Ashlar-Vellum Channel Partner Newsletter November 2013

Graphite™ v9 Release

Graphite v9 will be previewed on November 25th, 2013. Beta release will start on December 2nd and...if all goes as planned…full release will be December 14th.

This is a version with a shorter list of new features and therefore has a lower upgrade price than many of those we've offered previously. An aggressive discount schedule for upgrades from Graphite v7 and v8 will be offered to those wanting to be early adopters.

Cobalt™ Plus and Xenon™ Plus owners who want to upgrade their companion licenses to Graphite now may do so and will be offered a discount off of their Cobalt or Xenon v9 upgrades later. Call us for further details if you have customers needing this.

Graphite v9 Feature List

The list of new features and enhancements to v9 include the following. For details on each listing click here on Monday and go the learn more section.

Greater Usability Enhancements

- Enlarged Text for User Interface Items
- Updated & Enlarged Icons
- Tool Tips
- Help Tool Hyperlink
- Visual Assistance including:
  - Cursor Options
  - Scaled Line Weights
  - Menu Fonts

New Features & Functions

- General Function Tool Palette
- New Construction Line Tool
- Infinite Grid and Construction Lines
- Copy Item by Path Function
- Stretch Tool
- Visual Color Selection Palettes
- Drag & Drop Re-ordering in Layers, Sheets, and Models Dialogs

Increased Redraw Speed

- Redrawing Interrupt
- Grid Display

Import Export Enhancements

- Latest DXF/DWG Support
- 2D PDF IMPORT
- PDF Large Size Export
- Drawing Size Window Supports PDF Page Size
- EPS Export Enhancements

International Enhancements

- Unicode Core Base
- Support for 11 Languages
- Support for Hebrew Typing (Windows only)
- Support for Files from Pirated Versions of Graphite and Vellum

Graphite v9 Early Adopter Sale

Preview Release	Nov 25-27, 2013
Upgrade Graphite v8 to v9	US **$ 95**
Upgrade Graphite v7 to v9	US **$395**
Beta Release	Nov 28-Dec 13, 2013
Upgrade Graphite v8 to v9	US **$145**
Upgrade Graphite v7 to v9	US **$495**
Early Adopter Release	Dec 14-31, 2013
Upgrade Graphite v8 to v9	US **$195**
Upgrade Graphite v7 to v9	US **$595**
Full Release	Jan 1, 2014 on
Upgrade Graphite v8 to v9	US **$245**
Upgrade Graphite v7 to v9	US **$695**

Free v8 to v9 Upgrade

Anyone who purchased Graphite v8 on or after October 1, 2013 will receive Graphite v9 for free.

New Tales of Success

New success stories have been completed and are on the Ashlar-Vellum and AlphaCorr websites. Look for them in this quarter's user newsletter, The Design Explorer, coming next month.

In the mean time, click here to see AlphaCorr's two new stories, *Success Pops Up All Over for Americhip* and Dies Inc story, *Light Years Ahead with SteelRules*.

Next week click here to see the Ashlar-Vellum story on Precision Concepts Medical Technologies, *It All Starts with a Cobalt Model*.

Holiday Hours

Ashlar-Vellum

The Ashlar-Vellum administrative offices will be closed December 23rd through January 3rd. During this time, orders placed through our website be processed through our European offices and registration codes sent via email as usual. Shipping of physical materials will resume the week of January 6th. Requests for demo codes will be monitored and fulfilled. Technical support will be handled as usual through our website.

AlphaCorr

The AlphaCorr offices will be on reduced staff December 23rd through January 8th. During that time orders placed will be processed through our European offices and hardware keys shipped directly from our supplier. Requests for demos will be monitored. Technical support will be handled as usual through our website.

Dear Ashlar-Vellum

Dear Ashlar-Vellum: Most laser and waterjet cutting vendors that I've contacted prefer solid models in a Solidworks format over any other format. I would prefer, however, to use my MAC and either Argon™, Xenon, or Cobalt. What should I do to send files to laser and waterjet cutting facilities who ask for a 3D solid in a Solidworks format.

—A Devoted Mac User

Dear Devoted: Laser and waterjet cutting of steel plate is a 2D process. In the end, the vendors need 2D vector files to drive their cutters. They are afraid of getting 3D wireframe or 3D surface files that must be carefully converted or 2D files that are incorrectly created.

Therefore they ask for a 3D solid so that the conversion process to 2D is under their control, and they ask for that 3D solid file in Solidworks format because they've come to know the vagaries of that particular software and wish to convert the file themselves, dealing exclusively with the devil that they know.

If, however, you give them a 3D solid file in either ACIS (.sat) or Parasolid (.x_t) they can bring that file right into SolidWorks perfectly.

Some other benefits of preparing 3D solids for use by 2D plate cutting equipment is that by their very nature, 3D solids can only contain fully closed loops for the flat edges, and cannot contain any duplicate lines on an edge. Plus, every edge can only be used in one specific part. With most 2D file creation processes, it is all too easy not to close the loops to the mathematical precision required, or to accidentally duplicate edges, or share lines between nested parts.

—Ashlar-Vellum Product Management