Creating design models is a core part of the product development process and the first step in the simulation process. These models can be of geometry forms representing actual design details, or they can be approximations of the designs using simplified components like beams and plates. Besides being an essential component of engineering simulation, geometry also links engineering simulation with design and manufacturing and thereby plays a critical role in Simulation Driven Product Development™.

With direct interfaces to all major computer-aided design (CAD) systems, support of additional readers and translators, and an integrated geometry modeler exclusively focused on analysis, ANSYS offers the most comprehensive geometry handling solutions for engineering simulation in an integrated environment.

The industry-leading ANSYS® Workbench™ computer-aided engineering (CAE) integration environment is CAD-neutral and supports bidirectional, direct, associative interfaces with all major CAD systems. The environment includes a feature-based solid modeler, which can be used to create a parametric geometry from scratch or prepare an existing CAD geometry for analysis. These tools provide a parametric and persistent modeling environment that is ideal for performing design optimization.

With geometry integration solutions from ANSYS, users can apply existing native CAD geometry directly, without translation to IGES or other intermediate geometry formats. ANSYS has offered native, bidirectional integration with the most popular CAD systems for more than 10 years. ANSYS also provides integration directly into the CAD menu bar, making it simple to launch world-class simulation technologies from ANSYS directly from a CAD system.

ANSYS geometry-handling solutions include best-in-class CAD integration technology in an industry-leading, CAD-neutral CAE integration environment. This provides direct, associative, bidirectional interfaces with all major CAD systems including Autodesk®, Inventor®, CATIA® V5, CoCreate Modeling™, Autodesk® Mechanical Desktop®, Pro/ENGINEER®, Solid Edge®, SolidWorks® and Unigraphics®. In addition, it includes file-based readers for IGES, STEP, ACIS®, Parasolid®, CATIA® V5 and CATIA® V4.
An associative interface allows users to drive parametric changes either from your CAD system or from within the ANSYS Workbench platform.

![Diagram of ANSYS CAD integration](image)

ANSYS geometry integration solutions include direct, associative and bidirectional interfaces with all major CAD systems.

The ANSYS Workbench environment uses a unique plug-in architecture to maintain associativity with CAD systems, allowing users to make design changes to CAD models without having to reapply loads, supports, and/or other boundary conditions.

Users can either pick a CAD dimension to change directly or enhance design iterations with the Parameter Manager. The Parameter Manager in the ANSYS Workbench platform provides an easy way to set up multiple design scenarios by allowing users to simply fill in the Parameter Manager spreadsheet; software from ANSYS will automatically update the geometry and run a user's multiple simulations.

A bidirectional link allows CAD models to be updated based on changes within the ANSYS Workbench environment, letting engineering simulations fit easily into users' product development processes.

ANSYS CAD interfaces also include the Named Selection Manager. The Named Selection Manager can be used to create custom attributes within CAD systems for use directly in ANSYS applications for modeling, meshing and analysis. This facilitates easy model setup similar to a CAD-embedded simulation tool, while still maintaining all of the advantages of the ANSYS Workbench platform.

The state-of-the-art ANSYS CAD integration solutions support smart and selective updates of CAD parts. This support allows users to update selected parts instead of updating an entire assembly, which makes geometry updates faster and more targeted and results in significant time savings while working with large assemblies.
Geometry Modeling
Parametric and Persistent

Geometry modeling in the ANSYS Workbench environment is highly automated and also provides the flexibility to customize according to the type of analysis or application. The feature-based parametric ANSYS DesignModeler software can be used to create parametric geometry from scratch or to prepare an existing CAD geometry for analysis and includes automated options for simplification, cleanup, repair and defeaturing.

Simulation often demands unique modeling capabilities that typical CAD operations do not require. Therefore, these capabilities are either lacking in CAD systems or implemented in a fashion that is not optimum for performing simulation.

ANSYS DesignModeler software provides unique modeling functions for simulation that include parametric geometry creation, concept model creation, CAD geometry modification, automated cleanup and repair and several custom tools designed for fluid flow, structural and other types of analyses.

Parametric Geometry Creation
Advanced Technology, Process Compression

ANSYS DesignModeler software supports a sketch-and-extrude approach to creating parametric geometry. It offers extrude, revolve, sweep, chamfer and other standard geometry creation features to create fully parametric models. In addition, it supports primitives and Boolean operations for creating a new geometry or adding complementary geometry to an existing model. These models can be used with any core simulation product from ANSYS or with the ANSYS® DesignXplorer™ product for performing design optimization.

Concept Model Creation

Concept models are used in a product development process prior to any detailed CAD geometry creation. These design approximations, along with simulation results, are extremely useful in making fast product decisions early in the design cycle, when product costs can be impacted significantly.

Preparing Existing Geometry for Analysis
Advanced Technology, Greater Automation and Process Compression

CAD models are usually intended to accurately represent the exact intents of the final designs and often lack additional features required for simulation. ANSYS DesignModeler software provides these unique simulation features such as splitting surfaces for applying loads, defining welds or creating regions around models that represent flow volumes for fluid flow analysis.
A CAD model also may contain much more detail than the simulation process requires, or the detail may not be in the right form. ANSYS DesignModeler software enables tasks like deleting CAD features, extracting surfaces from a solid body, suppressing parts, merging multiple bodies into one and grouping bodies to form a part.

ANSYS DesignModeler software also provides several tools for shell/surface modeling. Face and edge merge operations can be used to easily simplify models by eliminating unnecessary features and boundaries, leading to improved meshes and faster solutions. Sew and connect operations can be used to ensure proper connectivity in models with gaps and overlaps. Similarly, the ability to select and extend groups of surfaces greatly simplifies the process of closing gaps between parts after midsurface extraction. This results in easier modeling of welds, for example. In addition, several features are available for beam modeling, including support of standard cross sections, user-defined offsets, user-defined cross sections and tools for orientation control.

**Automated Cleanup and Repair**

**Process Compression**

Cleanup and repair of problematic geometries is a major bottleneck in engineering simulation. The cleanup and repair tools in ANSYS DesignModeler software automatically detect and fix typical problems such as small edges, sliver faces, holes, seams and faces with sharp angles. This allows geometry models to be prepared for analysis at a fast pace.

As always, analysis settings remain persistent after these operations and are updated automatically in response to changes in geometry.

**The ANSYS Advantage**

With the unequalled depth and unparalleled breadth of our engineering simulation solutions, companies are transforming their leading edge design concepts into innovative products and processes that work. Today, 97 of the top 100 industrial companies on the “FORTUNE Global 500” invest in engineering simulation as a key strategy to win in a globally competitive environment. They choose ANSYS as their simulation partner; deploying the world’s most comprehensive multiphysics solutions to solve their complex engineering challenges. The engineered scalability of our solutions delivers the flexibility customers need, within an architecture that is adaptable to the processes and design systems of their choice. No wonder the world’s most successful companies turn to ANSYS — with a track record of almost 40 years as the industry leader — for the best in engineering simulation.