

Version **7.5**



# alienbrain<sup>®</sup>

Asset Management for Creative Teams

# Avid® Alienbrain® 7.5

## ENERGIZE YOUR TEAM

Avid Alienbrain is the leading **Asset Management system for creative teams**, offering an unrivaled feature set for even the most demanding production environments.

As the backbone of today's game productions, the Alienbrain software delivers the security that game development teams need to **version, track and store all of their assets**, both during and after production, in a highly optimized repository.

Avid Alienbrain allows for a truly **intuitive way of working** with media-rich assets. Thumbnails are pre-generated on the server as soon as new files are imported, and are readily available in every view. Previews of complex 3D scenes and externally referenced files significantly improve team productivity.

With an open and customizable architecture, the Alienbrain system integrates easily into existing workflows and infrastructures. A new **API supporting .Net languages** such as C# makes it even easier to integrate Avid Alienbrain into the tool chain.

## NEW IN ALIENBRAIN 7.5

Version 7.5 focuses on next generation pipeline integration, by offering **integrated native scripting interfaces to content creation tools** for artists and programmers.

The state-of-the-art Alienbrain architecture provides outstanding **reliability, speed and scalability**. The new Server Health Monitor improves overall system transparency and significantly reduces the risk of unscheduled downtime.

The **new licensing and product packaging** increase flexibility and address team-specific requirements more effectively.



*Intuitive user interface*

## EXPERIENCE

Our blue-chip customer base includes the most successful game development studios in the world.

## FLEXIBILITY

Teams grow in size. Projects increase in volume. Colleagues come and go. Alienbrain provides constant security for files, tasks and projects in this ever-changing environment.

## SUPPORT

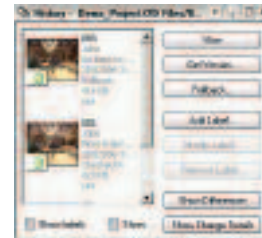
Alienbrain customer service is unparalleled. We offer worldwide e-mail and phone support from highly qualified technicians.

# Asset Management for Creative Teams

## ALIENBRAIN CONCEPTS

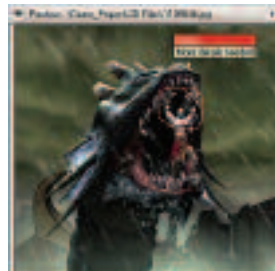
1) **Asset Management** begins with **File Management** and sharing. Users can browse files, retrieve them for viewing, or lock them for editing, all from a central location. **Benefit:** Everyone knows where to find things, files are not deleted accidentally, users don't lose data if their changes are overwritten and it's easy to find out who's working on a specific file.

2) **Version Control** adds the next layer of safety and productivity, making it possible to transparently maintain version histories for every asset. **Benefit:** Old versions don't clutter local folders. Everyone sees the latest version of every file, as well as when and by whom the file was modified. Should requirements change, reverting back to older versions of files is easy.



Visual file version history

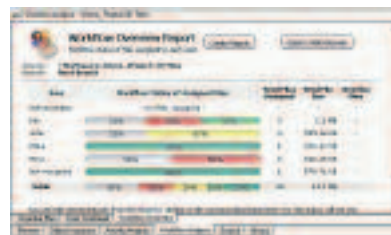
3) **Usability** is key in Avid Alienbrain. A rich client allows creatives to easily add, retrieve and update assets stored in a secure backend. **Plug-ins** into content creation tools enable artists to concentrate on content. **Benefit:** Even for non-technical users, the Alienbrain software is easy to learn without extensive training. New users are up-to-speed in just a few hours.



Preview with annotations

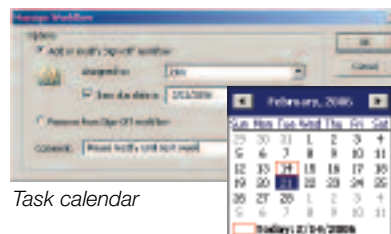
4) **Navigating** through projects consisting of hundreds of thousands of files is made easier by consistent use of thumbnails, previews and file icons – even for 3D content. Users can annotate previews and send emails or instant messages that include links to files, all from within Avid Alienbrain. **Benefit:** The Alienbrain system allows users to identify and compare files visually. It reduces the time spent searching for the right file.

