

GibbsCAM System Requirements

The requirements to run GibbsCAM do not have specific values. The requirements vary depending upon the operating system you use and the complexity of your part. We have a list of basic guidelines, seen below, that are common to all users. We also offer minimum supported requirements based upon your operating system, and we describe a recommended system.

Operating System

Windows 7 (recommended), Windows 8, Windows Vista (SP1 or SP2), Windows XP (SP2 or SP3); or Windows Server (2003 • 2008 • 2008 R2 • 2012).

A 64-bit OS platform is recommended, but 32-bit is supported. Please install the latest available OS service packs and patches through Windows Update.

Hardware

Minimum system requirements depend on the operating system. There are also recommended hardware requirements. Please remember that the more complex a part, the higher your system requirements.

At least 700 MB of drive space is required for the software. A DVD drive is required to read the GibbsCAM product disk. However, you can also download installers and other files from the GibbsCAM website.

Video Drivers

Please install the latest available driver for your video card. The standard Windows drivers are typically not adequate, because of the GibbsCAM application's advanced use of OpenGL and video RAM. We strongly recommend that you keep your system up-to-date with fully installed and updated drivers.

Network Licensing

The Network Licensing Option (NLO) can be set up on 32-bit or 64-bit versions of any of the following platforms: Windows Server (2003 SP2 R2; • 2008; • 2008 R2; • 2012); Windows XP (SP2 or later); Windows Vista (SP1 or SP2); Windows 7; or Windows 8.

The GibbsCAM installer detects whether you are running 32-bit or 64-bit Windows and automatically chooses the version of GibbsCAM that matches the OS.

Minimum Requirements for Older Systems

When GibbsCAM is run on Windows XP (SP2 or SP3) or Windows Server 2003, the hardware requirements are as follows.

CPU - Intel Pentium 4 or newer. This includes the Celeron (at least 1.7 GHz), Xeon, Pentium M, Core, Core 2, and Core i5/i7 processors.

AMD Athlon 64 or newer. This includes the Sempron 64, Turion 64, and Phenom processors. Please note that all 64-bit CPUs meet our minimum requirements.

RAM - 1 GB of total RAM or more.

Video Card - A quality 3D accelerated video card with 128+ MB of video memory including fully installed and updated drivers.

Minimum Requirements for Newer Systems

Modern versions of Windows demand more from your computer than Windows XP. The additional requirements for running 32-bit or 64-bit GibbsCAM on these systems Windows Vista / 7 / 8 or Windows Server 2008 / 2008 R2 / 2012.

CPU - Intel Pentium 4 or newer. This includes the Celeron (1.7 GHz or faster), Xeon, Pentium M, Core, Core 2, and Core i5/i7 processors.

AMD Athlon 64 or newer. This includes the Sempron 64, Turion 64, and Phenom processors. Please note that all 64-bit CPUs meet our minimum requirements.

RAM - 2+ GB of total RAM.

Video Card –

A quality 3D accelerated video card with 512+ MB of video memory.

Recommended System

A computer that matches or exceeds the following requirements will run GibbsCAM very comfortably. Please note that the larger or more complex your parts are, the more GibbsCAM will demand from your system.

Operating System - Windows 7, 64-bit

CPU Intel: Core i7, Core i5, Core 2 Quad, or Core 2 Extreme
AMD: Phenom X4, Phenom X3, or Turion X2 Ultra

RAM - 8 GB RAM

Video Card - An NVIDIA video card with 896+ MB of video memory.

What Are the Differences Between 32-bit and 64-bit?

At the hardware level, all modern Windows computers are 64-bit capable. At the operating system (OS) level, if you are running a 32-bit version of Windows and cannot upgrade to 64-bit Windows, then 32-bit GibbsCAM is for you. The installer will not allow you to install 64-bit GibbsCAM on 32-bit Windows or to install 32-bit GibbsCAM on 64-bit Windows.

But if you are planning an upgraded or new machine, Gibbs and Associates usually recommends the 64-bit version over the 32-bit version. Here are factors to consider.

64-bit Advantages

The 64-bit version of the software is advantageous for users who have moderate to large or complex files because the 64-bit version of the software is able to handle more RAM and larger chunks of information. This includes complex solids and toolpath as well as tighter machining tolerances. The 64-bit version of the software runs faster on large and/or complex parts.

Video Cards

GibbsCAM is a video-intensive application. The use of a good quality, mainstream video card is recommended. The following cards have been tested with GibbsCAM

Recommended:

AGP: nVidia GeForce chipset, nVidia Quadro chipset

PCI Express: nVidia GeForce chipset, nVidia Quadro chipset

In all cases the current video drivers from the chipset manufacturer should be downloaded and installed.

Cards to avoid:

ATI video cards

Intel integrated video cards

SiS chipset cards

3D Labs video cards

other high-end "CAD" cards

The ATI cards have been added to the list of cards to avoid. The OpenGL portion of the drivers has long had problems but has never been much of an issue within GibbsCAM until the addition of the FlashCPR feature. With the release of GibbsCAM v8.0 this deficiency in the drivers was much more noticeable as more OpenGL features are added.

Low-end cards should especially be avoided. The integrated Intel video chipset runs GibbsCAM particularly poorly. This video card is often included in less expensive systems.

SLI Mode - Running newer systems in SLI mode with GibbsCAM can result in poor performance and is not recommended.

Hardware Lock

If you are currently a GibbsCAM user, please ensure that any new computer or laptop is capable of accepting your current Hardware Lock. All new Hardware Locks are shipped as USB Lock, but if you wish to change from a Serial Lock to a USB Lock a charge will be made.