

Ashlar-Vellum Channel Partner Newsletter

March 2007

v8 News

Cobalt, Xenon & Argon

At this writing, Cobalt, Xenon and Argon v8 are still in development. It looks likely that they will go to the beta test team about the first of April.



Graphite

Graphite v8 SP0 is now in "release candidate" status. This means that if we don't find anything that will "stop ship" it looks hopeful that the software will be ready to post for download release to the general public around the end of the month. Support for Intel Mac and QT will not be implemented until SP1.

New Disk Art

Our crack graphics department has initiated the design of new disk art for the v8 releases. The



gray swish moves to the side and coordinates nicely with the v8 splash screens.



New Price Lists

Attached to this email are PDFs and an Excel spreadsheet of the new price lists. The upgrade section is organized slightly differently from the old price list. This one lists them in descending order of price, which generally means that the upgrades from older versions are at the top of the category.

Commercial List Prices					
Product Type	Product Description	Prod Code - List	SP00 List	SP01 List	SP02 List
New Licenses					
Cobalt v8		8000	4,995.00	8070	13,995.00
Xenon v8		8001	3,995.00	8071	11,295.00
Graphite v8		8002	2,495.00	8072	4,095.00
Argon v8		8003	1,295.00	8073	3,445.00
Ashlar Subscription Advantage Program					
Cobalt ASAP CDM 1Yr		8004	1,287.00	8074	3,885.00
Xenon ASAP CDM 1Yr		8005	997.00	8075	2,695.00
Graphite ASAP CDM 1Yr		8006	497.00	8076	1,345.00
Argon ASAP CDM 1Yr		8007	247.00	8077	745.00
Cobalt ASAP CDM 3Yr		8008	3,861.00	8078	11,655.00
Xenon ASAP CDM 3Yr		8009	2,985.00	8079	9,085.00
Graphite ASAP CDM 3Yr		8010	1,741.00	8080	5,235.00
Argon ASAP CDM 3Yr		8011	870.00	8081	2,615.00
Cobalt ASAP CDM 5Yr		8012	6,285.00	8082	19,455.00
Xenon ASAP CDM 5Yr		8013	4,715.00	8083	14,145.00
Graphite ASAP CDM 5Yr		8014	2,995.00	8084	8,985.00
Upgrade Cobalt					
Cobalt v8 to Cobalt v8 CDM		8015	1,895.00	8085	5,295.00
Cobalt v8 to Cobalt v8		8016	1,295.00	8086	3,645.00
Upgrade Xenon					
Xenon v8 to Xenon v8 CDM		8017	1,595.00	8087	4,445.00
Xenon v8 to Xenon v8		8018	1,095.00	8088	3,045.00
Upgrade Graphite					
Graphite v8 to Graphite v8		8019	595.00	8089	1,745.00
Graphite v8 to Graphite v8 CDM		8020	1,095.00	8090	3,045.00
Upgrade Argon					
Argon v8 to Argon v8		8021	495.00	8091	1,345.00
Argon v8 to Argon v8 CDM		8022	995.00	8092	2,695.00
Upgrade Xenon Product (Legacy Graphite, Vellum 3D, Vellum 2D or Vellum 2Dv)					
Graphite v8 to Xenon v8		8023	3,495.00	8093	9,895.00
Graphite v8 to Xenon v8 CDM		8024	4,995.00	8094	13,995.00
Upgrade Graphite (Serial number descended from a Vellum 3D serial number)					
Graphite v8 to Graphite v8 CDM		8025	2,995.00	8095	8,995.00
Graphite v8 to Graphite v8		8026	1,995.00	8096	5,995.00



Training Becker & Mayer!

This month Ashlar-Vellum product manager, Greg Morgan and president Robert Bou trained eight new Xenon users at Becker & Mayer! in the Seattle area. Becker & Mayer! is one of the largest book producers of non-fiction books for adults and children in the United States. Their full line of book-and-toy juvenile products incorporate plastics, electronics and other materials. Becker & Mayer!

is particularly proud of their SmartLab series of fun science books for children ages 8 to 10.

Xenon v8 SP2 performed almost flawlessly. Robert and Greg attribute this not only to the software, but also to the fact that all of the training files used were updated to use the net surface tool only where appropriate, avoiding the dreaded "ACIS Error

Monster." During the three-day session, Rob and Greg were also finally able to witness the intermittent disappearance of the Undo command, which has troubled several users but has never been reproduced in our offices. A work around for the problem was devised and appears below.



