

ADOBE® AFTER EFFECTS® CS4

Create motion graphics and visual effects with the industry standard

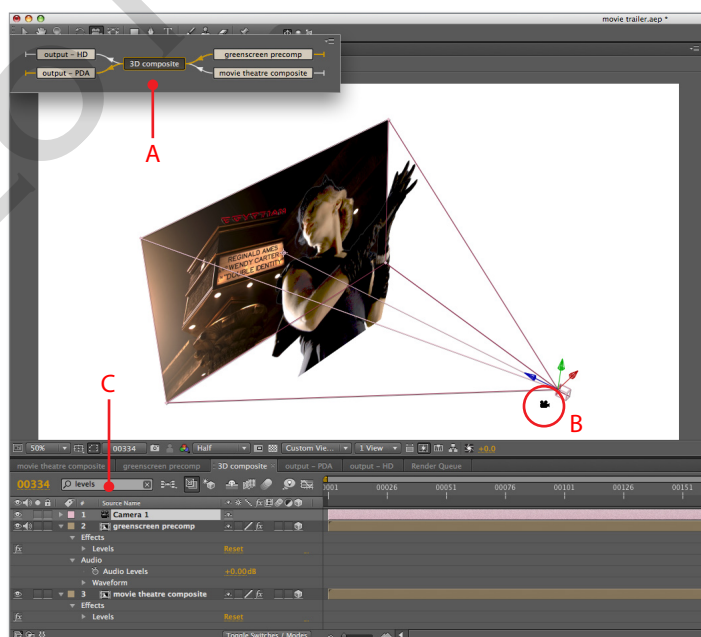


Adobe After Effects is also available as a component of:

- Adobe Creative Suite 4 Production Premium
- Adobe Creative Suite 4 Master Collection

Adobe After Effects is the industry standard for visual effects and motion graphics software. Imagery created in After Effects is everywhere, from motion picture screens to cell phone and PDA displays, from television to websites. After Effects CS4 is packed with new features that can boost your productivity and your creative options. And, you'll find integration integration with the other components in Adobe Creative Suite 4 Production Premium is now better than ever.

After Effects CS4 software is loaded with new features and other changes that will make every working session more productive. Quickly find, visualize, and navigate to the parts of a project you want to refine. Expand your 3D compositing options by importing 3D layers created in Adobe Photoshop® CS4 Extended, and composite in 3D with more precision thanks to separate X-, Y-, and Z-position keyframes. Create the look of cel animation from live footage with the new Cartoon effect. Track even the most challenging shots with 2.5D planar motion tracking in Imagineer Systems' Mocha for Adobe After Effects, which is now included. Export After Effects compositions as editable layered projects to open inside Adobe Flash® CS4 Professional software. With After Effects CS4, it's easier than ever to transform creative ideas into reality.



Among the many new features in After Effects CS4 are a Composition Navigator and Mini-Flowchart (A) to better visualize the structure of complex projects, a new Unified Camera tool (B), and QuickSearch fields (C)—all ways to help streamline important everyday tasks.

Top new features

- Searchable timelines and projects, plus easier composition navigation (Page 2)
- Photoshop 3D layers import (Page 3)
- Cartoon effect (Page 4)
- Independent keyframing of X, Y, and Z position, plus other 3D compositing enhancements (Page 5)
- Rich media composition export from After Effects to Adobe Flash Professional (Page 6)
- Enhanced Dynamic Link (Production Premium only) (Page 6)
- Imagineer Systems' Mocha for Adobe After Effects for 2.5D planar motion tracking (Page 7)
- Integrated workflow for mobile-device authoring (Page 7)
- Project intelligence through XMP metadata (Page 8)
- Numerous interface and workflow improvements (Page 9)

Adobe After Effects CS4 empowers artists by providing:

Creative power. Standing out in today's supersaturated media culture requires the visual richness that only Adobe After Effects CS4 can deliver. After Effects provides creative control over virtually every aspect of every element in a highly responsive 2D and 3D compositing and animation environment, allowing you to create whatever you envision. For your most sophisticated projects, After Effects CS4 is the go-to tool.

Flexible tools. When you're up against a deadline and need to tackle challenges—such as boom and mic removal, eliminating unwanted camera motion, or giving footage shot under different lighting conditions a consistent appearance—Adobe After Effects CS4 can deliver high-quality results that make you look like a hero. Create compelling visual effects and solve a wide range of problems in post-production, from keying and motion tracking to color correction, rotoscoping, and more.

