

Ashlar-Vellum Channel Partner Newsletter

December 2012

Cobalt[™], Xenon[™] & Argon[™] v8 SP3 Released



Service pack 3 for Cobalt, Xenon and Argon v8 was released this month and is available for download. If you're a Graphite v8 user (including courtesy licenses through Xenon or Cobalt v8) this is a free update. From within Graphite go to **Help>Check Web for Updates** to access this latest version. The new service pack includes:

- The addition of a message warning of possible compatibility problems with Windows 8.
- A bug fix eliminating the shift of certain types of objects after reopening the file.
- An enhancement linking to the v8 documentation addendum in the Help menu.
- A bug fix that re-enables adding of associative geometry to empty drawing views.
- Updated palettes for arrowheads and fill patterns within Mac OS X 10.7.3 (Lion).
- A bug fix so that files are saved properly after a sheet view layer has been deleted.

- A bug fix that allows original materials to remain when new materials are applied and undone.
- A bug fix to enable positive lower tolerances to be displayed on dimensions.
- A bug fix re-enabling the default settings for the select chain short cut.
- A bug fix eliminating a problem in Hidden and Hidden with Dimmed display mode selection sets when copying objects.
- A bug fix to properly handle Cobalt's constrained sketches when selected for extrusions and other actions.
- An enhancement to automatically resize the status line, message line and other interface objects according to the dock size and position.
- Improved flexibility with fractions and decimals for X,Y, Z coordinates in both Mac and Windows.
- Enhancements to the Drafting Assistant for better operation near the origin point, along construction lines and at the creation points of construction lines.
- Enhanced Preferences dialog box to accommodate extra long text lines.
- An updated PDF export feature which includes bitmaps.
- An enhancement improving printing of perspective views.
- The elimination of extraneous document redraws when switching documents.
- A bug fix eliminating crashes within the pen arrow sizes dialog box.
- An enhancement for improved compatibility with Windows 7.
- Code Signatures for both Apple and Microsoft operating systems for streamlined installation.
- A bug fix to expand the range of focal lengths supported in perspective views.

Graphite[™] v6 Obsolete in April 2013

Graphite v6 licenses will be 10 years old in April of 2013 and will no longer be eligible for upgrades. Earlier this month, those still on Graphite v6 were notified via email and offered 20% off on upgrades from Graphite v6 to Graphite, Xenon or Cobalt v8 until December 31st, 2012.

From January 1st–31st, 2013 we will be offering 10% off the upgrade price. In February and March, v6 licenses can still be upgraded at the regular price. As of April 1st, 2013, Graphite v6 licenses will no longer be eligible for upgrade. Encourage your customers to take advantage of this offer and upgrade their old licenses before it's too late.

Graphite v8 SP4

Service pack 4 for Graphite v8 is released and is available for download. Graphite v8 users (including courtesy licenses through Xenon or Cobalt v8), should use **Help>Check Web for Updates** to access this latest version. The new service pack includes:

- An updated PDF export feature which includes bitmaps.
- An enhanced PDF export feature which optionally exports visible layers only or current sheet only.
- An updated Dimension Tool Palette resolving issues with macros and linear dimensions.
- No temp files in the drawing folder.
- An updated Save Palettes function that saves the screen position of the navigator palette.
- A new software installer preventing installation by non-administrators.
- Streamlined user registration giving customers a choice of online or USB key security.
- An enhancement that launches multiple .vc6 files within the same instance of Graphite when double clicking on a file icon.
- Improved flexibility within the Undo system regarding customized system configurations.
- A bug fix for Windows 7 that corrects the printing of duplicate pages.
- Code Signatures for both Apple and Microsoft operating systems for streamlined installation.

The Design Explorer Issued

Issue 31 of *The Design Explorer* user newsletter went out this month to users and prospects for the fourth quarter 2012. Included in this issue are:

- Holiday Greetings
- Graphite v8 SP4 Released
- Cobalt, Xenon & Argon v8 SP3 Released
- Stealth Award
- Graphite v6 to be Obsolete
- The Art of Engineering Success Story

New Success Story in Works

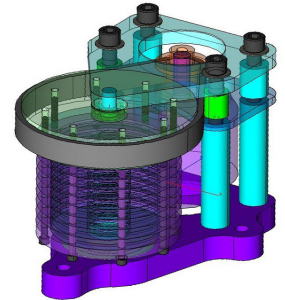
Earlier this month, Troy Gleeson sent us an email with the subject line:

Unsolicited testimonial from a 15 year Ashlar products user

In the body of the email he told us:



*"I was introduced to Ashlar Velum in my mid twenties and have been using the platform daily for 15 years. I have designed and built everything from Broadway venue sets to aircraft components to furniture on this platform. For me there is no comparison in terms of geometry creation. I am also trained in Solidworks and Wildfire 5 (Pro Engineer) and use these powerful programs primarily for their assembly and engineering tools. I rarely use them for design, preferring to complete the design first in Cobalt and then import it though the many translation extensions. I find, after having worked with Ashlar products all these years, that **trying to design complex geometry in any other program is like trying to do surgery without a scalpel** and the ability to generate, what is in parametric terms, an "assembly" of many interlocking parts, on the fly and in one file, invaluable. I find the use of Cobalt as the primary design tool and the use of Solidworks or Pro E as the primary virtual assembly and or engineering tool a very efficient workflow."*



Gleeson designed this fluid-dampened servo mechanism for a camera crane with a clutch pack that applies torque without requiring a large gear train.

With a telephone call, that quote was parlayed into a complete success story. Look for it in this quarter's *Design Explorer* as *The Art of Engineering with Cobalt*.