

We have some exciting announcements to make in this newsletter, including the release of VectorWorks 11.5, a new international competition, a special offer for Architect Australia plus the usual tips and tricks section.

■ VectorWorks 11.5.0 Released

We are excited to announce the release of VectorWorks 11.5 for Basic, Architect, Landmark, Mechanical, Spotlight and RenderWorks. This update contains many new or improved features and can be freely downloaded by [clicking here](#). If you prefer to get the updated on CD, it can be obtained from OzCAD for \$20 including GST and postage.

Architect Australia users should not attempt to update via the web as it will break many of our tools. Instead please wait until you receive an update CD in the mail. Let us know if you don't receive one in the next couple of weeks.

We have created a web page with detailed descriptions of the new and updated features, which includes screen shots and movies. To view the page, go to www.ozcad.com.au and click on the first link in the News section.

■ International Artistic and Sketch Rendering Design Competition

If you think one of your drawings or renderings is a worthy contender, why not enter it in the competition? Any 2D or 3D drawing that has been sketched using the new Sketch feature in the VectorWorks 11.5, or any 3D drawing that has been rendered in Artistic RenderWorks can be entered. Prizes include a Hewlett Packard 110 Plus Thermal Inkjet printer and an ENCAD T200+ plotter. [Click here for more information](#).

■ New Colour Libraries in Architect Australia

The new Custom Colour feature takes all the major industry colour swatches from the bookshelf forever and puts them right where you need them, in your drawings and models. [Click here](#) to see the movie, or go to www.ozcad.com.au and click on the first link in the News section.

■ Special Offer on Architect Australia Module

VectorWorks Architect Australia is widely used by a range of designers – not just architects – who are attracted by its many features. If you are using Vectorworks 11 and are impressed by the new Sketch functionality, why not take up the 11.5 special offer and enjoy all the additional features and libraries.

Add Architect Module to VectorWorks 11

First License: usually \$922 + GST **now \$695 + GST**.

Additional Licenses: usually \$645 + GST **now \$485 + GST**.

Available until April 20th, 2005. To order, contact Sue or Annabel on (02) 8338 8622 or email sales@ozcad.com.au.

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■ Tips and Tricks

Why do viewports sometimes have a red and white stripe around them?

A red and white striped border around a viewport indicates that the viewport needs updating. Changes that affect the appearance of a wireframe viewport are automatically updated. However changes that affect the appearance of a rendered viewport, require the viewport to be rendered again. For example, layers and classes may have changed, or additional objects might have been added to one or more of the design layers being displayed in the viewport.

To update a selected viewport, click *Update* in the *Object Info* palette, or select *View menu/Update Selected Viewports*. You can also update all viewports in the file at once by selecting *View menu/Update All Viewports*.

■ How can I print my drawing in only black and white?

If your printer doesn't allow for a black and white only option, you can still print black and white only drawings by temporarily changing the document settings in VectorWorks to black and white without affecting the actual drawing colours. To change the VectorWorks settings to black and white, select *File menu/Preferences/Document Preferences*. On the *Display* tab, choose *Black and White Only*.

Click OK, and then print the drawing in black and white. Follow these same steps to turn this setting off and return the drawing to full colour.

If you want to change only the line colours to black and white while preserving objects with a solid fill colour, consider using mono coloured gradients to fill these objects. Unlike colours applied as solid fills, gradients preserve their colour even when the *Black and White Only* option is selected.

Where can I get some hand draw human figures to add to my 2D drawings?

[Click here to go to the web site](#) where items similar to the ones below can be downloaded. They are available in a variety of formats, including and older version of VectorWorks.



How do you create a PDF file from VectorWorks?

There are a number of ways to do this, depending on which operating system you are running. For Macintosh or Windows, by far the most powerful and fully featured option is to purchase Adobe Acrobat Professional, which creates high quality yet compact PDFs of any size. Unfortunately this is also the most expensive option, however the cost is somewhat offset by the additional features such as being able to create multi-page PDFs, hypertext links (click on a detail marker on a plan to jump to a zoomed in version of the detail on another drawing), bookmarks and thumbnails.

