# Selected Option

## Selection and Reason

I selected the Standard version of GstarCAD because it seemed to be the best option for using Lisp, command aliases, and included some form of Lisp debugging. If you don’t need these features, perhaps one of the other options would work better. I also didn’t explore every option. It is possible some of the others incorporate these features but don’t advertise them well enough.

## Review

### The Good

* If you are looking for a drop in AutoCAD replacement, this is a good option. Everything looks and acts just like AutoCAD.
* Works well and has about every features you could hope for in a standalone drafting program.

### The (Mildly) Bad

There were a few small issues, but I label these as really minor overall.

* It is a little buggy. It will occasionally crash.
* I have found one command (LAYERCLOSE) that has not been implemented. So far, this is the only one. You can work around it by closing the layer window with the GUI or using auto hide.
* It seems this software was developed overseas. Some of the menus has spelling and grammar errors.
* Almost no documentation. Although, this is really a none issue. Just google how to do it in AutoCAD and you can do it the same way in GstarCAD.

# Summary of Available Options

## Ares Commander

<https://www.graebert.com/cad-software/ares-commander/>

* 950, perpetual, an account with a login and password, up to 2 simultaneous logins
* LISP
* Lisp debugging? Seems like a bug (<https://help.graebert.com/en/articles/3057017-debugging-of-lisp-functions-in-ares>)

## GstarCAD

<https://www.gstarcad.net/>

* 600, one computer or USB dongle, standard, perpetual
* lisp debugger
* professional has 3D features which are not needed
* LISP vl-, vlr-, vla- and vlax
* Debugging with Visual Studio extension: <https://marketplace.visualstudio.com/items?itemName=GraebertGmbH.flisp>
* command line
* pgp/alias
* <https://www.gstarcad.gr/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/GstarCAD-2022-Complete-Features-Guide.pdf>

## CMS IntelliCAD

<https://www.intellicadms.com/>

* 300 (PE Plus) single user, perpetual standalone license allowing 2 activations
* 500 (PE Easy Run), perpetual license, lifetime updates, internet connection required
* Flexible self-service license transfer. No limits on transfers.
* LISP
* AutoCAD software menu (.mnu) and script (.scr) files
* No debugger
* Does not support (vl-, vla- or vlax-)
* express tools
* command line support

## progeCAD

<https://progecad.us/>

* 400, perpetual, 2 computers
* express tools

## ZWSoft

<https://www.zwsoft.com/>

* 1200, professional, perpetual, only 1 license active at a time
* express tools
* Lisp debugger (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AXOf23xGPyQ>)
* vlax, dcl, VBA (professional)
* command line
* MNU, MNS