Robert Bou, far left, and Greg Morgan, second from right, with the razor sharp design team using Xenon at Becker & Mayer!

Can't Do Undo?

A few users have reported the intermittent disappearance of the Undo function in Cobalt, Xenon or Argon. The function performs normally, then suddenly is grayed out in the menu and the normal shortcut keys (Ctrl+Z or ⌘+Z) no longer work. Having finally witnessed this during the Becker & Mayer! training, the Ashlar-Vellum team now has some clues

on how it occurs and how to fix it. In the meantime, the easiest work around is simply to:

- Program another shortcut to the Undo function.
- Undo the latest change.
- Save the files.
- End the drawing session.
- Restart the software.

Upon starting the software again, Undo works normally.

The above is a different problem than when Undo does not work at all. When this is the problem it is because the read/write privileges are not set correctly for the folder where the temporary undo file is stored.

ISO Master DVDs for Manufacturing

If you're an international distributor who manufactures Ashlar-Vellum CDs for delivery to the customer, new ISO DVDs are on their way to you. The files can also be found in the secure section of the Resource Library.

Need to know more about burning ISO files onto a CD? There's a great overview by Trip Bauer of Westwood College Online at <http://www.woltechhelp.com/knowledgebase/default.asp?ID=9>

In brief, he says:

This [ISO] file is an image of the original disk - a copy of how all the bits are arranged on the original disk. Properly burning this file to a CD will produce a disk identical to one you would buy [from a manufacturer].

Burning an ISO image is different than burning a data CD or music CD. While it is not a .zip file, think of it as similar in nature: many small files combined into one easy to transport file. You download one file, if you burn it as a regular data CD, you will be copying that same single file. By burning it properly, you essentially "unpack" the file into its original format. So, instead of winding up with one file on a disk, you have many smaller files on it just as a retail version would be formatted. Some CD burning software

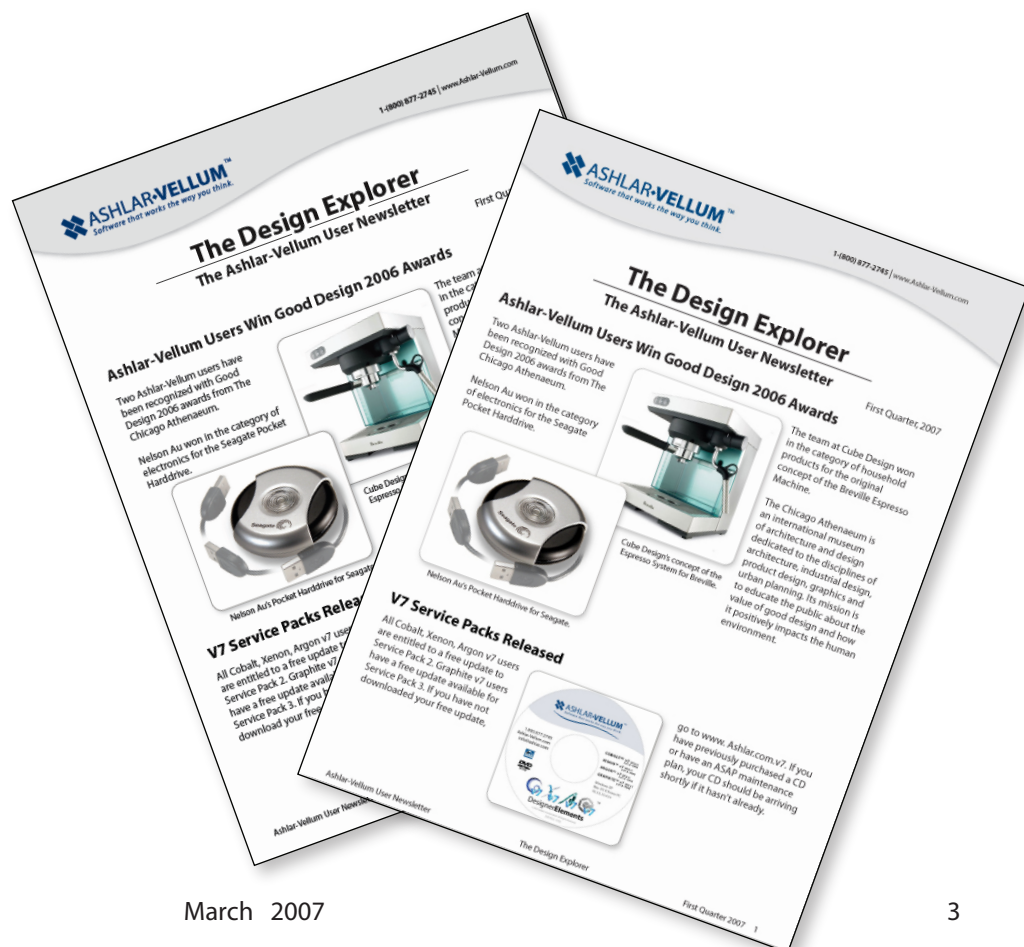
can detect and perform this different process automatically; however, many do not.

