

Program Overview

Should Earthwork 3D Users Upgrade to Earthwork 4D?

The 3D-to-4D upgrade question deserves some attention. If we consider that the Earthwork 3D and Earthwork 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:

- ◆ Earthwork 3D is a **“dead” product** (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 4D product platform.
- ◆ Earthwork 3D is compatible with all versions of Windows XP / Vista / 7 but it’s not compatible with Windows 8 and early versions of Windows 10 (but 3D is compatible with Windows 10 v1803+); The 4D products are compatible with all versions of Windows 7 / 8 / 10 (see page 20).
- ◆ Earthwork 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; Earthwork 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 4D license among multiple users at multiple locations.
- ◆ Earthwork 3D’s older **32-bit architecture** limited accessible RAM to 4GB; Earthwork 4D’s 64-bit version can access 512GB RAM and offers noticeably faster calculations when processing very large data sets.
- ◆ Some of the functional differences between Earthwork 3D and Earthwork 4D are listed in the table on pages 24-25, and many others are noted throughout this seminar handbook; however, some of **4D’s notable functional advantages over 3D** include: (1) improved CAD import, (2) improved PDF import (especially when working with multiple PDF plan sheets and/or layered vector PDF data), (3) additional surface/layer options (eight custom surfaces with dedicated *Perimeter*, *Report Regions*, and *Annotation* layers; export colors control; and a new *Documentation* layer for inserting project notes and image links), (4) an *Apply Template* utility (which combines and extends features of the *Offset Lines* and *Stage Over-Ex* utilities), (5) additional surface staging options, (6) additional import/export options (e.g., KMZ, LandXML, UAV point cloud and orthomosaic image files), and (7) tight integration with Google Earth.
- ◆ Some 3D-to-4D upgrade FAQs are addressed on the following page ...

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

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

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

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

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

If your current Earthwork 3D computer is running 64-bit Windows 7 with 4+GB RAM, it should be compatible with both the 32-bit and 64-bit versions of Earthwork 4D (see hardware guidelines at www.agtek.com/hardware.html or contact AGTEK for confirmation).

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

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

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

Yes.

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Earthwork 4D's default ESW job file is not readable by Earthwork 3D; however, Earthwork 4D provides a "EW3D Compatible" export option that produces an older format ESW file that can be read by Earthwork 3D (see "EW3D Compatible" on page 36).

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

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

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

Although AGTEK has removed direct links to Earthwork 3D reference materials from their website, your Earthwork 4D technical support subscription ID/Password can be used to access many Earthwork 3D reference materials via the links provided in *Appendix F* of this seminar handbook (but these materials could be removed from AGTEK's web server at any time).

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

As noted on the previous page, the 3D and 4D products share a similar user interface and a set of core program functions. If you are proficient at modeling and taking off earthwork in Earthwork 3D, you will be immediately productive at modeling and taking off earthwork in Earthwork 4D (as you will see in this handbook, the core modeling and take off steps are essentially identical in Earthwork 3D and Earthwork 4D). Incrementally learning Earthwork 4D's additional functions will not be difficult for an experienced Earthwork 3D user.