Chief Architect®
Architectural Home Design Software

# System Requirements for Prior Versions of Chief Architect

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# QUESTION

I have to replace my computer that I run Chief Architect on. What are the system requirements for my legacy version of Chief Architect?

# ANSWER

You can view system requirements for prior and legacy versions of Chief Architect below. System requirements for the current version of Chief Architect can be viewed on the System Requirements webpage (https://www.chiefarchitect.com/products/sysreq.html).

Although it may be possible to operate Chief Architect on a computer that does not meet the system requirements, Chief Architect, Inc. will not support any configuration that is not listed below.

**Note:** Please view the Known Incompatibilities (https://www.chiefarchitect.com/products/known-incompatibilities.html#sequoia) page and read our ChiefBlog article (https://www.chiefarchitect.com/blog/computer-for-design-and-gaming/) before purchasing a new computer for use with Chief Architect products. In addition, access the Related Articles section below to discover additional resources that may be helpful.

- Chief Architect X17
- Chief Architect X16
- Chief Architect X15
- Chief Architect X14
- Chief Architect X13
- Chief Architect X12
- Chief Architect X11
- Chief Architect X10
- Chief Architect X9
- Chief Architect X8
- Chief Architect X7
- Chief Architect X6
- Chief Architect X5
- Chief Architect X4
- Chief Architect X3
- Chief Architect X2
- Chief Architect X1
- Chief Architect Version 10
- Chief Architect Version 9.5
- Chief Architect Version 8
- Chief Architect Version 7

# Chief Architect X17

Version 27, released in 2025

> Windows computers with ARM processors are not supported (e.g. Snapdragon processors).
>
> Mac systems with Intel processors and A18 Pro/Neo are not supported. Additionally, Macs containing stand-alone Intel graphics are incompatible with macOS Sequoia (15) and newer macOS versions.

Minimum

- Video card:
  - Windows: 4 GB of dedicated RAM or Intel integrated graphics on 11th generation or newer Intel processors. DirectX 12 requires Shader Model 6.0 or newer.
  - Mac: Apple M1 or newer.
  - GPU real time ray tracing on a Windows computer requires an NVIDIA RTX or an AMD Radeon RX series graphics card. The Mac requires at a minimum an M1 processor.
  - DLSS Real-Time Denoising requires an NVIDIA ray-tracing-compatible graphics card.
- 5 GB of available hard disk space
- Internet access required for installation, license authentication, deactivation and video & library catalog access. Internet access for license authentication is required once every 14 days.
- 16 GB of RAM

- Windows 10 / 11 64-bit or macOS Sonoma (M-series only) / Sequoia (M-series only) / Tahoe (M-series only)

Recommended

- 32 GB of RAM
- 1 TB SSD
- PC
  - Intel Core Ultra / AMD Ryzen 9
  - NVIDIA GeForce RTX 5080 / AMD Radeon RX 7900
  - A screen of 16" or more
- Mac
  - Apple M5 or newer
  - Desktops: Mac Pro
  - Laptops: MacBook Pro 16"

# Chief Architect X16

Version 26, released in 2024

> Windows computers with ARM processors are not supported (e.g. Snapdragon processors).
>
> Mac systems with Intel processors and A18 Pro/Neo are not supported. Additionally, Macs containing stand-alone Intel graphics are incompatible with macOS Sequoia (15) and newer macOS versions.

Minimum

- Video card:
  - Windows: 4 GB of dedicated RAM or Intel integrated graphics on 8th generation or newer Intel processors. DirectX 12 requires Shader Model 6.0 or newer.
  - Mac: Apple M1 or newer, or an Intel/AMD card with 2 GB of dedicated video memory with support for Metal GPUFamily macOS 2 or newer.
  - CPU ray tracing is supported on Windows and Macs. GPU real time ray tracing on a Windows computer requires an NVIDIA RTX or an AMD Radeon RX series graphics card. The Mac requires at a minimum an M1 processor.
- 5 GB of available hard disk space
- Internet access required for installation, license authentication, deactivation and video & library catalog access. Internet access for license authentication is required once every 14 days.
- 16 GB of RAM
- Windows 10 / 11 64-bit or macOS Ventura / Sonoma / Sequoia (M-series only)

Recommended

- 32 GB of RAM
- 1 TB SSD
- PC
  - Intel i9 / AMD Ryzen 9
  - NVIDIA GeForce RTX 4080 / AMD Radeon RX 7900
  - A screen of 16" or more
- Mac
  - Metal GPUFamily: Apple M3 or newer
  - Desktops: Mac Pro
  - Laptops: MacBook Pro 16"

# Chief Architect X15

Version 25, released in 2023

> Windows computers with ARM processors are not supported. It is recommended that laptops have a minimum 15" screen.

