

Enabling and Configuring the Chief Architect MCP Server

Reference Number: **KB-03256**

Last Modified: **October 20, 2026**

QUESTION

How do I enable MCP access and configure it for use with an AI agent?

ANSWER

Introduced in Chief Architect Premier X18 Build 28.2.1.14, a Model Context Protocol (MCP) server is available, enabling integration with a development focused AI agent (e.g. Anthropic Claude Code, Open AI Codex, Google Antigravity, GitHub Copilot from Microsoft) via a local client installation.

Before use, the Chief MCP Server setting within the program's Agentic AI Preference section must be enabled.

Chief Architect's MCP implementation consists of the following:

- **ca-mcp-x18**: core server used for interaction with Chief Architect.
- **ca-image-utilities-x18**: optional server that allows for image manipulation in clients that don't support it (e.g. Anthropic Claude Code). Google API key required.
- **README.md**: informational file containing text details relating to the MCP implementation.
- **pyproject.toml**: provides the necessary setup instructions for the AI agent.

REQUIREMENTS & CONSIDERATIONS

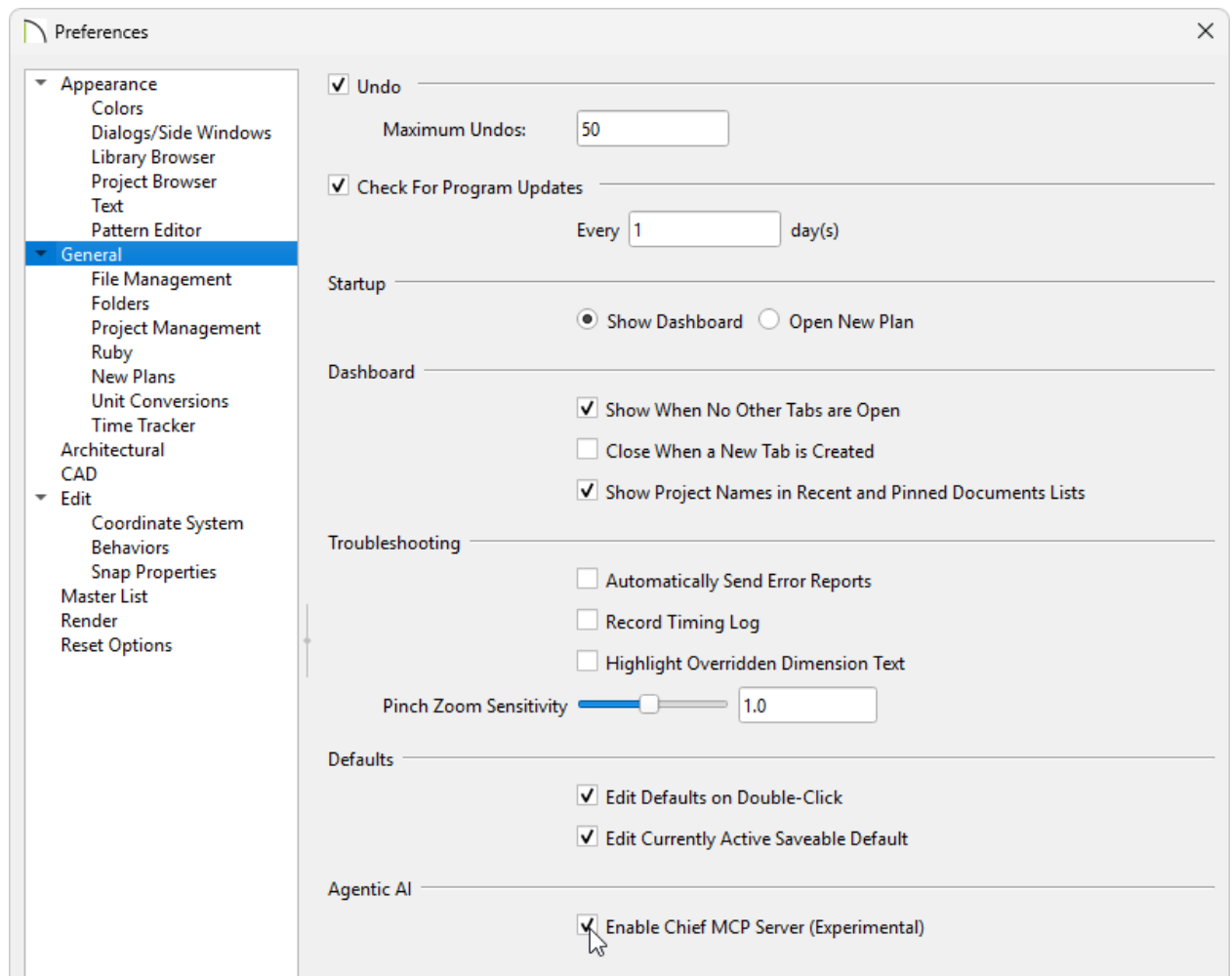
- Local AI client installation with local MCP server support (desktop applications, CLI's, and IDE's). Web-based clients are *not* compatible.
- Both Project Management and Auto Save must be enabled to access the full range of features associated with the Chief Architect MCP.
- Chief Architect's core server is a local STUDIO server discoverable where Chief Architect Premier is installed; this is *not* an internet endpoint or cloud enabled service.

