

Program and Vector Data Overview Should AGTEK 3D Users Upgrade to AGTEK 4D?

The 3D-to-4D upgrade question deserves some attention. If we consider that the AGTEK 3D and AGTEK 4D products (1) share a similar user interface (a common *Mode-Surface-Layer* data organization, the same menu structure, and nearly identical keyboard shortcuts) and (2) share a set of core program functions (with few exceptions, everything demonstrated in the *Day 1* and *Day 2* seminar classes can be performed with nearly identical steps in either product), a 3D user may be tempted to answer the upgrade question with a “no.” But there are important differences between the 3D and 4D products and a 3D user should consider the following points when making an informed upgrade decision:

- ◆ AGTEK 3D is a **“dead” product line** (AGTEK discontinued 3D sales and product updates in 2015, AGTEK’s 3D-specific training services ceased in 2016 and 3D technical support subscriptions became non-renewable for periods beyond 2017). AGTEK’s ongoing product improvement/development efforts are now 100% focused on the *Gradework 4D* platform.
- ◆ All AGTEK 3D products are compatible with Windows XP / Vista / 7 / 10 (v1803+), but most 3D products are not compatible with Windows 8 (see page 20); AGTEK 4D products are optimized for Windows 10 / 11 (though unsupported, AGTEK 4D may also run on Windows 7 / 8).
- ◆ AGTEK 3D’s **hardware-based software license** (the **USB dongle**) was always at risk of loss/theft/damage but replacements are **no longer available** from AGTEK; AGTEK 4D’s cloud-based “Internet Key” software license eliminates the risk of a lost/damaged USB dongle and makes it easy to share a single AGTEK 4D license with multiple users at multiple locations.
- ◆ AGTEK 3D’s old **32-bit architecture** limits accessible RAM to 4GB; AGTEK 4D’s 64-bit products can access 512GB RAM and offer noticeably faster calculations when processing large data sets.
- ◆ Some of the functional differences between AGTEK 3D and AGTEK 4D are listed in the table on pages 20-21, and many others are noted throughout this seminar handbook; but some of **AGTEK 4D’s most notable functional advantages over AGTEK 3D** include: (1) much-improved CAD import; (2) much-improved PDF import (especially when working with multiple PDF plan sheets and/or layered vector PDF data); (3) additional surface/layer options (up to 32 custom surfaces in a single job file, each with dedicated *Perimeter*, *Report Regions*, and *Annotation* layers; export colors control; and a *Documentation* layer for inserting project notes and images); (4) the *Apply Template* utility (which combines and extends features of the *Offset Lines* and *Stage Over-Ex* utilities); (5) the *Stage Into* utility (flexible surface staging options); (6) additional import/export options (e.g., KMZ, LandXML, UAS point cloud/orthomosaic image files); (7) tight integration with *Google Earth*; and (8) options for integrated *Materials/Underground* and *Trackwork* program modules.
- ◆ Some 3D-to-4D upgrade FAQs are addressed on the following page ...

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Should AGTEK 3D Users Upgrade to AGTEK 4D? (Cont.)

Frequently asked questions regarding the 3D-to-4D upgrade:

Do I have to pay for the upgrade to AGTEK 4D?

Yes. The actual upgrade cost will vary with the specific AGTEK 4D options purchased so contact your AGTEK representative for details.

Do I have to buy a new computer for AGTEK 4D?

If your current AGTEK 3D computer is running 64-bit Windows 10 with at least 4GB RAM, it should be compatible with AGTEK 4D (see AGTEK's hardware guidelines posted at www.agtek.com/hardware.html or contact AGTEK for confirmation).

Can I continue to use AGTEK 3D after the upgrade to AGTEK 4D?

Yes, as long as you have a computer that's compatible with AGTEK 3D and your AGTEK 3D USB dongle is still functional (see second and third points on previous page).

Will AGTEK 4D read my AGTEK 3D ESW job files?

Yes.

Will AGTEK 3D read my new AGTEK 4D ESW job files?

AGTEK 4D's new-format ESW job file is not directly readable by AGTEK 3D; however, AGTEK 4D's Surface/Layer data can be exported to a DXF/DWG file, which can then be imported by all AGTEK 3D products (with the exception of *SitePlan 3D*, which has no file-import function).

If I don't upgrade to AGTEK 4D, will I have access to the training videos and user manuals for AGTEK 3D on the support section of AGTEK's website?

No. All AGTEK 3D technical support subscriptions (and corresponding access to online AGTEK 3D product reference materials) permanently ended on December 31, 2017.

If I upgrade to AGTEK 4D, will my AGTEK 3D users have access to the training videos and user manuals for AGTEK 3D on AGTEK's website?

No. Links to AGTEK 3D user manuals and training videos are no longer available on AGTEK's website.

Does upgrading from AGTEK 3D to AGTEK 4D involve a steep learning curve?

As noted on the previous page, the 3D and 4D AGTEK products share a similar user interface and a set of core program functions. If you are proficient at modeling and taking off earthwork in AGTEK 3D, you will be immediately productive at modeling and taking off earthwork in AGTEK 4D (as you will see in this handbook, the core modeling and take off steps are essentially identical in AGTEK 3D and AGTEK 4D). Incrementally learning AGTEK 4D's additional functions will not be difficult for an experienced AGTEK 3D user. AGTEK's video at www.agtek.com/video.html?id=330 provides a good overview of some differences between the AGTEK 3D and AGTEK 4D products.