

The Design Explorer

The Ashlar-Vellum User Newsletter

Fourth Quarter, 2017



Pre-release for Mac High Sierra Users Working Well

In September Ashlar-Vellum issued emergency pre-releases of Cobalt, Xenon and Argon v10, and Graphite v11 when Apple released their new OS X 10.13, commonly known as High Sierra, without fixing several of the problems that we and other developers had reported to them. Their operating system completely broke the v8 and v9 versions of our

3D modelling programs and the v9 and v10 versions of Graphite. In order to allow our Mac customers to continue working, Ashlar-Vellum issued a pre-release upgrade that worked around the problems with OS X 10.13. Everyone who purchased that pre-release is entitled to the fully-finished software when it is ready, probably in the early part of next year. ❖

CobaltTM, XenonTM, ArgonTM v10 in Beta

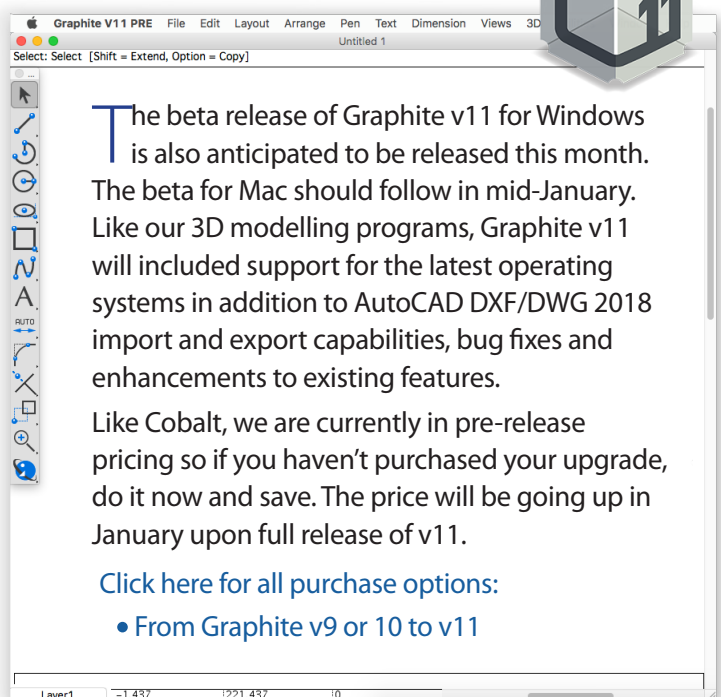
The beta release of Cobalt, Xenon and Argon v10 for Windows is anticipated this month. The beta release for Mac is expected in mid-January. In addition to support for the latest operating systems, the new version will include AutoCAD DXF/DWG 2018 import and export capabilities, bug fixes and enhancements to existing features.

We are currently in pre-release pricing so if you haven't purchased your upgrade, do it now and save. The price will be going up in January upon full release of v10.

[Click here for all purchase options:](#)

- From Cobalt v8 or v9 to v10 with or without Graphite
- From Xenon v8 or v9 to v10 with or without Graphite
- From Argon v8 or v9 to v10

Graphite v11 in Beta



The beta release of Graphite v11 for Windows is also anticipated to be released this month. The beta for Mac should follow in mid-January. Like our 3D modelling programs, Graphite v11 will include support for the latest operating systems in addition to AutoCAD DXF/DWG 2018 import and export capabilities, bug fixes and enhancements to existing features.

Like Cobalt, we are currently in pre-release pricing so if you haven't purchased your upgrade, do it now and save. The price will be going up in January upon full release of v11.

[Click here for all purchase options:](#)

- From Graphite v9 or 10 to v11



Those of us at Ashlar-Vellum wish you all the best this holiday season for good health, great joy and new prosperity.

Our administrative offices in the U.S. will be closed
December 25th through January 1st, 2018.

During this time, orders placed through our website will be processed by our European office and registration codes sent to you via email. Shipping of physical materials will resume on January 2nd.

Requests for demo codes will be monitored and fulfilled.
Technical support will be handled as usual through our website.