There are many websites with information on how to properly burn ISOs using each type of software. The best resource is often found in the "Help" section of the burning software that came with your computer and/or CD or DVD burner.

More information and resources for additional help are included on the Westwood College site.

Q1 Design Explorer

The first quarter edition of the *Design Explorer* was sent to English-speaking customers around the world this week in 8 1/2 x 11 and A4 formats. Some important questions and answers from our knowledgebase are included, such as measuring distances, checking object information, converting from metric to inches and moving objects between layers. Two new success stories and updates on the v8 releases also appear.



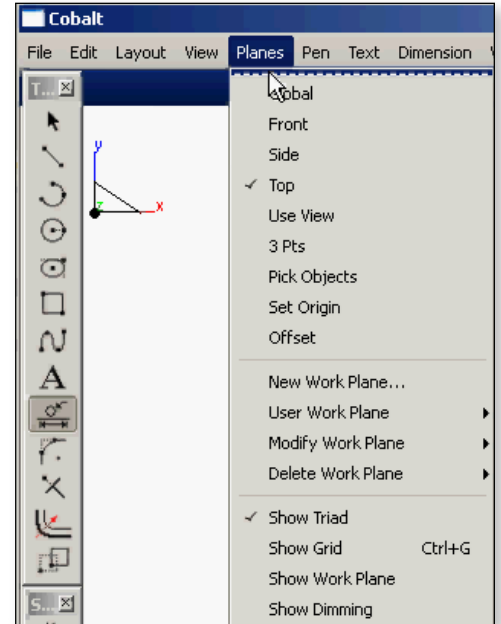
Tear-off Menu Movie for Cobalt, Xenon and Argon

Cobalt, Xenon and Argon v8 will all include a dotted line at the top of their pull-down menus. Click on that dotted line to "tear off" the menu, then resize it and drag it to a convenient location. The menu stays open, ready to use, until the box is clicked to close it. This is especially useful for the Verify, Planes, PhotoRender and Edit menus.

To view a movie showing the tear-off menus in action go to <http://ftp.ashlar.com/private/CobaltTearOffMenuItems.mov>.

Please note, this movie was made using alpha v8 software and does not yet show the new icons and menu names used in v8.

This feature will also be implemented in Graphite v8 SP1 sometime mid year.



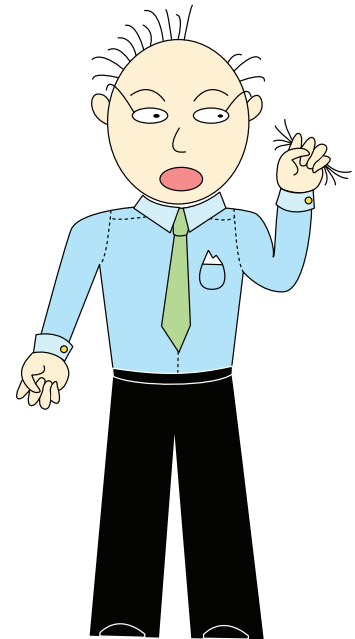
Infrastructure Upgrade

If you've noticed anomalies while communicating with Ashlar-Vellum in the past month it's because we're moving all of our servers to a remote co-location here in Texas. This will offer a number of advantages including:

- Greater bandwidth for faster downloads.
- Greater bandwidth for incoming customer files to technical support.
- Remote log-in for the telephone system.
- Increased business continuity against theft, fire, data loss and other calamities.
- Improved performance for the Resource Library.

Unfortunately, the growing pains that come with this type of change have caused poor Robert to nearly tear his hair out. In the past month we've repeatedly suffered intermittent difficulties accessing our:

- Website.
- Download links.
- Mail server.
- Support Suite.
- Customer database.



Server location changes have caused Robert Bou much frustration and possible loss of hair this month.