Minimum

- Video Card:
  - Windows: 4 GB of dedicated RAM or Intel integrated graphics on 6th generation or newer Intel processors (i3/i5/i7). DirectX 12 requires Shader Model 6.0 or newer.
  - Mac: Apple M1 or newer, or an Intel/AMD card with 2 GB of RAM with support for Metal GPUFamily macOS 2 or newer.
  - For GPU real-time ray tracing, a Windows computer with an NVIDIA RTX or an AMD Radeon RX series graphics card is required.
- 5 GB of available hard disk space
- Internet access required for installation, license authentication, deactivation and video & library catalog access. Internet access for license authentication is required once every 14 days.
- 8 GB of RAM
- Windows 10 / 11 64-bit or macOS Monterey / Ventura / Sonoma

Recommended

- 32 GB of RAM
- 1 TB SSD
- PC
    - Intel i9 / AMD Ryzen 9
    - NVIDIA GeForce RTX 4080 / AMD Radeon RX 7900
    - Laptops: Minimum 16" screen
- Mac
    - Metal GPUFamily: Apple M3 or newer
    - Desktops: Mac Pro
    - Laptops: MacBook Pro 16"

# Chief Architect X14

Version 24, released in 2022

# For all X14 Versions

> Windows computers with ARM processors are not supported. It is recommended that laptops have a minimum 15" screen.

Minimum

- Video Card:
    - 2 GB of dedicated video memory or Intel integrated graphics on 6th generation or newer Intel processors (i3/i5/i7).
    - DirectX 12 supporting Shader Model 6 for a Windows-based PC.

    - Metal GPUFamily: Apple 7 M1 or newer, or Intel/AMD GPU with support for Metal GPUFamily macOS 2 or newer.
    - For GPU real-time ray tracing, a Windows computer with an NVIDIA RTX or an AMD Radeon RX 6000 series graphics card is required.
- 5 GB of available hard disk space
- Internet access required for installation, license authentication, deactivation and video & library catalog access. Internet access for license authentication is required once every 14 days.
- 8 GB of RAM
- 64-bit Windows 10 / 11 or macOS Big Sur / Monterey / Ventura

<u>Recommended</u>

- 32 GB of RAM
- 512 GB SSD
- PC
    - Desktops:
        - Intel i9 / AMD Ryzen 5000
        - 8 GB NVIDIA GeForce RTX 3080 / AMD Radeon RX 6800
    - Laptops:
        - Minimum 15" screen
        - Intel i7
        - 8 GB NVIDIA GeForce RTX 3070 / AMD Radeon RX 6800M
- Mac
    - Desktops:
        - Mac Pro
    - Laptops:
        - MacBook Pro 16"
        - Metal GPUFamily: Apple M1 or newer
        - 8 GB video memory

# Chief Architect X13

Version 23, released in 2021

# For all X13 Versions

> Windows computers with ARM processors are not supported. It is recommended that laptops have a minimum 15" screen.

Minimum

- Video Card:
  - 2 GB of dedicated video memory or Intel integrated graphics on 6th generation or newer Intel processors (i3/i5/i7).
  - DirectX 12 supporting Shader Model 6 for a Windows-based PC.
  - Metal GPUFamily: Apple 7 (M1) or macOS 2 (Intel) for macOS systems.
  - For GPU real-time ray tracing, a Windows 10 computer with an NVIDIA RTX or an AMD Radeon RX 6000 series graphics card is required.
- 5 GB of available hard disk space
- Internet access
  - Required for installation, license authentication, deactivation and video & library catalog access. Internet access for license authentication is required once every 14 days.
- 8 GB of RAM
- 64-bit Windows 10 / 11 or macOS Catalina / Big Sur / Monteray

Recommended

- 32 GB of RAM
- 512 GB SSD
- PC
  - Desktops:
    - Intel i9 / AMD Ryzen 5000
    - 8 GB NVIDIA GeForce RTX 3080 / AMD Radeon RX 6800
  - Laptops:
    - Minimum 15" screen
    - Intel i7
    - 8 GB NVIDIA GeForce RTX 3070 / AMD Radeon RX 6800M
- Mac
  - Desktops:
    - Mac Pro
  - Laptops:
    - MacBook Pro 16"
    - Intel i9
    - 8 GB video memory

# Chief Architect X12

Version 22, released in 2020

# For all X12 Versions

> Computers with ARM or Mac M1 processors are not supported. It is recommended that laptops have a minimum 15" screen.