Please share any comments, suggestions, or feedback concerning the MCP implementation and broader AI topic by joining the ongoing discussion in the following ChiefTalk forum thread: [Looking For Feedback: Potential AI Integration in Chief](https://chieftalk.chiefarchitect.com/topic/49554-looking-for-feedback-potential-ai-integration-in-chief/) (<https://chieftalk.chiefarchitect.com/topic/49554-looking-for-feedback-potential-ai-integration-in-chief/>).

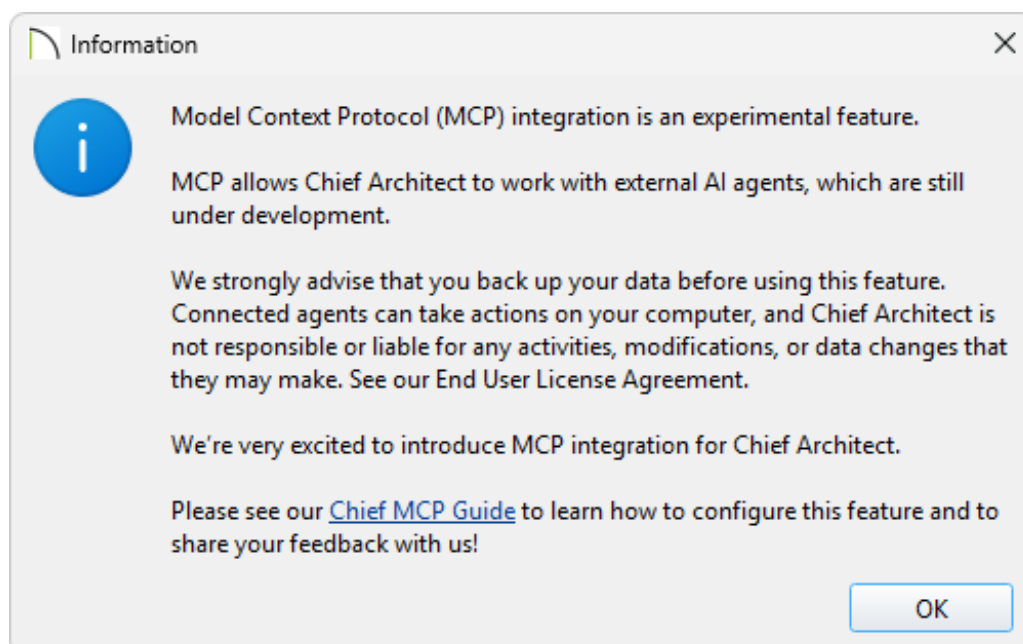
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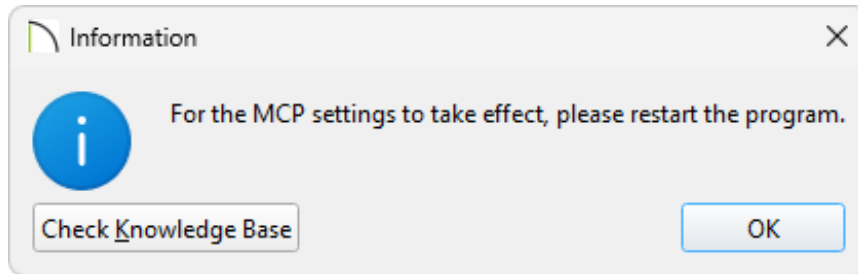
1. Navigate to **Edit> Preferences**  on a Windows system or **Chief Architect> Preferences**  on a Mac.
2. On the **GENERAL** panel of the **Preferences** dialog that opens, under the **Agentic AI** section, check the **Enable Chief MCP Server (Experimental)** box.



3. Thoroughly read over the **Information** dialog that displays, then click **OK** when you're ready to proceed. Click **OK** again to confirm the change and close Preferences.



4. Another **Information** dialog will display stating that the program must be restarted for the MCP settings to take effect. Click **OK**, then restart the program.



5. The MCP server(s) can now be configured using your preferred AI agent that's associated with a local client installation. Consider using the following prompt with your AI agent to get started:

A local MCP server is installed with Chief Architect Premier X18. The default installation location is C:\Program Files\Chief Architect\Chief Architect Premier X18\ on Windows or Applications/Chief Architect Premier X18/ on Mac. Locate the MCP server and configure it for use.

6. Follow your AI agent's instructions to proceed. Once the ca-mcp-x18 server has been properly configured and your AI agent can successfully connect to it, the MCP tools will be loaded, and your AI agent will be able to interact with Chief Architect.

Note: For any additional configuration or environment-specific setup, please consult the official documentation provided by your specific AI agent client.

TROUBLESHOOTING

- If communication has failed, verify that the **Enable Chief MCP Server** preference within Chief Architect is enabled.
- If discovery or configuration was unsuccessful, you can start fresh by following the instructions below:
 - Tell the AI client to: `Purge all Chief Architect MCP information.`
 - Restart the AI client.
 - Provide the following prompt: `Search and locate the camcp package associated with Chief Architect Premier X18. It consists of a local, stdio-based Python MCP server. Once located, configure it for use.`

Related Articles

 [Enabling or Disabling Project Management \(/support/article/KB-03210/enabling-or-disabling-project-management.html\)](/support/article/KB-03210/enabling-or-disabling-project-management.html)

 [Message: An update to this program is available. \(/support/article/KB-03190/message-an-update-to-this-program-is-available.html\)](/support/article/KB-03190/message-an-update-to-this-program-is-available.html)

 [Upgrading to the Latest Version \(/support/article/KB-01974/upgrading-to-the-latest-version.html\)](/support/article/KB-01974/upgrading-to-the-latest-version.html)



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