

plasma™ | Q&A

What is plasma?

Discreet's new **plasma**™ software places professional, production-proven 3D tools into the hands of designers. **plasma** houses the most comprehensive web rendering and exporting tools available in any 3D software package. In particular, **plasma** offers impressive integration with design standards such as Macromedia® Flash and Macromedia Shockwave® 3D. Built specifically to provide 3D tools for 2D artists, **plasma** makes the creation of 2D and 3D UI and web elements easier than ever before.

Who uses plasma?

plasma software is built for web designers who need to create compelling, advanced web UI or navigation elements.

What is the expected price of plasma?

plasma pricing in EMEA is not available for at the moment but is expected to be less than 900 euros.

What is so good about plasma software for web designers?

3D is more than just a design choice, it is now an integral part of the website experience. With advanced integration between **plasma** and Macromedia's leading creation and authoring tools, Flash and Director, **plasma** facilitates far more sophisticated online design.

What are the system requirements for plasma?

- Windows® 2000 (recommended) or Windows 98
- Intel® or AMD-compatible 300MHz or better (Dual Processors recommended)
128MB RAM (256mb RAM recommended)
- 300MB Virtual Memory (1GB Virtual Memory recommended)
- Graphics Card supporting 1024 x 768 x 16bit color (OpenGL and/or Direct 3D hardware acceleration supported)
- Windows-compliant pointing device (optimized for Microsoft® Intellimouse®)
- CD-ROM drive

Is plasma just 3ds max™ “lite”?

Not at all. **plasma** is a distinct set of Discreet's 3D technology. It is based on the same 3D technology found in **3ds max** software, but the features and UI are designed with a focus on web 3D production.

Would 3ds max users doing Web Production need plasma?

Yes. Because **plasma** houses the greatest web-centric toolset currently available, **3ds max** users who build the most compelling web designs and content can bring **plasma** software's Flash and Shockwave 3D rendering functionality into **3ds max** software and render their **3ds max** scenes for the web. **3ds max** users can now take any 3D content and re-purpose it for the web with more control over the final Flash or Shockwave 3D output.

What are the advantages of plasma over Maya's RTK?

You do not need to use another Discreet software product to utilize **plasma**, whereas Maya's RTK requires a copy of Maya to operate it. In addition, **plasma** is priced affordably for a web-design tool while the Maya software and RTK cost well over US\$7,000. Furthermore, **plasma** is not attempting to enter the authoring space – it instead works with industry-standard authoring environments such as Macromedia's Flash and Director.

What are the advantages of plasma over similarly priced competitive 3D packages such as Cinema 4d or Caligari Truespace?

plasma comes complete with production-proven 3D power. Built upon the same modeling, animation, texturing and lighting technology that has worked in countless films, commercials, games, industrial & mechanical design, and web projects, **plasma** is virtually the first mature toolset to appear at this price-point. In fact, **plasma** maintains levels of quality and operability associated with tools traditionally sold at a much higher price. **plasma** is also built specifically as a web production tool, whereas various traditional prosumer tools are created as generic 3D packages with web functionality.

Is there a plan to release plasma for Mac® OS X or Linux?

At this time, no official announcements have been made with respect to releasing **plasma** on Mac OS X or Linux.

What is Discreet's relationship with Macromedia with respect to plasma?

Discreet and Macromedia work together to deliver a dependable bridge between Macromedia's authoring and playback solutions and Discreet's leading 3D content creation tools – so developers and artists can in turn deliver the highest quality output. **plasma** software's integration, file sharing, and product cross-compatibilities expand opportunities to fully implement 3D on the web, in a scaleable format and at minimum bandwidth to the ubiquitous players: Shockwave 3D and Flash.

Isn't 3ds max software a web-focused tool?

3ds max is still considered a leader in the web production world, based on its extensive advanced feature set, and certainly remains a major player in that space. However, **plasma** is a much more accessible solution, meeting the expectations of traditional web designers with respect to both design and cost-effectiveness.

Will plasma be available in 2002?

Yes, **plasma** software is expected to be available in June 2002.

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