The Design Explorer
The Ashlar-Vellum User Newsletter

First Quarter, 2016

Release of Cobalt™, Xenon™ and Argon™ v9

Ashlar-Vellum is proud to announce the release of Cobalt, Xenon and Argon v9. If you purchased an upgrade but have not yet downloaded one of these 3D modeling programs you can do it here (Cobalt, Xenon, Argon.) Be sure to choose the correct program, then copy and paste your new v9 serial number and registration code from the email sent out previously. If you did not get or can't find that notification, check your junk mail file, then contact at customer.service@ashlar.com for the codes to be resent.

Enhancements to version 9 include:

- Support for OS X 10.6, 10.7, 10.8, 10.9, 10.10 and 10.11
- Support for Windows 7, 8.1 and 10
- Import/export support for AutoCAD 2016 DXF/DWG
- 2D PDF import
- 3D PDF export
- Smart Walls, Doors and Windows for architectural layout
- Surface from Two Contours function
- Conic Surface from Sections and Guides function

More information and additional enhancements are listed here.

Graphite™ v10 SP1

Graphite v10 was released the end of January. Service Pack 1 was posted in February. This service pack contained a number of high priority bug fixes to the earlier Graphite v10 release. If you have Graphite 10 but have not yet downloaded the newest service pack, you can do so here.

Look for additional service packs and hot patches to be released at frequent intervals. Employing smaller, incremental releases allows for more dynamic development, more manageable QA and faster response to customer issues.

New DVDs

New DVD's are being made with the latest releases of Graphite v10 and Cobalt, Xenon and Argon v9. We anticipate them being ready to ship sometime in mid April. DVDs are only available to those with at least one current product license and cost US $8.25 plus US $12.00 shipping. If you did not order a DVD with your upgrade license and would like to, you can order here though our website. Please be aware, that the DVDs will never be as current as the downloads from our website but are available for those needing an archive disk or who are not on the Internet.

Unmatched OS & Software Versions

Over and over our sales team and support people are asked, "Will my older version of software run on the latest operating systems?" Or, "Will this new version of Ashlar-Vellum software run on my old Windows XP machine?"

We tell you this honestly. Having unmatched software, operating systems and hardware are NOT in your best interest.

It might fly for awhile, but we don't support it. And when you're in the midst of a critical project and your computer breaks, you will be flying on one wing without a parachute.

Below are lists of current and recent versions of Ashlar-Vellum software and their supported operating systems. The operating system should be the current or final release of each version.

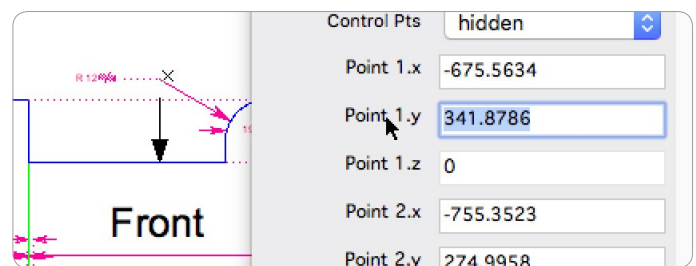| Mac	Win x32/x64	Mac	Win x32/x64	Mac	Win x32/x64	Mac (Intel only)	Win x32/x64
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Bill Kengla Joins us for Training

Bill Kengla of Seabridge, LLC joined Mike Collins for Rules™ training and Robert Bou for Xenon training here in Austin in March. Bill designs, optimizes and produces packaging for one of the nation's leading manufacturers of athletic and casual footwear. A long-time Graphite user, Bill is appreciating the extra productivity that comes from Rules.

Bill Kengla, left, and Robert Bou discuss using Xenon to optimize box sizes.

Data Selection Shortcut

Within any Graphite, Cobalt, Xenon or Argon dialog box you can select all of the characters in any data field just by clicking on the field name. This makes it incredibly fast to modify parameters and attributes because you don't need to select the entire text in the field to type over it. It's just one way Ashlar-Vellum makes you more productive and your design life easier.

Meet our New Staff

Ashlar-Vellum and AlphaCorr have added several new members to our team. Some of these you'll talk to with in tech support and customer service.

Others will provide infrastructure support but you'll see the results in better database results and emails.

