

## Ashlar-Vellum Channel Partner Newsletter

### June 2010

#### Graphite™ SP2 r3 Coming

The latest hot patch for Graphite v8, build 864, is in the final stages of beta testing and may already be posted to the download site by the time this is published.



# 864

Updated in this hot patch:

- Implemented Ashlar-Vellum crash reporter with file recovery.
- Resolved Apple event error 1708 after printing on Snow Leopard.
- Resolved printing issues under Windows on selected HP printers.
- Solved DWG import issues in Demo mode.
- Resolved a dozen user-reported issues.

#### Alchemy + Upgrade Sale



This next month, while Alchemy is still in beta, we're offering 20% off on all upgrades to Cobalt™, Xenon™, Argon™ or even Graphite™ when purchased with an advanced license to Alchemy: Essential™ (\$595 beta price) or Alchem:Adept™ (\$1995 beta price). Order now for best savings.

#### Application Encapsulation and Streaming

As we continue to look for ways to make our product demos better sales tools, we're looking into technology that encapsulates it and allows it to be streamed from a server to a user's desktop without downloading.

So, for example, a 500 MB application would start to run when only the first 20 MB were downloaded.

The server learns what is most likely to be called next and anticipates the move. Otherwise there is a short pause while that section is downloaded. One company offering this technology is Spoon at [www.spoon.net](http://www.spoon.net).



#### Thanks for Test Driving TestDrive

Thanks to all those who gave us feedback on Runaware's TestDrive system for instant trials of our software in a web browser.



**runaware**<sup>TM</sup>

We're now trying to determine how to best implement the technology to increase sales.

#### CrossOver Mac

You might be interested to know about CrossOver Mac, the program that allows small Windows applications, that are not graphically intensive, to run on the Mac.



Now, both platforms can have ready access to a whole host of engineering applications available from small companies or as open source projects that were designed for Windows only. CrossOver is available from Code Weavers for \$39.95. Check it out at [www.codeweavers.com](http://www.codeweavers.com)

## How to Insert a 3D Object into a PDF File

Just as it's become de rigueur to insert still graphics into documents, it will soon become common place it use 3D objects that can be moved and manipulated on the virtual page.

It's easy to insert any 3D model created in Cobalt, Xenon or Argon into a PDF file using Simlab Composer v2 and Adobe Acrobat Pro.

Simlab Composer is available from Simlab Soft on Windows and Intel Mac for \$149. See [www.Simlab-Soft.com](http://www.Simlab-Soft.com).

Adobe Acrobat Pro is available stand alone for \$449 but many Ashlar-Vellum customers already own it as part of an Adobe suite of products. The Extended Edition of Adobe Acrobat Pro is not required.

To insert a 3D model into a PDF file, follow these easy steps:

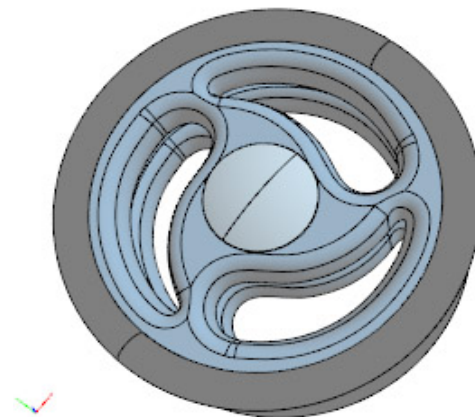
1. Bring up the model in Cobalt, Xenon or Argon.
2. Export the model as a STEP file.
3. In Simlab Composer v2 import the STEP file.
4. Export the file in the U3D format.
5. In Adobe Acrobat Pro open the PDF file in which to insert the 3D file.
6. Using the 3D option within Adobe's Multimedia toolbar, insert the U3D file into the document.

Only viewers that support 3D, such as Adobe PDF Reader (free) can display 3D PDFs. Unfortunately, Apple's Preview for PDF does not support 3D and therefore 3D files will not appear in them.

Below is the familiar Ashlar-Vellum yo-yo modeled by Troy Starkey inserted directly into this PDF. Use the controls on the frame to move the model as desire.

While plans are on the drawing board to build a seamless 3D PDF export into Cobalt, Xenon and Argon v9, this process can be used in the meantime.

MeshLab can be used in place of Simlab Composer with a VRML (.wrl) file format rather than STEP. Meshlab is available free from [www.meshlab.org](http://www.meshlab.org) and works for Windows but crashes on Mac. No word when this problem might be fixed.



*Use your mouse to manipulate the yo-yo embedded as a 3D object in this PDF.*

Apple's Preview software which comes free on the Mac does not support 3D, nor does it support layers. Therefore, Ashlar-Vellum highly recommends downloading the free Adobe Acrobat Reader at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com) and skipping Preview altogether until Apple remedies the situation.