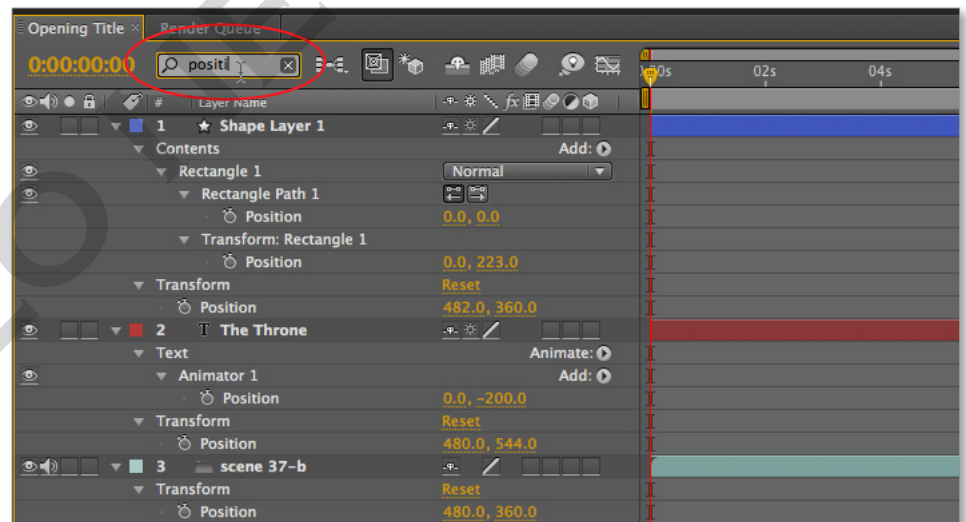
The ability to deliver anywhere. With Adobe After Effects CS4, you can efficiently create output for the widest range of media formats and delivery platforms from a single project, from traditional film and video to video for the web and mobile devices.

Top new features of Adobe After Effects CS4

After Effects CS4 introduces numerous new features that enhance an artist's productivity as well as open up fresh creative possibilities.

Searchable timelines and projects plus easier nested composition navigation

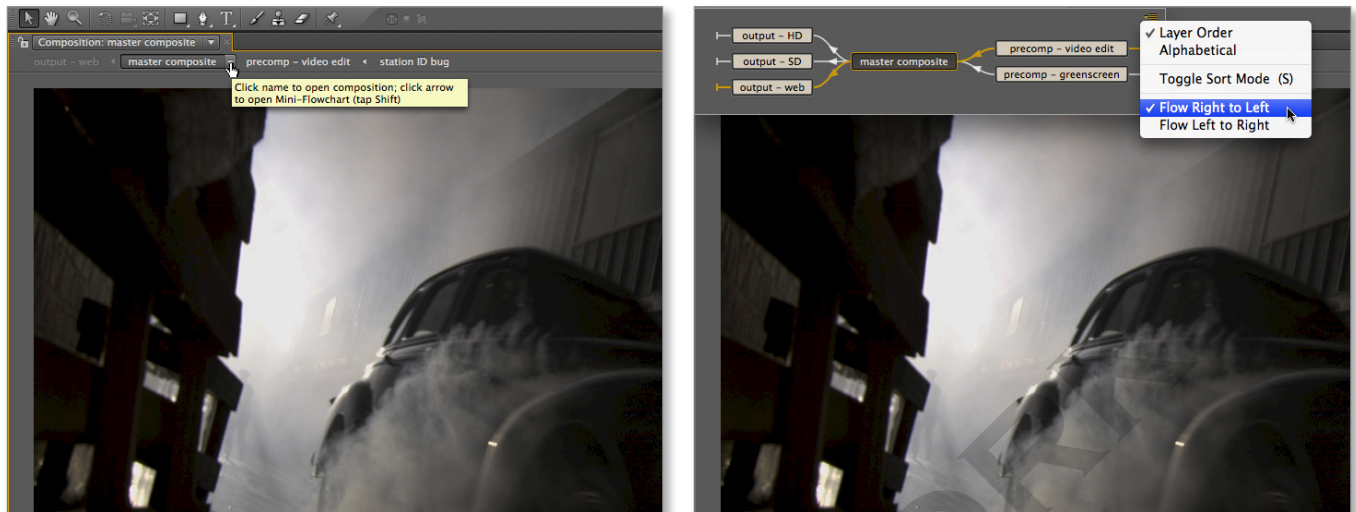
As projects become deeper and more complex, it can be challenging to find a specific layer or other asset—especially on deadline or when you're working in an unfamiliar project. After Effects CS4 eliminates this frustration by including live search functions directly inside the Timeline and Project panels. You can quickly find project elements, keyframeable properties, effects, and more. This ability to directly target properties saves considerable time scrolling through lists and twirling open layers to manually reveal their contents.



Timeline and Project panels can be searched by item names or individual attributes such as "position," greatly easing navigation of complex projects.

You can search projects for specific footage items or footage properties, such as scanning by file type to find all the SWF files that have been imported, or flagging whether or not an updated logo is currently being used in a composition. You can also search timelines by layer names, properties, comments or expressions, effect names or parameters, and more. Search results appear as soon as you start typing, and can be limited to selected layers or may encompass your entire timeline or project.

Many artists use nested compositions inside After Effects as a way to break complex projects into smaller, more manageable elements. This allows both the creation of elaborate animation chains and also the ability to make quick updates to a project where a change in one composition may be immediately rippled out through other comps.



