Ashlar-Vellum Channel Partner Newsletter
July 2015

New Videos

Our Product Comparison page has an overview video of our CAD and 3D modeling products Cobalt™, Xenon™, Argon™ and Graphite™. Take a look at how the four different products stack up against each other.
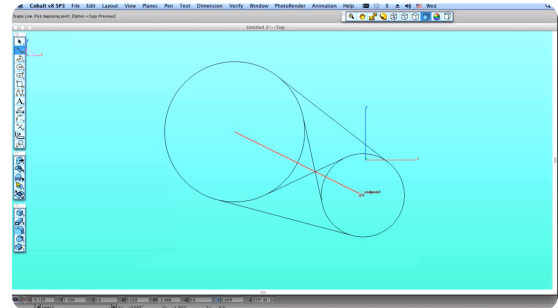

Click on the thumbnail to review the Product Comparison on YouTube.

On our Gallery page is a movie with a tribute of our users and the diverse industries they represent. Turn up the music, sit back and enjoy the wonderful designs in this eight minute video.
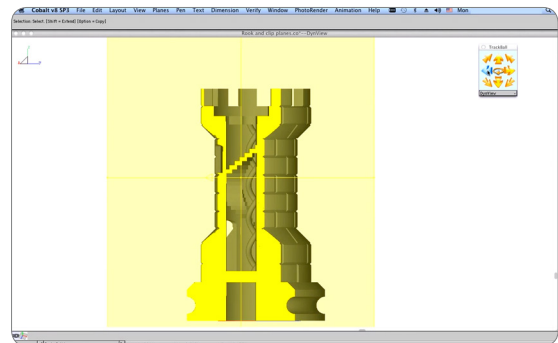

A Tribute to Our Users & Their Industries

Click to see some of the many products designed by our users across an array of industries.

On our 3D Modeling Tutorials page are two new videos introducing the key features to the unique Vellum® interface. The first covers the Interface Window and the Drafting Assistant™, The second one talks about the Trackball. Number three is in production and will feature the Show/Hide function and the Design Explorer™. It's a great way for new users to get started with our 3D modeling products.

Click to explore the Interface Window and the Drafting Assistant of our 3D modeling software.

Click on this video thumbnail to learn about the Trackball.
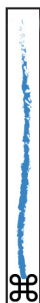
Vellum Nitrogen™

We are hoping to complete the new build and have Comnet sign off on the final release of Vellum Nitrogen v9 SP1 shortly. A build was done earlier this week incorporating the new DWG library, breaking several other things in the process. Those things are being updated and all changes for this version will be rolled into future versions of Graphite.
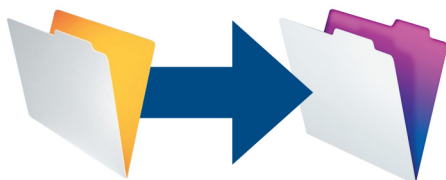
Stroke Commands for Construction Lines

Last month we discussed how stroke commands in Graphite, Cobalt, Xenon and Argon allow you to interrupt an operation and perform a zoom command in the middle. The same idea can be used for construction lines.

Hold down the Ctrl+Shift keys on the PC of the Command key (⌘) on Mac. Then drag the cloverleaf cursor any length horizontally to create a horizontal line. Drag the cloverleaf cursor any length vertically to create a vertical line.

Updating FileMaker

For decades Ashlar-Vellum has used the FileMaker 5 relational database system to run our licensing, sales and accounting infrastructure. For years this has been under Microsoft 2003 Server and has been rock solid. Now Microsoft has announced "end of life" for this version and has discontinued virus patches from the OS. This, in turn, has caused other companies to discontinue updates for this version and will eventually prevent this old software from running.

So now we must move forward to a new version. (We're whining as loudly as some of our own customers.) We are updating to a Microsoft 2008 R2 server (Windows 7). Because everything is virtualized through VMware this mostly means paying money to Microsoft and FileMaker.

News on Graphite

In the next few weeks we will be officially announcing Graphite v10 with anticipated release at the end of the year. Like v9, this will be a less feature-packed release than some in our past history and will be offered at a lower upgrade price.

In order not to delay the customer-requested enhancements to v10, we are splitting off the surfacing portion (previously announced as part of v10) into a separate product, yet to be named, expected in the second quarter of 2016. This new product will offer easy upgrades from Graphite v10. Significant special incentives will be offered for anyone upgrading from v7 or v8 or purchasing a new v9 from now until December.

New Responsive Website

We're in the midst of upgrading the Ashlar-Vellum website to make it responsive to tablet and smartphone browsers. The overall design is streamlined and will resize appropriately to fit the device, taking advantage of larger fonts and images on desktop screens, while collapsing elegantly to accommodate the narrower view on smartphones and tablets. Making websites mobile-friendly boosts rankings on Google and other search engines. Look for the new layout to appear on line in the weeks ahead.