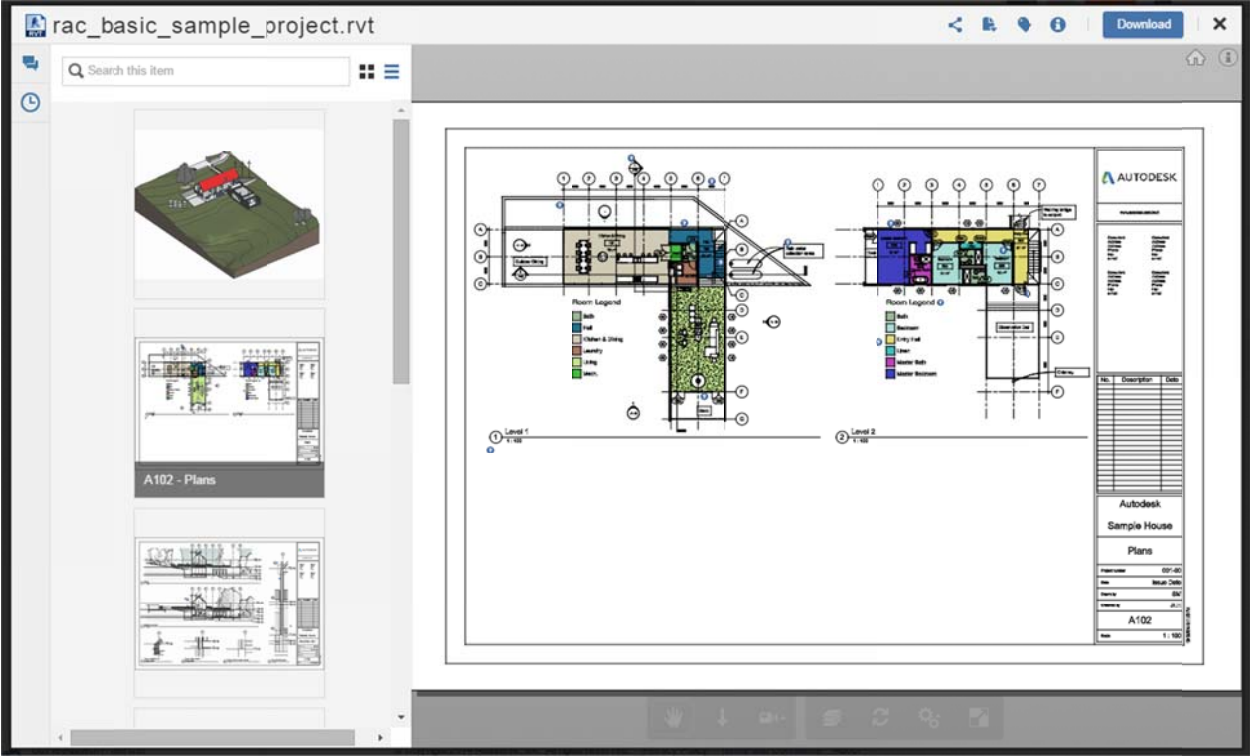

3D Lighthouse drawing from AutoCAD

That is a very high level overview of A360, A360 Mobile, A360 Drive and A360 sync. So you can use each of these as a standalone product. You can also use all of them if you want. There is a lot of power in each of these features and hopefully after this class you will want to go check them all out.

## Where to get the latest updates for A360 Drive Sync Client

 We wanted to share this link to the Autodesk Knowledge Base article on where you can download the latest version of A360 Drive Desktop Sync client.   If you are unsure what version you are currently running, you can check by...

Sign in to A360 on your computer.