The Composition navigator along the top of the Composition panel (upper left) gives you a quick overview of the project flow. Clicking the arrow to the right of a composition's name opens the Mini-Flowchart (upper right), which reveals how nested compositions are shared across a project. In the image on the right, we've opened the Options for the Mini-Flowchart; you can alter how it is sorted and which direction it flows.

To make these composition hierarchies easier to navigate, After Effects CS4 features a Composition navigator along the top of each Composition panel, which displays the names of the incoming (nested) compositions as well as the outgoing (parent) compositions for the currently active composition. These compositions can be opened to access the Mini-Flowchart, which reveals the nesting organization of related compositions. This allows you to more easily visualize and navigate the structure of complex projects: You merely have to click on a composition's name in the Mini-Flowchart to instantly switch to it.

These features make it easier for you to familiarize yourself with and to navigate through projects created by other After Effects artists, or to recall the structure of an older project which now needs updating.

Photoshop 3D layers import

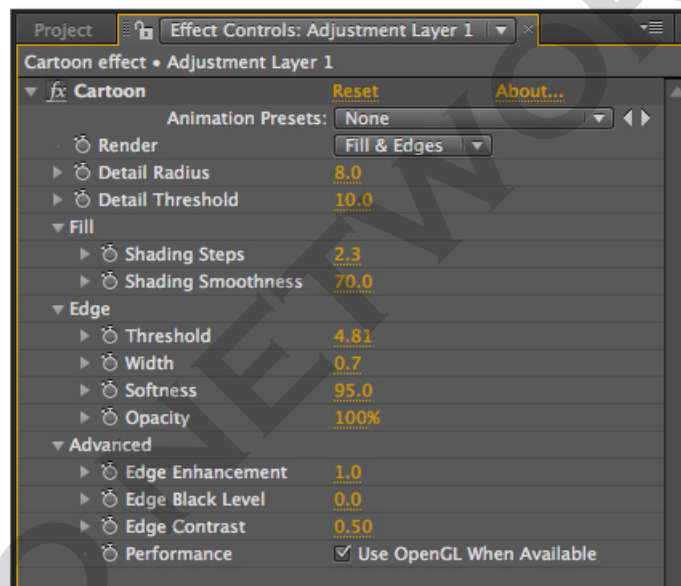
A powerful new technology in Adobe Photoshop CS4 Extended allows you to place 3D objects on layers, paint them using the industry-standard tools in Photoshop, and render them along with the rest of your imagery. With After Effects CS4, you can import and animate Photoshop 3D layers in your composition, where they can be viewed as 3D objects using cameras in After Effects. You can also apply effects to change the layers' appearance over time, composite 3D layers with other objects (including animated text and shape layers, live-action video, and sound), and render the result as you would any other project element.

This feature creates a flexible new 3D workflow in which artists, instead of rendering a 3D scene from within a dedicated 3D application and treating it as finished footage inside After Effects, can import and paint objects in Photoshop, import the PSD file with the 3D layer into After Effects, and further process and animate the objects without having to go back to a 3D application and re-render the result. Combined with the Vanishing Point feature introduced in Creative Suite 3, artists have a growing list of options for how they can create 3D worlds without the need to purchase and learn dedicated 3D software.

Cartoon effect

The new Cartoon effect allows you to create new looks for your video or other animated imagery, instantly applying the appearance of cel animation or watercolor paintings to live action or to computer-generated 3D imagery. It's a creative tool that allows you to quickly stylize footage, using a deep set of controls to create your own fresh looks. This makes it equally useful for motion graphics and for interactive designers interested in crafting new visual styles as well as videographers and editors who want to create unique visuals without the painstaking process of hand-drawing every frame. You can even use the Cartoon effect to rescue low-resolution or poor-quality footage by smoothing and abstracting it.

This effect—found in the Effects > Stylize category—provides three essential enhancements. First, it performs a smoothing operation to remove distracting image details. Second, it finds the edges between the remaining details in order to highlight them and provide a border to help separate the areas of color. Third, it fills in the colors and gradients between the edges. You have full control over each of these enhancements through a set of separate Fill and Edge parameters as well as Advanced parameters. The Cartoon effect is also graphics processing unit (GPU) accelerated, so you can quickly experiment with refinements or try out whole new looks.