Minimum

- Video Card:
  - 1 GB of dedicated video memory or Intel integrated graphics on 5th generation or newer Intel processors (i3/i5/i7)
  - OpenGL 3.3 or higher for a Windows-based PC
  - OpenGL 4.1 or higher for a Mac
- 5 GB of available hard disk space
- Internet access
- 4 GB of RAM
- 64-bit Windows 7 / 8 / 10 or macOS 10.14 / 10.15 / 11 (Mojave / Catalina / Big Sur)

Recommended

- 32 GB of RAM
- 512 GB SSD
- PC
  - Desktops:
    - Intel i7 / AMD Ryzen 5000
    - 8 GB NVIDIA GeForce RTX 3070
  - Laptops:
    - Minimum 15" screen
    - Intel i7
    - 8 GB NVIDIA GeForce RTX 2070
- Mac
  - Desktops:
    - Mac Pro
  - Laptops:
    - MacBook Pro 16"
    - 8 GB video memory

# Chief Architect X11

Version 21, released in 2019

# For all X11 Versions

> Computers with ARM or Mac M1 processors are not supported. It is recommended that laptops have a minimum 15" screen.

Minimum

- Multi-Core Processor (CPU)
- Video Card:
  - 1 GB of dedicated video memory or Intel integrated graphics on 3rd generation or newer Intel processors
  - OpenGL 3.3 or higher for a Windows-based PC
  - OpenGL 4.1 or higher for a Mac
- 5 GB of available hard disk space
- Internet access
- 4 GB memory (RAM)
- 64-bit Windows 7 / 8 / 10 or macOS 10.13 / 10.14 / 10.15 (High Sierra / Mojave / Catalina)

Recommended

- 16 GB memory (RAM)

- 50 GB of available hard disk space
- 4 GB or 8 GB gaming video card

# Chief Architect X10

Version 20, released in 2018

# For all X10 versions

Minimum

- Multi-Core Processor (CPU)
- Video Card:
  - 1 GB of dedicated video memory or Intel integrated graphics on 3rd generation or newer Intel processors
  - OpenGL 3.3 or higher for a Windows-based PC
  - OpenGL 4.1 or higher for a Mac
- 5 GB of available hard disk space
- Internet access
- 4 GB memory (RAM)
- 64-bit Windows 7 / 8 / 10 or macOS 10.12 / 10.13 / 10.14 (Sierra / High Sierra / Mojave)

Recommended

- 16 GB memory (RAM)
- 50 GB of available hard disk space
- 4 GB or 8 GB gaming video card

# Chief Architect X9

Version 19, released in 2017

# For all X9 versions

Minimum

- Multi-Core Processor (CPU)
- Video Card:
  - At least 512MB of dedicated video memory or Intel integrated graphics on 3rd generation or newer Intel processors
  - OpenGL 3.3 or higher for a Windows-based PC
  - OpenGL 4.1 or higher for a Mac
- 5 GB of available hard disk space
- Internet access
- 4 GB of memory (RAM)
- Windows 64-bit 7 / 8 / 10 or Mac OSX Sierra 10.11 / 10.12 (El Capitan / Sierra)

Recommended

- 16 GB memory (RAM)
- 50 GB of available hard disk space
- 4 GB or 8 GB gaming video card

# Chief Architect X8

Version 18, released in 2016

# For all X8 versions

- Multi-Core Processor (CPU)
- Video Card:
  - OpenGL 2.1 or higher
  - Dedicated video card with at least 512 MB Memory (e.g., NVidia or ATI)
    or
  - Integrated graphics (e.g. Intel HD Graphics)
- 5 GB of available hard disk space
- Internet access
- Recommended: 8 GB of Memory (64-bit), 50 GB of available hard disk space, 2 GB or 4 GB gaming video card

# For 64-bit Chief Architect X8

- 64-bit Windows 7 / 8 / 10 or Mac OSX 10.10 / 10.11 (Yosemite / El Capitan)
- 4 GB of RAM

# For 32-bit Chief Architect X8

- 32-bit Windows 7 / 8
- 2 GB of RAM

# Chief Architect X7

Version 17, released in 2015

# For all X7 versions

- 2.4 GHz processor or Multi-Core Processor
- Video Card: Dedicated Video Card with 512 MB memory, or Integrated graphics
- 5 GB of available hard disk space
- Recommended: 8 GB of Memory (64-bit), 50 GB of available hard disk space, 2 GB or 4 GB gaming video card

# For 64-bit Chief Architect X7

- 64-bit Windows 7 / 8 / 10 or Mac OSX 10.9 / 10.10 / 10.11 (Mavericks / Yosemite / El Capitan)
- 4 GB of RAM

# For 32-bit Chief Architect X7

- 32-bit Windows 7 / 8
- 2 GB of RAM

# Chief Architect X6

Version 16, released in 2014

# For all X6 versions

- 2.4 GHz processor or Multi-Core Processor
- Video Card: Dedicated Video Card with 512 MB memory, or Integrated graphics
- 5 GB of available hard disk space