Right click on the Sync icon in the system tray.
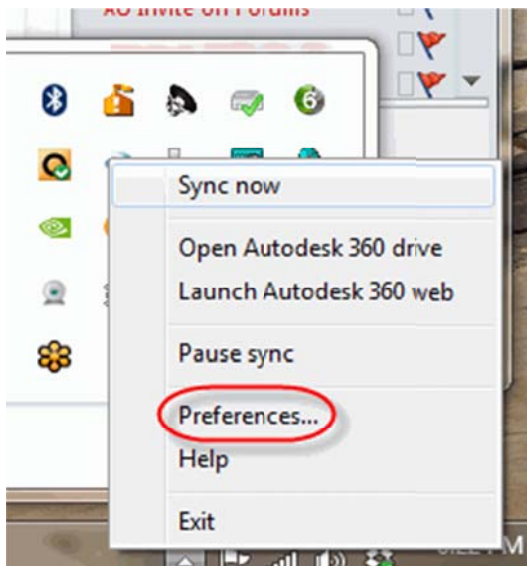
Select "Preferences"
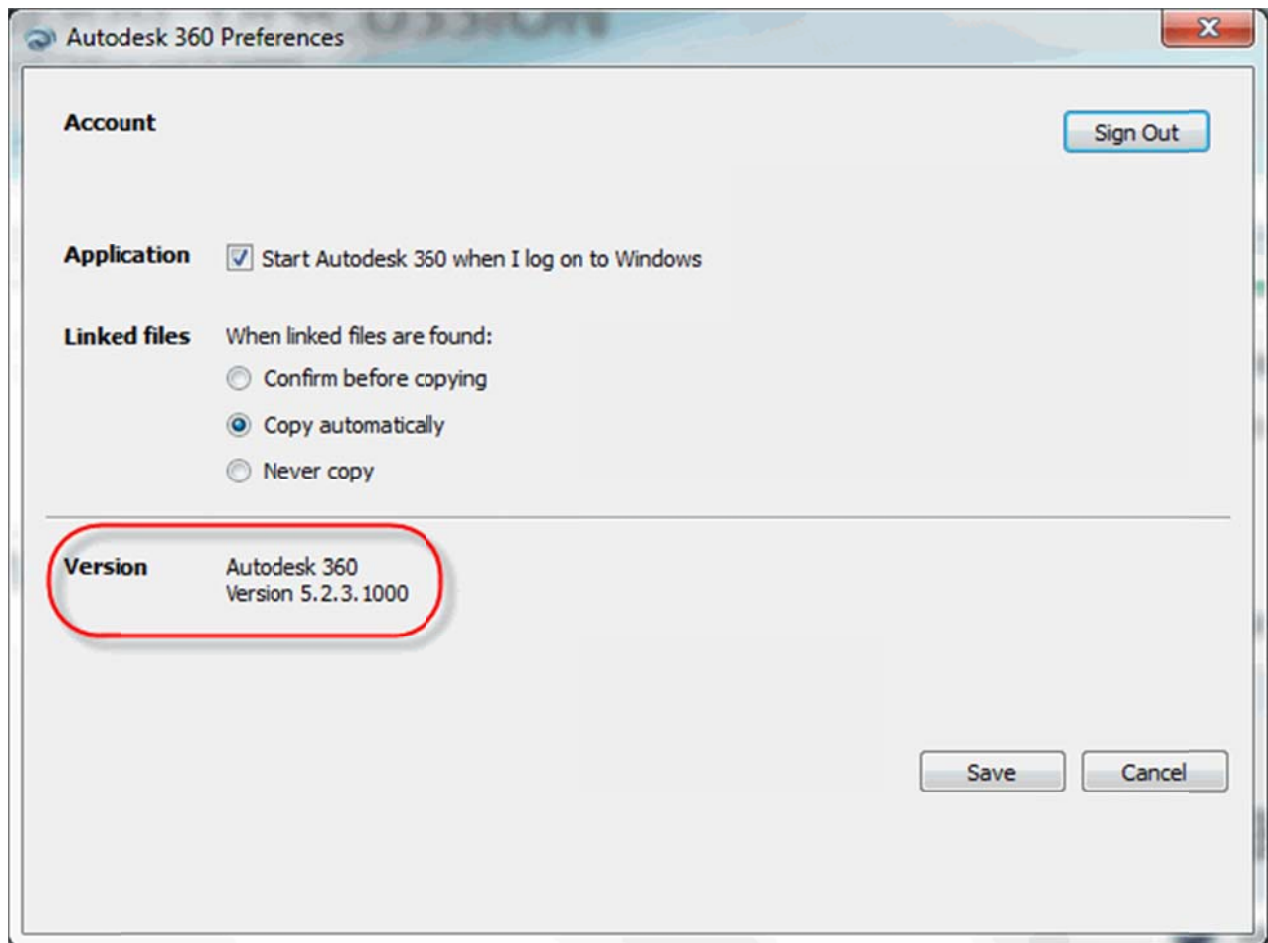
If you have the 5X version you are good to go. If you have an older version, they you will want to install the update from the link below.

See notes below or on the page for more details about this version of A360 Drive Sync client.

http://knowledge.autodesk.com/support/autodesk-360/downloads/caas/downloads/content/autodesk-360-des...

Autodesk 360 desktop Download and Release Notes

Aug 25, 2014 | Download

Autodesk recommends that you update to most recent version of Autodesk 360 desktop to take advantage of the latest performance enhancements and bug fixes. For Microsoft® Windows® 7 and 8 users, the current version is Autodesk 360 desktop 5.1.4. For Windows XP users, the latest version is 4.9.3.800.

For Autodesk® AutoCAD® for Mac customers, the most current version of Autodesk 360 desktop is delivered with [AutoCAD for Mac](#) products and service packs. Please see this page for the latest updates.

To identify your current version of Autodesk 360 desktop on Windows, ensure that Autodesk 360 desktop is running; in the system tray, right-click the Autodesk 360 desktop icon. If necessary, sign in. Once signed in, right-click the Autodesk 360 desktop icon and choose Preferences to show the version number.

If you already have Autodesk 360 desktop version 5.1, there is no need to install this update. If you are running a version between 4.5 and 5.0 inclusive, you may already be receiving notification updates via Live Update. However, you may instead choose to use the download provided on this page. Customers of versions lower than 4.5 do not receive Live Update notifications, and should install the update provided here.

Note: Updates will only install for customers who have Autodesk 360 desktop currently installed on their Windows desktop. Please check if your operating system is 32-bit or 64-bit and download the appropriate file.