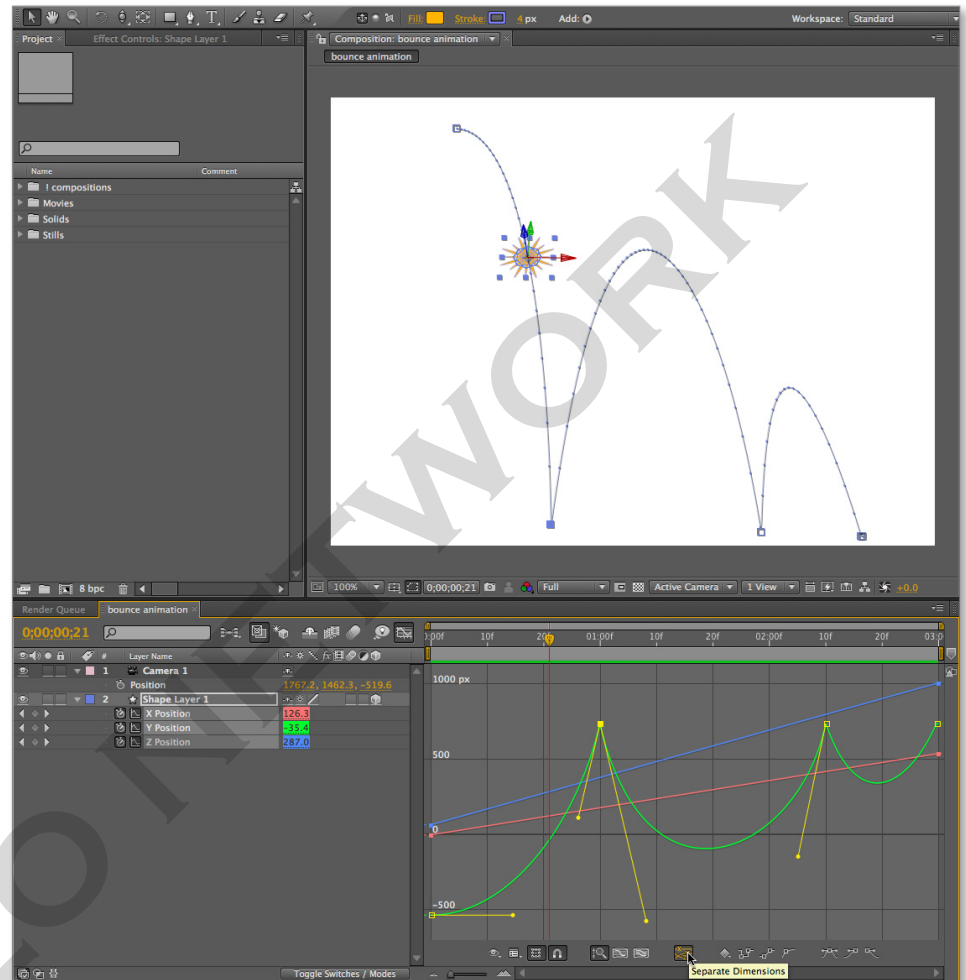
The new Cartoon effect (left) can convert live-action footage (below left) into stylized imagery (below right).



Independent keyframing of X, Y, and Z position plus other 3D compositing enhancements

In addition to the Photoshop 3D layers import feature mentioned earlier, After Effects CS4 contains two other major enhancements that make working in 3D more fluid.

X-, Y-, and Z-position properties can be keyframed separately, greatly easing the crafting of complex animation moves, such as having a camera smoothly change elevations and then hold while maintaining a constant forward or sideways velocity, or creating bounce-style actions. These separate properties may be collapsed back into a unified set of keyframes that control all properties at once.



Separate X-, Y-, and Z-position graphs in After Effects CS4 offer animators new levels of motion control, such as creating this bounce-style animation movement.

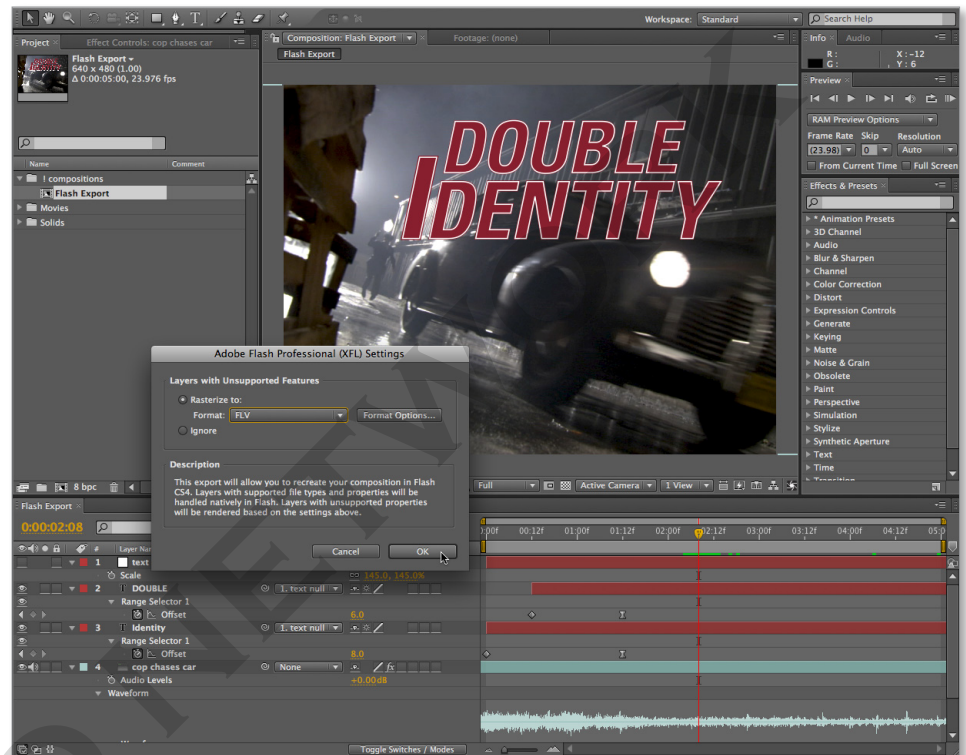
A new Unified Camera tool takes advantage of a three-button mouse, allowing you to quickly switch between Track XY, Track Z, and Orbit movements. This allows you to work more intuitively while setting up camera positions. It also makes the experience of using cameras in After Effects more similar to that in 3D modeling applications.

