Program Overview
Should AGTEK 3D Users Upgrade to AGTEK 4D?

This AGTEK seminar handbook may be referenced by users of the old **AGTEK 3D** products (*Earthwork 3D*, *SitePlan 3D*, *SiteModel 3D* and *GradeModel 3D*) and, more likely, by users of the current **AGTEK 4D** products (*Earthwork 4D/Sitework 4D* and *Gradework 4D*). The AGTEK 3D and AGTEK 4D products are superficially very similar. These AGTEK products all share a similar user interface (*Mode-Surface-Layer* data organization, menu structure, many identical keyboard shortcuts) and they share a set of core program functions (with a few notable exceptions, everything demonstrated in the *Day 1* and *Day 2* seminar classes can be performed with nearly identical steps in AGTEK 3D and AGTEK 4D). But there are important differences between AGTEK 3D and AGTEK 4D, and AGTEK 3D users should seriously consider upgrading to AGTEK 4D:

♦ **AGTEK 3D** is a **dead product line** (AGTEK discontinued AGTEK 3D sales and product updates in 2015, AGTEK 3D training services ceased in 2016 and AGTEK 3D technical support subscriptions became non-renewable for periods beyond 2017). AGTEK's ongoing product improvement/development efforts are now 100% focused on **Gradework 4D**. *[Note: AGTEK moved the older Earthwork 4D product to "legacy" status in 2023 and no longer sells the product; although AGTEK still offers technical support for current Earthwork 4D users, users can assume that **Eathwork 4D** will also become a **dead product** at some future date.]*

♦ All **AGTEK 3D** products are compatible with Windows XP / Vista / 7 / 10 (v1803+) but not with Windows 8 (see page 24 in the *Day 1 Handbook*); **AGTEK 4D** products are optimized for Windows 10 / 11 (though unsupported by AGTEK and not recommended, AGTEK 4D may also run under Windows 7 / 8).

♦ **AGTEK 3D's hardware-based software license** (the **USB dongle**) was always at risk of loss/ theft/damage and replacements are **no longer available** from AGTEK; **AGTEK 4D's** cloud-based **Internet Key** software license eliminates the risk of lost/damaged USB dongles and allows easy access to a AGTEK 4D user license by different AGTEK users in different geographic locations (a single AGTEK 4D license is "checked out" to one user at a time).

♦ **AGTEK 3D's** old **32-bit architecture** can access no more that 4GB RAM; but **AGTEK 4D's 64-bit** products can access up to 512GB RAM and they provide much faster calculations when processing large data sets.

♦ A sample of differences between the AGTEK 3D and AGTEK 4D products is listed in the table on page 16-17, and other differences 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 *Gradework 4D* job file, with custom-surface *Perimeter*, *Report Regions*, and *Annotation* layers; export colors control; and a *Documentation* layer for project notes and images); **(4)** an *Apply Template* utility (which combines and extends features of the *Offset Lines* and *Stage Over-Ex* utilities); **(5)** a *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)** integrated *Materials/Underground/Trackwork* options.

Some upgrade FAQs are addressed on the following page ...

Frequently asked questions for upgrading to AGTEK 4D:

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 (contact AGTEK for details).

Do I have to buy a new computer for AGTEK 4D?
If a current AGTEK 3D computer is running 64-bit Windows 10 / 11 with at least 4GB RAM, it should be compatible with AGTEK 4D (see AGTEK's hardware guidelines at **agtek.my.site.com/community/s/support-hardware-requirements** or contact *AGTEK Support* for confirmation).

Can I continue to use AGTEK 3D after the upgrade to AGTEK 4D?
Yes, as long as an AGTEK 3D user has a computer that's compatible with AGTEK 3D and the 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 AGTEK 3D and AGTEK 4D products share a similar user interface and a set of core program functions. If a user is proficient at modeling and taking off earthwork in AGTEK 3D, the user will be immediately productive at modeling and taking off earthwork in AGTEK 4D (with a few noted exceptions, the core modeling and take off steps documented in this seminar handbook 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 basic overview of the differences between the *dead Earthwork 3D* and *legacy Earthwork 4D*, and AGTEK's recent video at **www.agtek.com/video.html?id=655** does the same for differences between the *Earthwork 4D* and *Gradework 4D* products.