

## Ashlar-Vellum Channel Partner Newsletter July 2008

### Lightening Strikes Bou Home Office

The home office of Robert and Julie Bou was struck by lightening about 5:30 on Saturday evening, June 21st.

In a freak micro thunderstorm that lasted only a few minutes and produced almost no rain, the north side of our house took a direct hit that started at the apex of the roof, ruffling the shingles, and traveled through the attic where it branched in two directions, splitting several wall studs lengthwise on both sides. One fork exited a few feet to the west leaving a trail of zapped siding several inches wide and about 4 feet long on its way to the ground. The other fork branched to the east toward where Robert was sitting just below.

The good news is the house did not burn down, nor did Robert, who was working at one of the computers, get more than a mild shock.



The bad news is that a number of electronic components in our home and office are now "toast." We have started a "morgue" of collected parts that are now dead. The strike traveled through a telephone cable in the attic, charring it in two places and killing all of the telephones and answering machine for the house landline. It also burned out the credit card and fax machines for our business that run on that line.

Since lightening strikes induce huge currents into any moderate length cables within the vicinity, the amplifier for the stereo system was hit and is making very



strange chattering noises. The hot tub blew a circuit board and the automatic sprinkler system lost its controller. Because our TV/DVD player has no cable or antenna connection it was untouched.

We have redundant high-speed cable and T1 internet connections, both of which were knocked out.



This brought down our business phones, email and access to our remote servers in the process. We also lost a number of networking connection gadgets throughout the house.

On the computers we lost one full server plus a port on one of the other servers in our closet. We also lost the Ethernet connection on one of the iMacs and several other computers are acting strangely.

To date, it appears that the extent of the damage will just match our business and homeowner's insurance deductibles, which are admittedly high by decision. We will be looking into this, however.

If you recall, in April, the hosting center where our remote servers are located in Dallas was struck by lightening bringing down our email, telephones and customer database for two days.

## Cobalt, Xenon and Argon v8 SP1

Cobalt, Xenon and Argon v8 SP0 were released June 26th for the Mac. The reaction has been positive from customers. The team is now hard at work on SP1. This new service pack will include

more than 300 fixes over SP0 build 824. It will also include the Intel Mac optimizations. Watch our progress through the beta builds at [www.ashlar.com/v8](http://www.ashlar.com/v8).

## Graphite v8 SP1

For those awaiting Graphite optimized for the Intel Mac, the latest beta build for v8 SP1 should be posted the last week in July. SP1 includes major enhancements

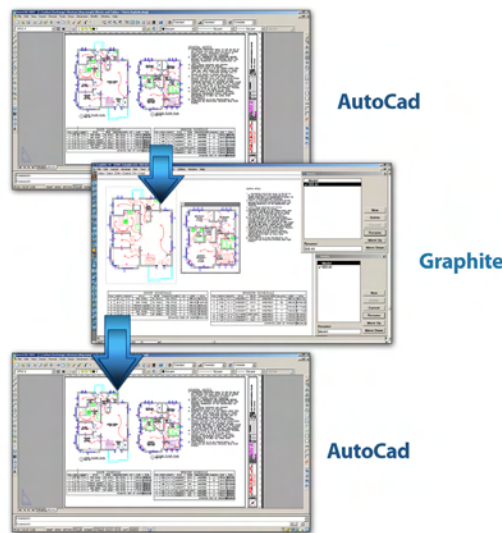
to the DWG/DXF translator. Look for build numbers 832 or higher for testing in August as we converge on the release of this service pack.

## DXF/DWG Challenge

The DXF/DWG translator within Graphite is getting stronger and stronger. In our continued quest to make our software the best it can be (considering DXF is a constantly moving target) we're issuing the DXF/DWG Import Challenge to our channel partners and Ashlar "family" members. Through the month of September, send us your problem files, those delinquent DXF documents that can be accurately edited in AutoCAD LT but choke in the latest build of Graphite v8 SP1.

Those sending us the toughest files will not only receive recognition, but a genuine Graphite coffee mug. Instructions for how to submit files for the Challenge will

appear in the August Channel Partner newsletter. So gather your problem files and be ready to submit them in September. Issues learned from this challenge will be fixed in future hot patches and service packs after the initial release of SP1.



## Ashlar to Distribute Rules

Ashlar-Vellum has signed a distribution agreement with Mike Collins to distribute Rules specialty packaging software. Built on Graphite Custom, Rules is an equivalent replacement for Score software, now that Score has been discontinued by Dimensional Impressions. DI was purchased by Artwork System who was then purchased by Esko Graphics. Esko makes a completing product called Artios and so has discontinued Score.



## Robert Bou in Japan

Rob Bou spent the week of July 21st in Japan working with our distributor Comnet on the Japanese release of Graphite v8. He also worked with the legal team preparing for a hearing in the Concepts Technology suit against Comnet and the Ashlar suit against Concepts Technology.