Rich media composition export from After Effects to Adobe Flash CS4 Professional

FLV import

With After Effects CS4, you can import FLV files to use alongside other video content.

Compelling motion design is essential in both the broadcast and online worlds. As the languages and experiences of interactive design and traditional motion graphics continue to converge, it is only natural that you will want to expand your personal toolset. While previously you could export text animations and other elements from After Effects to SWF format and render movies to FLV format, now you can also export After Effects compositions as layered projects that can be imported into Flash CS4 Professional. FLV, PNG, and JPG source footage files are passed directly to the Flash Professional project without transcoding. Animated transformations, such as scale and rotation, are preserved, and can be edited in Flash Professional. Other footage types and layers with effects are automatically converted to Flash compatible graphics.



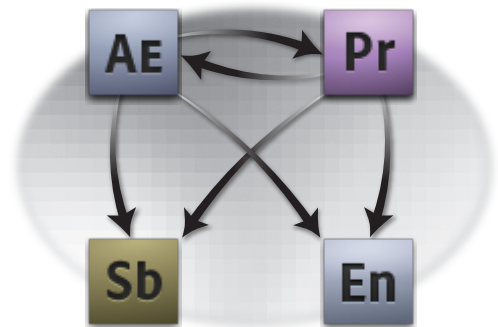
After Effects compositions can be exported as layered Flash Professional projects.

Enhanced Dynamic Link in Adobe Creative Suite 4 Production Premium

Step up to Adobe Creative Suite 4 Production Premium and enjoy the full benefits of cross-component integration with Adobe Dynamic Link.

Dynamic Link is the ability for select Adobe Production Premium components to render the results of another Production Premium component on the fly. Changes inside the project of one component are immediately reflected inside the other. This streamlines the entire creative process by eliminating intermediate rendering between applications, enabling you to work faster and stay in your creative flow.

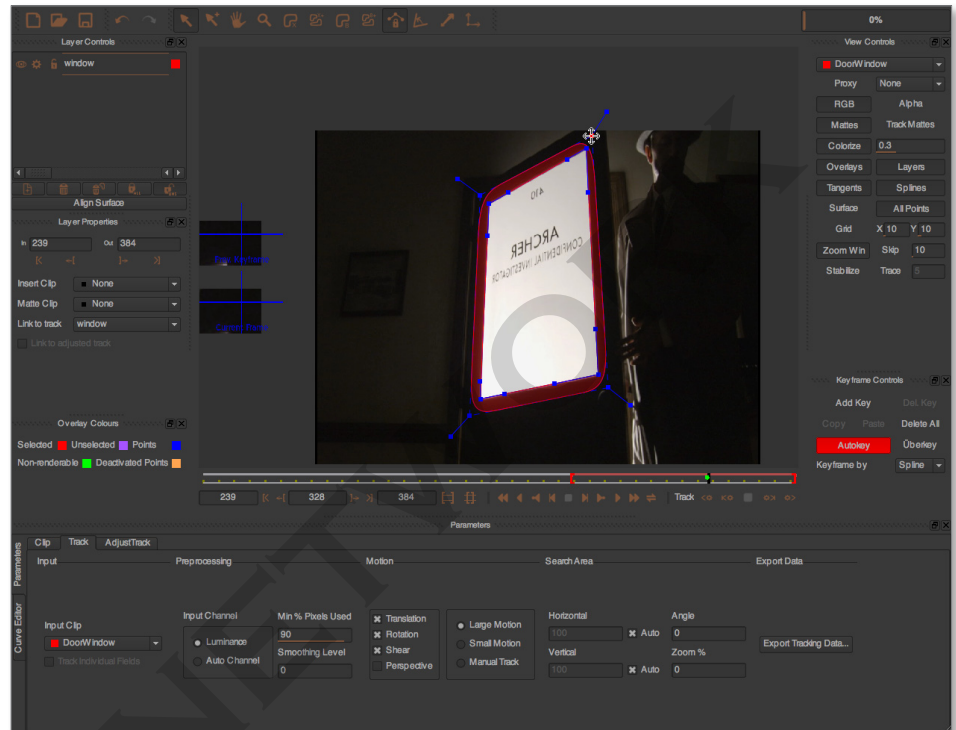
Adobe Creative Suite 4 Production Premium features enhanced Dynamic Link functionality between After Effects CS4 and Adobe Premiere® Pro CS4, between After Effects and Adobe Soundbooth® CS4, and between After Effects and Adobe Encore® CS4 software. For example, you can now dynamically link Adobe Premiere Pro sequences to an After Effects composition or Encore project. This allows you to use Adobe Premiere Pro sequences inside After Effects or Encore without rendering an intermediate file. Updates are visible in After Effects or Encore the instant they are made. Dynamic Link also enables you to use an After Effects comp inside a project in Encore.



