

Ashlar-Vellum Channel Partner Newsletter June 2008

CobaltTM, XenonTM & ArgonTM v8 Releasing on Power PC

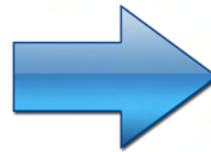
Cobalt, Xenon and Argon v8 should be releasing the week of June 23rd for the Macintosh Power PC. The trio was previously released for Windows on January 28th.

The Mac Intel version is still in beta and is anticipated in about another month. Mac Intel users have two options during this time.

- ▶ Use the released version of v8 for the Power PC, which runs seamlessly on the Intel Mac under Rosetta emulation on the Leopard version of OS X. The only difference will be a slight speed increase once the Intel version is released.

- ▶ Use the beta version for Intel for everything except photo-realistic rendering. Do all of your design work in the very stable beta then switch to the released version for the Power PC for rendering only.

To download these versions go to www.ashlar.com/v8.



Power PC

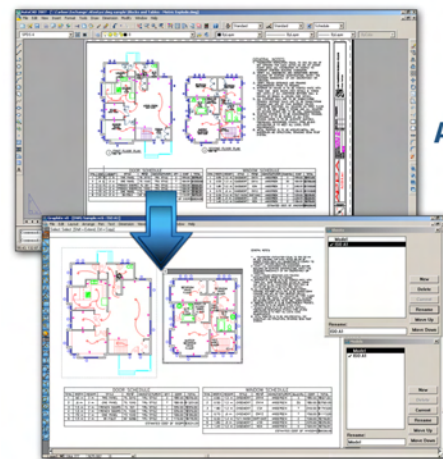
GraphiteTM v8 SP1 in Beta

By the time you read this Service Pack 1 for Graphite v8 will be in public beta or may possibly even be released. The latest build is posted to the website and can be reached through www.ashlar.com/v8.

Initial results show a 3X performance increase for zoom, pan and select functions, and 2X for file loading under Leopard on an Intel machine. While this sounds exciting, please bear in mind that only 1 to 2% of our Graphite users have files that are

large enough or complex enough to really notice the difference.

In addition to support for Mac Intel, this version imports AutoCAD layouts with their views into Graphite sheets on both Mac and Windows. This is the single most requested DWG import feature we've had.



AutoCad

Graphite

The Design Explorer Newsletter

The Ashlar-Vellum user newsletter, *The Design Explorer*, was sent out this month. Inaugurated in Q2 2005, this marks three years of uninterrupted publishing by our marketing communications team.



Past issues are archived online under **Community>Design Explorer**. Many of the articles have been repurposed under **Support>Articles** and also **Support>Hot Topics & FAQs**.

New Success Stories

Two new success stories are now available on our website under **Gallery>Success Stories**. Both stories feature designer Fred Puksta and highlight Cobalt's tremendous ease of use.

In Loving Memory is about a beautiful black granite bench designed as a memorial to his parents, featuring a tile mosaic of a stained glass window. In it Fred says:

"If you pick up a tool like a paintbrush you want it to be an extension of your body, your mind and your heart. You don't want to be slowed down because the tool does not function seamlessly. If I get stuck in mechanics of the program verses the creation of the aesthetic, that is disheartening and shuts down the whole creative process."



Innovative Kitchen Design Made Easier in Cobalt discusses how Fred turned the inventive design for his own kitchen renovation into a new commercial product line for Crown Point Cabinetry. In this one Fred talks about the Drafting Assistant:

"The single best thing about Cobalt is the Drafting Assistant. That's probably the best thing that's been invented with respect to CAD programs because, especially in a 3D environment, it is so easy to use when the Drafting Assistant is helping you determine where you are in 3D space. It's really phenomenal."



These quotes and several others by Fred are captured in audio sound clips on the webpage. This is a new feature that is being added to our success stories that shares the thoughts and opinions expressed in the designer's own words.

New Ticketing System for Customer Service

Emails coming into customer.service@ashlar.com will now be on a ticketing system in our Support Center. This allows us to easily track customer requests, know who's helping whom with what, and let customers see where the inquiry is being routed within the organization.