Roman Kutanov

Roman has joined our team working on our our database infrastructure. Roman grew up in Kaniv, Ukraine just south of Kiev on the Dnieper river. At the age of five his father taught him to play chess and never let him win till Roman did so on his own at eight. His degree from Taras Schevchenko National University was in Quantum Physics. He has over 10 years of IT and database experience in a variety of fields including packaging, retail and custom business systems.

Natalia Antoniuk

Natalia has joined us as Business Operations Manager. She oversees all procedures and systems for the business, marketing, sales, customer service and technical support processes. A native of Kiev, Ukraine, Natalia works remotely from Yafo (Jaffa), near Tel Aviv, Israel. Natalia has extensive experience in project and account management, and field operations. She enjoys reading, films and drinking coffee in cafes looking over the Mediterranean Sea.
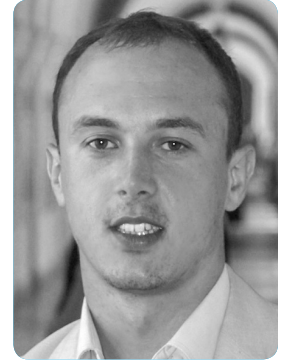
Vova Prokopchuk

Join us in welcoming Vova Prokopchuk to our AlphaCorr™ and Ashlar-Vellum technical support teams. A structural packaging and graphics designer, Vova has experience creating die cut designs for corrugated paperboard, as well as design, layout and prepress preparation for printing. He is also captivated by new product design. Vova grew up in western Ukraine and graduated from Maharishi University of Management where he studied computer science.

Bogdan Nechiporuk

Bogdan is new to our infrastructure team doing database and security server projects. He grew up in Kharkiv, Ukraine where he loved math and computers at the local schools. Bogdan graduated last year from Kharkiv National University of Electronics with a degree in Information and Communications Systems Security. He likes cars and playing American football, and someday would like to see the Jets play in New York.

Andriy Pereuda

Andriy also comes to us with a background in structural packaging and graphic design. He will be assisting customers with both AlphaCorr packaging and Ashlar-Vellum 3D modeling and CAD software. He is a native Ukrainian where he studied at two of their top polytechnic universities. Andriy is a very personable fellow who greatly enjoys spending time with friends, as well as traveling, hiking and skiing.
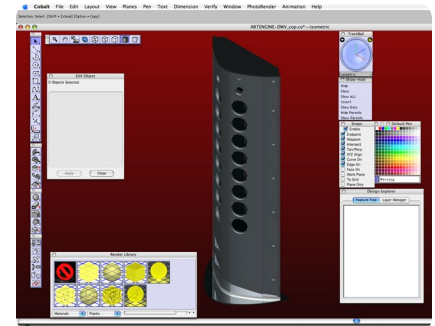
Listen to the Sound of that Ferrari

The team at David Wiener Ventures was recently challenged by Italy's Ferrari SpA to design a freestanding loud speaker for their Art.Engine home audio series. The challenge included providing balanced sound channels to any location of the room. Towering 47" (199cm), the system combines two speaker arrays, wireless signal input and digital electronics in a single tower. Described as "three-dimensional," the room-filling sound field brings audio performance to a new level.

Full of organic shapes with few flat surfaces, the Art.Engine's ports are designed to simulate the racing-style NACA vents on the Ferrari automobile. Also featured in the design are carbon fiber baffles and a Ferrari-inspired paint finish in characteristic red, black, silver or gray.

Wiener's team did the entire design in Cobalt™ CAD and 3D modeling software, sending the finished parts directly to their milling machine for production. This showed them the details of fit, aesthetics and finish early in the process. As Wiener describes it, "We were working within very tight tolerances. The surface had to be perfect because it was to be hand-finished for Ferrari paint."

What Wiener's team found most amazing was that everything fit the first time. There were no rejected parts. One team member commented, "Cobalt eliminates traditional prototyping so we can prototype virtually on the computer. When we like a product we can go straight into production."

Cobalt's built-in 3D rendering capabilities not only helped the client visualize their dream completely in situ, but also gave them a pole position on marketing materials. Brochures and web images were done before the finished speaker rolled off the production line.

"My team and I have designed everything from fashion to furniture, from vehicles to aircraft to audio gear," said David Wiener. "We've used all kinds of production methods. The constants across all these designs have been advancing performance, advancing style and using Ashlar-Vellum software."

David Wiener (**below**) and his team designed the Art.Engine audio speakers for Ferrari SpA to mirror the design features of their automobile using Cobalt CAD and 3D modeling software.

Background/Contact

For more details on this project contact:

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