Save time on every project by dynamically linking content between components of Adobe Creative Suite 4 Production Premium. With Adobe Dynamic Link, you can see and hear updates instantly—without rendering—as you refine your project's media components.

Imagineer Systems' Mocha for Adobe After Effects for 2.5D planar motion tracking

After Effects CS4 includes Imagineer Systems' Mocha for Adobe After Effects, a standalone application with advanced 2.5D planar motion tracking. Mocha for Adobe After Effects provides advanced motion tracking and makes it easier to tackle difficult motion-tracking challenges, such as tracking footage with objects moving out of the frame, lack of detail in the underlying footage, motion blur, and heavy grain or noise. Now you can avoid the guesswork and inaccuracies that result from hand-tracking challenging shots. Mocha also speeds up the process of generating solid four-point tracks, yielding position, scale, rotation, and shear information, resulting in perspective-matched tracks.

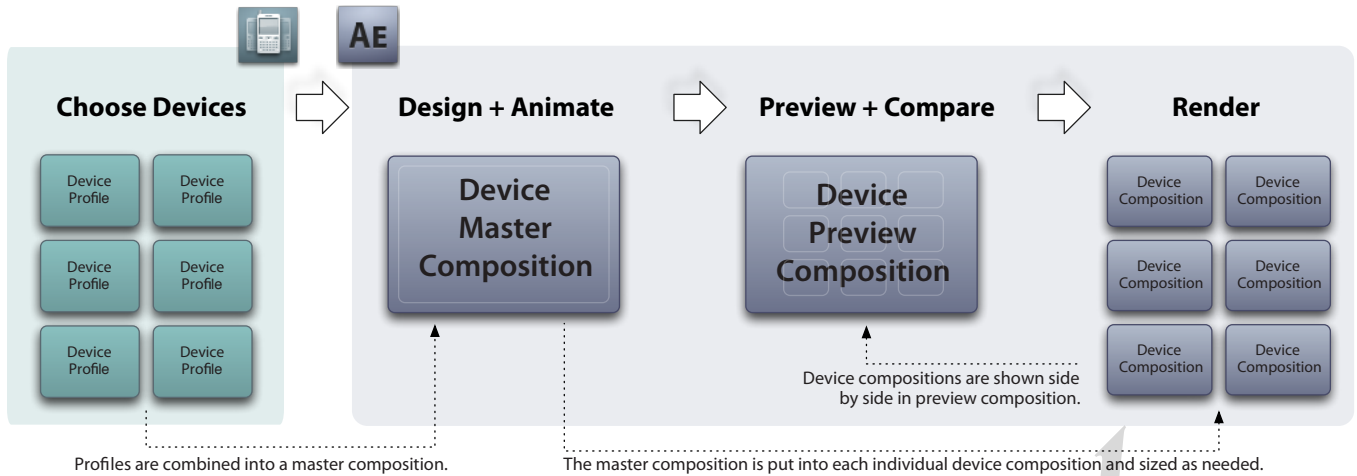


Mocha for Adobe After Effects provides advanced motion tracking capabilities, such as being able to track the outer frame of this window while excluding the shadows and reflections on the glass (as shown here).

Mocha for Adobe After Effects is resolution independent and can import Cineon, DPX, TGA, TIF, JPEG, PNG, SGI, and QuickTime files with up to 16 bits per color channel. It then exports 2D tracking data that can be loaded into After Effects. This valuable software is included with After Effects CS4 (along with powerful favorites Color Finesse from Synthetic Aperture and Keylight from The Foundry).

Integrated workflow for mobile-device authoring

Authoring content for mobile devices is a growing field of work for editors, producers, and motion graphics artists. But this new field presents new challenges: Screen dimensions and video frame rates vary greatly from one mobile device to another. Adobe Device Central CS4 software—included with After Effects CS4—contains an extensive library of device profiles that provide information about these mobile devices. Device Central can then use these profiles to automatically create a set of After Effects compositions tailored for your selected devices.



Enhanced workflow using Device Central and After Effects.

