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Introducing the Visio Flowchart Converter

You've switched to Visio, the premier all-purpose business drawing tool. Now, you're wondering what to do with all the charts you've created using a specialized charting program such as ABC FlowCharter™ or CoreIFLOW™. That's where the Visio Flowchart Converter comes in.

Using the Flowchart Converter, you can open ABC FlowCharter version 2.0, 3.0, and 4.0 files and CoreIFLOW version 2.0 files from within Visio and convert them to Visio drawings. Once you save the converted drawings within Visio, you can use all of Visio's powerful features to modify them.

When you convert, the essential features of your charts are preserved:

- Shapes that were connected in the original charts remain connected.
- Text from the originals appears in the converted drawings.
- Page numbers and page sizes stay the same.
- Clip art and custom shapes are placed in Visio as graphic images.
- ABC FlowCharter shapes that are linked to documents are still linked in the converted drawings.

Visio includes stencils filled with shapes that match all of the shapes that ship with ABC FlowCharter 3.0 and many of the shapes that ship with CoreIFLOW. Because matching shapes exist in Visio, you have the option of converting ABC FlowCharter or CoreIFLOW shapes to Visio [SmartShapes](#), shapes that behave intelligently.

See also

[Converting ABC FlowCharter charts](#)

[Converting CoreIFLOW charts](#)

Converting ABC FlowCharter charts

Visio Flowchart Converter converts ABC FlowCharter 2.0, 3.0, or 4.0 files to Visio drawings.

▶ **To convert an ABC FlowCharter chart to a Visio drawing:**

1. From the File menu, choose Open, and then under List Files Of Type, choose ABC FlowCharter (.AF2 or.AF3), and select the file.
2. Select the [conversion option](#) you want, click Retain Shape Numbers if you want shape numbers in the converted file, and then click OK.

Visio monitors the progress and lets you know when the conversion is complete.

3. The converted diagram opens in Visio. From the File menu, choose Save. In the Save box, name the converted Visio file.

See also

[How Visio converts ABC FlowCharter shapes](#)

[When ABC FlowCharter conversion results aren't what you expect](#)

Converting CorelFLOW charts

Visio Flowchart Converter converts CorelFLOW 2.0 files to Visio drawings.

▶ **To convert a CorelFLOW chart to a Visio drawing:**

1. From the File menu, choose Open, and then under List Files Of Type, choose CorelFLOW (.CLF), and select the file.
2. Select the [conversion option](#) you want, and then click OK.
Visio monitors the progress and lets you know when the conversion is complete.
3. The converted drawing opens in Visio. From the File menu, choose Save. In the Save box, name the converted Visio file.

See also

[How Visio converts CorelFLOW shapes](#)

[When CorelFLOW conversion results aren't what you expect](#)

Learning to speak Visio

Some Visio terms may be new to ABC FlowCharter users. The following table matches ABC FlowCharter terms to corresponding Visio terms.

ABC term:	Visio term:
charts	drawings
palettes	stencils

See also

[Converting ABC FlowCharter charts](#)

[How Visio converts ABC FlowCharter shapes](#)

[When ABC FlowCharter conversion results aren't what you expect](#)

Learning to speak Visio

Some Visio terms may be new to CoreIFLOW users. The following table matches CoreIFLOW terms to corresponding Visio terms.

Corel term:	Visio term:
charts	drawings
smart libraries	stencils
symbols	shapes

See also

[Converting CoreIFLOW charts](#)

[How Visio converts CoreIFLOW shapes](#)

[When CoreIFLOW conversion results aren't what you expect](#)

How Visio converts ABC FlowCharter shapes

When you convert an ABC FlowCharter chart that uses shapes from the palettes, you have the option of converting these shapes to Visio SmartShapes rather than Windows Metafiles. If you create custom shapes with ABC FlowCharter that do not have matching Visio shapes, they convert to Windows Metafiles instead of Visio SmartShapes.

Windows Metafiles look almost exactly like the original ABC FlowCharter shapes, but there are benefits to converting ABC FlowCharter shapes to Visio SmartShapes:

- SmartShapes behave intelligently when they are moved or resized. For example, when you lengthen an arrow in Visio, the arrowhead won't resize.
- You can modify SmartShapes using any of Visio's editing tools. For example, you can add patterns, fills, colors, and text to SmartShapes and you can flip, rotate, and resize them.

See also

[Converting ABC FlowCharter charts](#)

How Visio converts CoreIFLOW shapes

When you convert a CoreIFLOW chart that uses only symbols from the flowchart, organization chart, or network diagram smart libraries, you have the option of converting these CoreIFLOW symbols to Visio SmartShapes.