Meet Iurii Vasylenko

Iurii (more commonly spelled Yuri) Vasylenko is the newest member of our Quality Assurance team. Born in Kazakhstan when his father was in the military, he returned with his family to Kyiv soon after and grew up there. Iurii graduated from the National Aviation University in Kyiv where he studied automated

control systems for aircraft. An experienced CAD designer, Iurii now applies his skills to making our software more consistent and user friendly. In his free time, he enjoys aviation photography, history, building scale models of aircraft and wood-working. ❖

AlphaCorr

AlphaCorr Grows Up

As the AlphaCorr packaging creation product line matures and grows, we've moved it off of the Ashlar-Vellum website. In the coming months we will be looking to grow another partnership in another focused market for the application of our CAD engine. ❖



A 3D Picture's *Dollars* Worth a Thousand ~~Words.~~

Structural steel contractor and metal fabricator, Frank Portschy, uses Cobalt™ to design and create everything from machine parts to architectural staircases.

Becoming interested in welding when he was 14, he tells the story of how he went to work as a fabricator in a nearby machine and welding shop, laying out designs with a calculator, paper and a chalk line on the floor. The shop got its first computer and CNC mill in the late 1980's. Later they upgraded their computer and moved to Ashlar's original software, Vellum® software. When Portschy saw the power of Vellum and the unlimited size of the objects he could draw, he realized he had to know this software. With no CAD or even basic computer training, he started to learn Vellum on his own time and soon began doing drawings for the shop. Not long after, he realized he could run his own business doing drawings for the shop and other customers. Portschy says:


« *It's kind of neat that I was able to learn it without having to go to school and [I could do it] at night. It was really fast. I was able to make money right away with it.* »

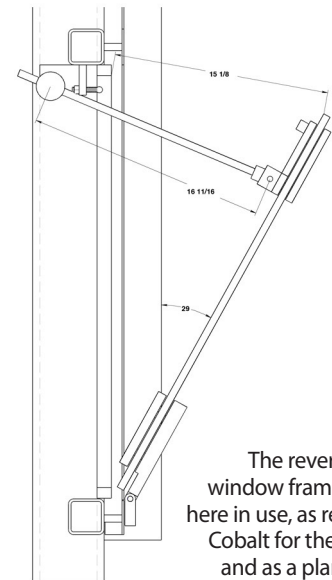
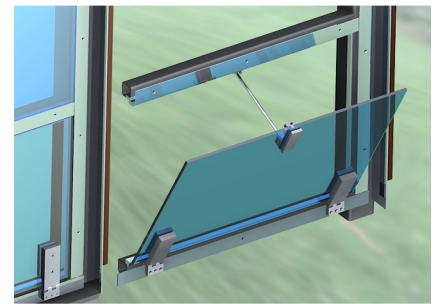
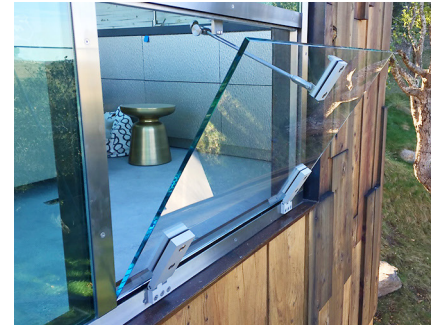
Portschy moved from Vellum 2D on to Vellum Solids which then became Cobalt in 2001. Fast-forward 20-some years and a customer of that machine shop hired him as their designer-fabricator-chief supervisor. Portschy tells us, "Cobalt was one of the attractions for me to work for them because I could send his client renderings of the parts or structures before they did anything and that really attracted his clients."

Today Portschy is self-employed as a certified structural steel contractor, working mostly out of his own residential garage, doing architectural metal work, ranging from staircases to skylights, soap dishes to concrete-embedded fasteners.

Portschy does all of his drawings in Cobalt. He finds a rough 3D photo-rendering invaluable, not only for selling customers but also for faster fabrication. Trying to marry a complicated set of 2D elevation and plan drawings for multiple parts overwhelms not only customers, but many fabricators as well. A 3D picture is worth thousands of dollars...not to mention words.

Other features that he values in Cobalt include the Show/Hide command keys allowing him to isolate just a few parts out of many so he can work them together. The multiple-part balance-point for the Center of Gravity function is crucial when they're using a crane to get odd-shaped fabricated structures into place. He also likes the way Cobalt translates into SolidWorks using the SAT export. Because it strips all of the history, Portschy easily retains control of the drawing and makes any changes himself rather than blaming someone else for a miscommunication.

Portschy is often asked what he uses to create his drawings. He sees his colleagues working with AutoCAD and keeps encouraging them to buy Cobalt, if for no other reason than they'd be more productive. Through him, Cobalt is gaining recognition among architects and structural engineers in the San Francisco Bay Area. 



The reverse hopper window frame is shown here in use, as rendered in Cobalt for the customer and as a plan drawing.

Background / Contact

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