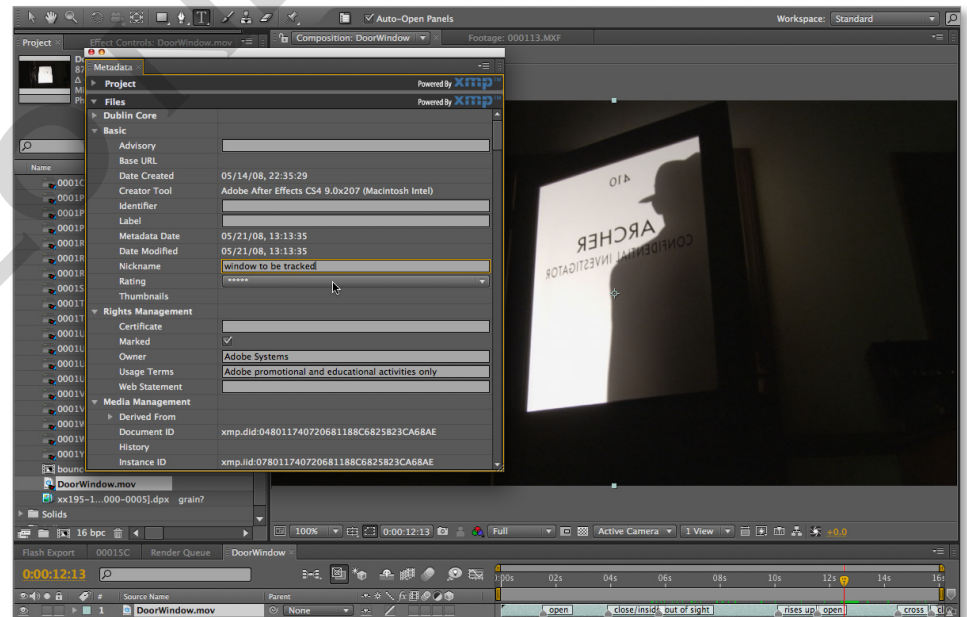
You create your design in a master composition. This master comp is then used to feed a set of device-specific compositions, each reflecting the screen size and other parameters of your chosen devices. You can use the powerful After Effects Render Queue to render and export a set of finished movies for a large number of mobile devices in one batch render job. A special preview composition is also created that consists of a grid of your device-specific compositions, so that you can preview your master composition in the context of several devices simultaneously.

Speech Search turns spoken dialog into searchable metadata

Adobe Premiere Pro CS4 and Soundbooth CS4 both offer the new Speech Search feature, which uses speech recognition technology that can convert spoken dialogue to text. By exporting this text as metadata in your media, you can make video clips searchable during post-production. When you import this media to your After Effects project, each word appears as a marker on the Timeline, making it easy to design motion graphics synchronized to the spoken dialog. In addition, you can intelligently automate your workflows using this metadata and the scripting capabilities in After Effects. For example, a custom script could look for certain words and create text layers that start at the point where those words are spoken.

Project intelligence through XMP metadata

Workflow specialists and producers are sure to love the new support for XMP metadata in After Effects CS4 and other Adobe video and audio software. Among other capabilities, you can easily identify the job number or work ticket associated with any asset, make better informed decisions about the assets you use, and streamline the rights-auditing process by efficiently viewing copyright information.



XMP metadata can be tracked for both individual files and an overall project. In this case, a movie file rendered by After Effects CS4 retain all of the markers present in its source composition, which appear as layer markers once this file is imported back into After Effects.

Not only is asset metadata retained while in After Effects, but you can add new project- and layer-level metadata during the render stage to streamline project tracking and automate asset auditing. For example, you can add a list of assets used in a composition, or the durations of stock footage clips, used to aid in determining payment for rights-managed assets. Markers in the source composition will be saved in the rendered file, and will appear as layer markers when you re-import the file. You can also use scripting to access and manipulate metadata. This makes it possible to add intelligence to your After Effects CS4 workflows.

Numerous interface and workflow improvements

Dozens of enhancements in every area make After Effects more productive and fun to use. Here are but a few of the additional enhancements contained in After Effects CS4:

What's new in Adobe Bridge CS4

Adobe Bridge CS4—included with After Effects CS4—is a visual file browser that helps you search, view, and sort through many assets to quickly find the ones you want. New features and enhancements include:

- Faster performance from startup to browsing, including an option to display previews embedded in raw images
- Easier access to task-based workspaces
- A new List view with rich data and familiar sorting controls
- Built-in preview and creation of HTML and Flash web galleries, and PDF contact sheets
- One-click full-screen previews
- Collections for organizing related assets in freeform or search-based virtual groups—even when assets are spread across multiple folders
- Fast, detailed search results thanks to tight integration with Spotlight in Mac OS X and Desktop Search in Windows Vista
- New review modes, such as Carousel View for quickly cycling through assets
- Smart analysis and auto-stacking of High Dynamic Range (HDR) and panoramic images for handoff to Photoshop
- New support for previewing 3D images
- Camera Raw improvements, including non-destructive application of dodge, burn, sharpen, and other adjustments

- Auto-resolution to optimize interaction speed by rendering only the pixels you need for your current zoom level
- Easier settings management to optimize memory and multi-core processing
- ProEXR support for working with layered high dynamic range (HDR) image files
- Native P2 plus Sony XDCAM EX and XDCAM HD support
- Longer names for layers, comps, folders, and other items
- New Turbulent Noise and Bilateral Blur effects
- Option for converting text to mask outlines or a shape layer
- Duration specification for markers
- Center-cut safe areas for ensuring widescreen projects look good on 4:3 displays
- Composition panel control to simulate output, for improved color management
- 32-bit-per-channel color for shape layers, Depth Of Field Blur effect, and Reduce Interlace Flicker effect
- Interpret Footage button in the Project panel
- Wiggle position, scale, rotation, and opacity for shape layers
- Import Adobe Premiere Pro time remapping data

Creative Pro Online Services

Connect to the power of the online community through your creative desktop. New online services accessed from within After Effects CS4 let you search for help from the online community, more easily create and manage content for the web, and more. With new online services in Creative Suite 4, you can take your ideas to the next level.

