

Ashlar-Vellum Channel Partner Newsletter

October 2009

V8 SP2 for Cobalt, Xenon & Argon Released

Cobalt, Xenon, Argon and Cobalt Share v8 SP2 were released on Tuesday, October 27th and are available for download at www.ashlar.com/v8.



The highlights of this service pack include:

Major Features:

- Sketch Renderings
- Stroke Shortcuts
- Layer Sets
- Enhanced Drafting Assistant Preferences
- Revised Model to Sheet Dialog Box
- Faster Loading History Tree
- Editable Templates in Model to Sheet (New in Argon only)

Minor Enhancements:

- Tutorials in Help Menu
- Samples in File Menu
- Enhanced Access to Drafting Assistant Settings
- Faster Render Library Rebuild (Windows only)
- Improved Object Visibility with Construction Lines

- Direct Access to Folders Paths Defined in Preferences
- Changeable Mouse-wheel Zoom Direction
- More Entities Accepted with the Fill Command
- Special Copy/Paste Command to and from Graphite v8 SP2
- Feature Tree Replace Curve Option Now Supports Multi-curve Selections (Xenon & Cobalt only)
- Formulas Entered in Status Line Now Stored as Equations Instead of Results (Cobalt only)

New Price Lists

A complete set of new price lists has been generated from our database and is attached with this email. The prices have not changed in the past year, but certain packs have been adjusted and corrected.

You'll notice that Commercial lists have a blue band across the top, Research/Charitable & Retired have a purple band, and Student/Teacher Units have orange. E-only pages have gray shading. We hope all of this makes it easy to find the retail price you need for your customer quotes.

Large Format Printing from the Mac

We have reopened the Graphite v8 code to create a Service Pack 2 in order to support large format printers on Mac. While intended as an enhancement for Graphite v9, support for large format printers and plotters has become a critical issue since many printer drivers for Leopard and Snow Leopard are shipping without the ability to control output resolution. This issue was resolved for Windows in Service Pack 1 several months ago.



In the past, Graphite and Vellum classic could support up to roughly 32,000 steps/pixels per inch in either direction. (Plotters are measured in steps, printers in pixels.)

For example, at 1200 DPI (pixels) the maximum paper size was calculated as:

$$32,767 \div 1,200 = 27 \text{ inches in either direction}$$

Or, for a plotter at .001 resolution or 1000 steps per inch, the maximum paper size was calculated as about:

$$32,767 \div 1,000 = 32.7 \text{ inches in either direction}$$

Now in SP2, we have expanded Graphite by a factor of 65,000 to over 2 billion pixels. So now the

maximum paper size for a drawing at 9600 DPI can be calculated as:

$$2,147,352,578 \div 9600 = 223,683 \text{ inches in either direction}$$

Be aware, however, that physical and virtual printers (PDF) have their own limitations on these sizes.

Release of Graphite v8 SP2 is anticipated around the first week in November.

Graphite v8 SP2



Since we've reopened Graphite v8 to include an SP2, in addition to support for large format printers on Mac, we'll also be including a number of enhancements and fixes such as:

- Special Copy/Paste Command to and from Cobalt, Xenon and Argon v8 sp2
- Minor Fixes for DXF Bugs
- Hatching for Smart Walls
- Line Weight Changes for Hatches
- Copy/Paste Command Fixed to and from Microsoft Word

Upgrade Sale

The October sale promoting upgrades to those caught in the Vista/Snow Leopard operating system issue worked satisfactorily. We're finding that price is really not the issue. Businesses are spending very little that is not absolutely necessary even when the value is exceptional.