# For 64-bit Chief Architect X6

- 64-bit Windows Vista / 7 / 8 or Mac OSX 10.8 / 10.9 (Mountain Lion / Mavericks)
- 4 GB of RAM

# For 32-bit Chief Architect X6

- 32-bit Windows Vista / 7 / 8
- 2 GB of RAM

# Chief Architect X5

Version 15, released in 2012

# For all X5 versions

- 5 GB of available hard disk space
- 256 MB of dedicated on-board video memory supporting OpenGL 2.1 or higher
- Monitor resolution: 1024 x 768
- High speed Internet for registration, video access, content downloads
- DVD drive (if software purchased on DVD)

# For 64-bit Chief Architect Premier or Interiors X5

- 64-bit Windows Vista / 7 / 8
- Multi-core processor
- 4 GB of RAM

# For 32-bit Chief Architect Premier, Lite or Interiors X5

- 32- or 64-bit Windows Vista / 7 / 8; 32-bit Windows XP
- 2.4 GHz processor
- 2 GB of RAM

# Chief Architect X4

Version 14, released in 2011

# For all X4 versions

- 5 GB of available hard disk space
- 256 MB of dedicated on-board video memory supporting OpenGL 2.1 or higher
- High speed Internet for registration, video access, and content downloads
- DVD drive (if software purchased on DVD)

# For 64-bit Chief Architect Premier X4

- 64-bit Windows Vista / 7
- Multi-core processor
- 4 GB of RAM

# For 32-bit Chief Architect Premier, Lite or Interiors X4

- 32- or 64-bit Windows Vista / 7; 32-bit Windows XP
- 2.4 GHz processor
- 2 GB of RAM

# Chief Architect X3

Version 13, released in 2010

- Windows XP / Vista /7
- 2.4 GHz processor
- 5 GB of available hard disk space
- 2 GB of RAM
- 256 MB of dedicated video memory supporting OpenGL 2.0 or higher
- High speed Internet for registration, video access, content downloads
- DVD drive (if software purchased on DVD)

# Chief Architect X2

Version 12, released in 2009

- Windows XP / Vista / 7
- 2.4 GHz processor
- 5 GB of available hard disk space
- 2 GB of RAM
- 256 MB of dedicated video memory supporting OpenGL 2 or greater
- High speed Internet for registration and video access
- DVD drive (if software purchased on DVD)

# Chief Architect X1

Version 11, released in 2007

- Windows XP / Vista
- 2 GHz processor
- 3 GB of available hard disk space
- 1 GB of RAM
- 256 MB of dedicated video memory supporting OpenGL hardware acceleration
- DVD drive

# Chief Architect version 10

Released in 2005

- Windows XP
- 2 GHz processor
- 3 GB of available hard disk space
- 1 GB of RAM
- 256 MB of dedicated video memory
- Video card that supports OpenGL hardware acceleration
- CD-ROM drive

# Chief Architect version 9.5

Released in 2003

- Windows 98 SE / ME / NT / 2000 / XP
- 400 MHz processor
- 1 GB of available hard disk space for a full installation (400 MB to install without all available program content)
- 64 MB of RAM
- CD-ROM drive
- 2-button mouse supported by Windows
- Color monitor which supports 16 bit color in a screen resolution of 800x600 or greater
- Video card which supports OpenGL

# Chief Architect version 8

Released in 2002

- Windows 95 / 98 / ME / NT /2000 / XP
- 266 MHz processor
- 400MB of available hard disk space
- 64 MB of RAM, or greater
- CD-ROM Drive
- 2-button mouse supported by Windows
- Color VGA, Super VGA, or higher resolution monitor supporting a minimum of 256 colors

# Chief Architect version 7

Released in 2000

- Windows 95 / NT 4.0 / 98 / 2000
- 300 MB of available hard disk space
- 32 MB of RAM
- CD-ROM Drive
- 2-button mouse supported by Windows
- Color VGA, Super VGA, or higher resolution monitor. Super VGA supporting 256 colors

Related Articles

- Identifying the Shader Model of Your Graphics Card in Windows (/support/article/KB-03146/identifying-the-shader-model-of-your-graphics-card-in-windows.html)
- Intel Graphics Compatible with Chief Architect X18 and Home Designer 2027 (/support/article/KB-03108/intel-graphics-compatible-with-chief-architect-x18-and-home-designer-2027.html)
- Locating Your Computer's Specifications (/support/article/KB-03129/locating-your-computer-s-specifications.html)
- Mac Models Compatible with Chief Architect X18 and Home Designer 2027 (/support/article/KB-03167/mac-models-compatible-with-chief-architect-x18-and-home-designer-2027.html)

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