Adobe Community Help. Get the power of an online search engine within After Effects, but with more targeted results, thanks to Adobe Community Help. Searchable content includes the in-depth, product-specific Help that Adobe has always delivered, plus additional Adobe and third-party content chosen by experts at Adobe as well as from respected experts and web sites in the design and production communities. With Adobe Community Help, you can find the focused answers you need, fast. Just choose Help > After Effects Help. (Internet connection required for extended content.)

Adobe Bridge Home. Visit Adobe Bridge Home—an online channel available in Adobe Bridge CS4—and keep up to date with what's new from Adobe and the design, web development, and video and audio production communities at large. Watch the latest video tutorials for your Creative Suite 4 software, listen to a podcast interview with a leading designer, or learn about the next training event in your community. Discover tips and resources that can help you work smarter and faster, making the most of After Effects CS4 and other Adobe Creative Suite 4 software. (Internet connection required.)

Mac OS

- Multicore Intel® processor
- Mac OS X v10.4.11–10.5.4
- 2GB of RAM
- 2.9GB of available hard-disk space for installation, plus 2GB of space for optional content; additional free space required during installation (cannot install on a volume that uses a case-sensitive file system or on flash-based storage devices)
- 1,280x900 display with OpenGL 2.0-compatible graphics card
- DVD-ROM drive
- QuickTime 7.4.5 software required to use QuickTime features
- Broadband Internet connection required for online services

Windows

- 1.5GHz or faster processor*
- Microsoft® Windows® XP with Service Pack 2 (Service Pack 3 recommended) or Windows Vista® Home Premium, Business, Ultimate, or Enterprise with Service Pack 1 (certified for 32-bit Windows XP and 32-bit and 64-bit Windows Vista)
- 2GB of RAM
- 1.3GB of available hard-disk space for installation, plus 2GB of space for optional content; additional free space required during installation (cannot install on flash-based storage devices)
- 1,280x900 display with OpenGL 2.0-compatible graphics card
- DVD-ROM drive
- QuickTime 7.4.5 software required to use QuickTime features
- Broadband Internet connection required for online services

* An SSE2-enabled processor is required for AMD systems.

For updates to system requirements and more detailed information about video hardware compatibility, visit www.adobe.com/products/aftereffects/systemreqs.

Expected ship date

Fourth quarter 2008

For more information

For more details about Adobe After Effects, visit www.adobe.com/aftereffects.

Part of the Adobe Creative Suite 4 family

After Effects CS4 is also available as a component of Adobe Creative Suite 4 Production Premium as well as Adobe Creative Suite 4 Master Collection.

Adobe Creative Suite 4 Production Premium is designed for creative professionals who need to craft world-class video, audio, and interactive media: on-air, online, on device, and invariably on deadline. Together, After Effects and the other components of Production Premium CS4 offer a tightly integrated, cross-platform toolset for pre- and post-production including video and audio editing, still and motion graphics, visual effects, and interactive media, as well as DVD, Blu-ray Disc, and mobile authoring. For more information on Production Premium CS4, see *Adobe Creative Suite 4 Production Premium What's New*.

Adobe Creative Suite 4 Master Collection is your premier solution for professional creative work, with Adobe After Effects CS4 acting as the central motion hub for compositing and animation. Master Collection combines the best of Adobe Creative Suite 4 Design Premium, Web Premium, and Production Premium editions, providing advanced productivity features so you can create content for virtually all media with one value-packed offering.

Availability and pricing

Adobe After Effects CS4 will be available in North America for an estimated street price of US\$999, directly from Adobe or through Adobe Authorized Resellers. To order directly from Adobe, visit the Adobe Store at www.adobe.com or call 1-800-833-6687.

Licensed owners of After Effects CS3, After Effects 7.x Professional or Standard, or After Effects 6.x Professional or Standard can upgrade to Adobe After Effects CS4 for US\$299.

Licensed owners of the above-listed previous releases of After Effects are also eligible for special upgrade pricing to Adobe Creative Suite 4 Production Premium.

A complete description of upgrade eligibility and pricing is available in a separate Pricing Overview document. For volume licensing information, contact an Adobe Authorized Licensing Center or go to www.adobe.com.

Estimated street prices do not include taxes, shipping, handling, or other related expenses. Information on pricing and support policies outside of North America and for Education customers will be available separately.

About Adobe Systems Incorporated

Adobe revolutionizes how the world engages with ideas and information—anytime, anywhere, and through any medium. For more information, visit www.adobe.com.



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