If your CoreIFLOW chart uses symbols from other smart libraries or custom symbols you've created yourself, matching shapes won't exist in Visio. These unmatched symbols will convert to graphic images, however, and you can edit these graphic images the same way you can edit Visio SmartShapes; they just don't behave intelligently in the same way Visio SmartShapes do.

See also

[Converting CoreIFLOW charts](#)

When ABC FlowCharter conversion results aren't what you expect

Click on any of the following topics to solve your conversion problems.

[Chart name, date, or time](#)

[Colors](#)

[Fields](#)

[Fonts](#)

[Guides](#)

[Line nodes and line crossovers](#)

[Links](#)

[OLE objects](#)

[Patterns](#)

[Shape numbers](#)

[Strikethrough text](#)

Chart name, date, or time

My chart name, date, and time look different in the Visio drawing.

ABC FlowCharter chart names convert into Visio text fields that update automatically when you move Visio drawings to new locations. ABC FlowCharter dates and times convert into Visio date and time fields that update whenever you edit the Visio drawing.

Colors

The colors from my chart don't look the same in the Visio drawing.

ABC FlowCharter colors convert to the closest available color on the Visio color palette. You can create new or modify existing color palettes in Visio.

To learn how to create custom colors in Visio, see the topic "Choosing a color palette" in Visio online Help.

Fields

The fields from my ABC FlowCharter version 4.0 chart disappeared when I converted.

Fields do not convert and will not appear in the converted Visio drawing.

Fonts

The fonts from my ABC FlowCharter version 4.0 chart appear in Arial.

If a font in the ABC FlowCharter chart isn't installed on your computer, it will default to Arial.

Guides

The guides in my ABC FlowCharter chart disappeared when I converted.

Guides do not convert. Reset the guides in the Visio drawing.

Line nodes and line crossovers

The line nodes and line crossovers from my ABC FlowCharter chart disappeared.

Line nodes and line crossovers do not convert and will not appear in the converted Visio drawing.

Links

I had a link from one of my ABC FlowCharter shapes to another ABC FlowCharter chart. The link was broken when I converted.

If a shape in an ABC FlowCharter chart is linked to another ABC FlowCharter chart, both the chart the shape is in and the chart it is linked to must be converted to Visio drawings for the link to be preserved in Visio.

See also

[Linking to other pages and documents](#)

OLE objects

The OLE linked or embedded object in my ABC FlowCharter chart disappeared when I converted.

OLE embedded or linked objects do not convert. Re-embed or re-link them from within Visio.

Patterns

The patterns from my chart don't look the same in the Visio drawing.

Patterned fills convert to the most similar available pattern in Visio.

Shape numbers

Shape numbers from my ABC FlowCharter shapes appear in different places in the Visio shapes.

When you convert an ABC FlowCharter shape with a shape number, the number becomes the first line of text in the text block in the corresponding Visio shape.

To learn how to draw an independent Visio text block, see the topic "Adding independent text to a drawing" in Visio online Help.

Strikethrough text

The strikethrough text I used in my ABC FlowCharter chart disappeared.

Visio does not support strikethrough text. If your original chart includes strikethrough text, it converts to regular text in a Visio drawing.

When CorelFLOW conversion results aren't what you expect

Click the category into which your conversion problem fits.

[Arrowheads](#)

[Colors](#)

[Layers](#)

[OLE objects](#)

[Shapes](#)

[Strikethrough text](#)

Arrowheads

The arrowheads on my arrows don't look the same in Visio as they did in CoreIFLOW.

Line ends, such as arrowheads, convert to the most similar line end available in Visio, if there is a similar one. If no similar line end is available, line ends convert to plain lines to which you can add Visio line ends.

Colors

The colors from my chart don't look the same in the Visio drawing.

Custom colors you created in CoreIFLOW convert to the closest available color on the Visio color palette. You can create new or modify existing color palettes in Visio.

To learn how to create custom colors in Visio, see the topic "Choosing a color palette" in Visio online Help.

Layers

My symbols were on different layers in my CorelFLOW chart. In the Visio drawing, they're all on the same page.

Layers do not convert. Every symbol from a CorelFLOW chart is placed on one layer in Visio. If you want the Visio shapes on different layers, place them on Visio's different layers.

OLE objects

The OLE linked or embedded object in my CoreIFLOW chart disappeared when I converted.

OLE embedded or linked objects do not convert. Re-embed or re-link them from within Visio.

Shapes

Even though I chose the "Visio drawing with SmartShapes" conversion option, my CoreIFLOW shapes converted to graphic images.