Other less expensive options include the following:

Windows:

[CutePDF](#)

[JawsPDF](#)

[Pdf995](#)

[Win2PDF](#)

Macintosh:

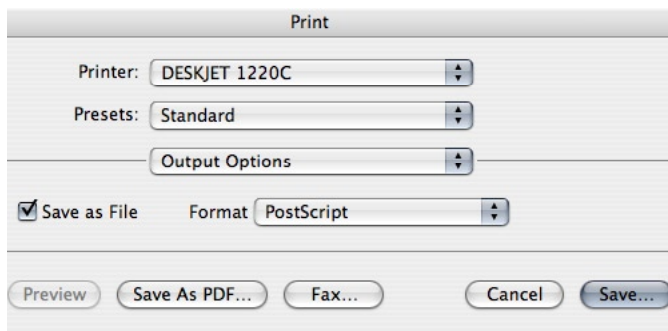
[JawsPDF](#)

Mac OSX also has a Print to PDF option available in the print dialogue. While this can create reasonable PDFs up to A3 size, it has a finite resolution which means that larger page sizes will not print with an acceptable resolution. The files it creates can also be very large, making them impossible to email.

If the printer you are using supports custom paper sizes and you can create say an A2, A1, or A0 custom page size, there is an alternative way of getting better quality PDFs at larger sizes.

In *File menu/Page Setup*, choose the aforementioned custom page size, then in *Page menu/Set Print Area*, click once in the top left grid square then click OK.

Choose *File menu/Print*, select the following options then click the *Save* button and save the file to your desktop:



This will create a postscript file with a .ps suffix. Double click this file on your desktop which will see it converted to a PDF and opened in the *Preview* application. Choose *File menu/Save As* and you have the PDF file.

The VectorWorks 11.5 update does not recognize my custom workspace on Windows?

After running the 11.5 updater, Windows users will need to make a small change to custom workspace names before they will be recognized by the new version.

Go to the VectorWorks 11.5 folder and open the *Workspaces* folder. Existing custom workspaces will be listed there, along with the standard VectorWorks ones. Right click on the custom workspace name and choose *Rename* from the menu. Change the .vww extension to .qtr and remove any full stops from the name (apart from the one that proceeds the file suffix). Now relaunch VectorWorks and the workspace will be recognized.

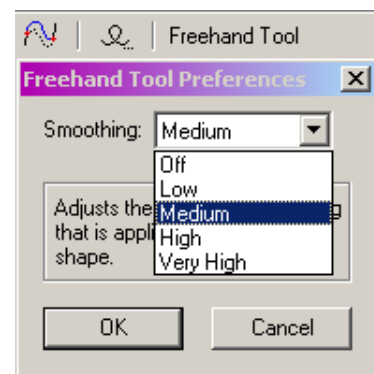
Do I have to insert a light in the drawing before rendering?

Not any more. VectorWorks 11.5 automatically inserts a light into a drawing if no light source is detected. Even better, as the drawing is rotated, the light source follows the camera which means objects will never be dark as there will always be a light source shining from the camera. This light source is automatically turned off as soon as you insert one or more of your own lights.

This same automatic light is also now used to support rendering in groups and symbols, which is another new feature of VectorWorks 11.5.

What are the benefits of the improved Freehand tool?

The Freehand tool has been revamped for VectorWorks 11.5 and allows you to control the smoothing of polylines, create fewer vertices, and edit polylines, polygons, rectangles, circles, and arcs more easily. The new Freehand tool preference gives the option to specify the degree of smoothing.



The higher the smoothing, the smoother the curve, and fewer vertices will be created. The Freehand tool can also be set to no smoothing to revert to the behaviour of the current version 11.0.1 Freehand tool functionality.