When you installed Visio, you may not have installed all of the stencils. To allow CoreIFLOW shapes to convert to Visio SmartShapes, you need to run Visio SETUP.EXE, choose a custom installation, and install all the templates.

Strikethrough text

The strikethrough text I used in my CoreIFLOW chart disappeared.

Visio does not support strikethrough text. If your original chart includes strikethrough text, it converts to regular text in a Visio drawing.

A Visio shape or connector that behaves intelligently when you move or resize it. For example, the arrowhead on this shape won't resize if the arrow is stretched. In Visio, you can program any shape to behave predictably.



Linking to other pages and documents

Shapes in ABC FlowCharter charts can be linked to other documents. In general, these links are preserved when you convert ABC FlowCharter files to Visio files.

If the link is to another ABC FlowCharter document, that document must also be converted to a Visio document or the link will be lost.

Once you've converted an ABC FlowCharter chart to a Visio diagram, you can add and modify links. You can also link a shape to another page in your Visio drawing.

▶ **To add or modify a document link:**

1. Select a shape on the Visio drawing page.
2. From the Tools menu, choose Run Add-on.
3. Choose [Link To Document](#).
4. Select the file in the Link To Document dialog box, and then choose OK.

▶ **To add a link to another page:**

1. Select a shape on the Visio drawing page.
2. From the Tools menu, Run Add-on submenu, choose then Link To Page from the list.
3. Choose the page you want to link to in the Page Name list, and then click OK.

▶ **To activate a link:**

1. Double-click a shape in a Visio diagram to go to the linked page or to open the linked document.

Note: Visio does not convert Ctrl+double-click links or OLE-embedded links.

See also

[Converting ABC FlowCharter charts](#)

Visio Flowchart Converter

You can convert the shapes that ship with ABC FlowCharter 2.0, 3.0, or 4.0 to either Visio [SmartShapes](#) or Windows Metafiles (.WMF). By default, Visio converts ABC FlowCharter shapes it recognizes to Visio SmartShapes and custom-made shapes it doesn't recognize to Windows Metafiles.

DIALOG BOX OPTIONS

Visio Drawing With SmartShapes. Converts ABC FlowCharter shapes into Visio SmartShapes. Visio SmartShapes behave intelligently, and you can format, rotate, and size them, as well as edit them in other ways.

Visio Drawing With Graphic Images. Converts ABC FlowCharter shapes to Windows Metafiles, which look almost exactly like the original shapes. Windows Metafiles don't behave intelligently, and the ways you can edit them are limited. The Visio Flowchart Converter adds a text block to each Windows Metafile so you can add or modify existing text.

Retain Shape Numbers. Check this option to bring numbers associated with ABC FlowCharter shapes into the converted Visio drawing.

Note: In Visio, you can't apply fills or formats to Windows Metafiles. Also, Windows Metafiles cannot be flipped or rotated. For more information about Windows Metafiles, see the Visio online Help.

See also

[Converting ABC FlowCharter charts](#)

[How Visio converts ABC FlowCharter shapes](#)

[When ABC FlowCharter conversion results aren't what you expect](#)

Visio Flowchart Converter

You can convert many of the shapes that ship with CorelFLOW 2.0 to either Visio [SmartShapes](#) or graphic images. By default, Visio converts CorelFLOW shapes it recognizes to Visio SmartShapes and custom-made shapes it doesn't recognize to graphic images.

DIALOG BOX OPTIONS

Visio Drawing With SmartShapes. Converts your CorelFLOW shapes into Visio SmartShapes you can edit.

Visio Drawing With Graphic Images. Converts your CorelFLOW symbols into Visio shapes without the intelligence of Visio SmartShapes. You can edit the graphic images the same way you edit SmartShapes; they just don't behave intelligently the way SmartShapes do.

See also

[Converting CorelFLOW charts](#)

[How Visio converts CorelFLOW shapes](#)

[When CorelFLOW conversion results aren't what you expect](#)

Link To Document

DIALOG BOX OPTIONS

File Name. Lists files of the type specified in the List Files Of Type box. To link to a file, choose from the list, or type a path and filename in the box.

Directories. Displays the current directory. Double-click the directory you want to open (or double-click to return to a parent directory).

List Files Of Type. Lists the file types you can link to, identified by their filename extension: Visio Drawing (.VSD), ABC FlowCharter Files (.AF*), All Programs (.EXE), and All Files (*.*). To change the type, choose from the list.

Drives. Displays the current drive. To change the drive, choose from the list.

See also

[Linking to other pages and documents](#)