5) Avid Alienbrain comes with a lightweight, asset-based **Workflow System** that allows users and team leads to track the status of assets, and to find items that require their attention. **Benefit:** The review and approval process for modifications is greatly accelerated. Team leads can see who is working on what. An electronic journal brings transparency to the change management process.



Workflow report

6) Avid Alienbrain offers **Access Control** through authentication, using the windows login and predefined user roles to limit access to projects. **Benefit:** The Alienbrain software can prevent unauthorized access to projects and files as well as unwanted changes to assets or unintended structural changes.



Task calendar

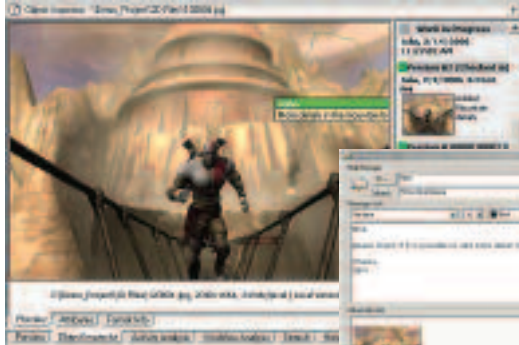
7) The Alienbrain **Archiving** functionality makes it easy to offline old content from file servers in a structured fashion. **Benefit:** Projects require less disk space. Backups are smaller and run faster. You can preserve old content, even if disk space is limited, and you can migrate rarely used data to slower disks.

## SIGN-OFF WORKFLOW EXAMPLE



As soon as you add an asset to Avid Alienbrain, a first version of the asset is created in the central repository.

The central server maintains the asset files and keeps up-to-date information about them: when they were created, their file sizes, their version numbers, histories and many other attributes.



You can draw and write directly on transparent layers that are stored with previews of 2D and 3D files. Indicate changes you want made, or problems you've found, with less chance for error. Anyone involved in the project can see your feedback by simply looking at a file.

When sending a message to another team member using the internal messenger, you can include links to project files right in the message. Recipients can double click on these links to open the file. There's no need to cut and paste long directory names into email messages, and no confusion over exactly which file you're talking about.



With Avid Alienbrain, only a single user can work on a file at any one time, so work will not be lost. Files are tagged so that users can see immediately if a file can be checked out. If the work is completed, the file is checked in again, and made available to everybody in the team.

Team leads can approve changes, sign-off on them and then lock the changed files, eliminating any further changes or accidental deletions.

# What's new in Alienbrain 7.5

## IMPROVED MANAGEMENT TOOLS

With project sizes growing, it has become clear that monitoring backend processes is a crucial part of maintaining project security.

Are databases backed up correctly?  
Are file servers accessible? Is enough disk space available? Are there any fatal errors in the error log?

The new Server Health Monitor service collects this kind of important data from the Alienbrain server and displays it along with information about how network resources are used.



## IMPROVED INTEROPERABILITY

A good asset management system allows teams to work efficiently with the assortment of content creation tools particular to their pipelines. It must be robust, flexible, and able to accommodate frequent changes.

Support for Microsoft .NET allows users to integrate Avid Alienbrain into their production pipelines more easily.

The script-based integrations for SOFTIMAGE@IXSI®, Autodesk 3ds Max, and Autodesk Maya software allow users to improve their production pipelines by accessing all Alienbrain functionality through JScript, VBScript, MEL or maxscript. Alienbrain based scripts can be run silently without dialogs popping up so complex database operations can be scripted without any user interaction.

The well-documented software development kit (SDK) enables teams to define, evolve and integrate tools into their pipelines as required.

## SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

### Alienbrain Server:

- Pentium-4 class CPU(s)
- RAM and storage requirement depending on the project size
- Windows 2000 (SP4+) & 2003 Server (SP1+)

### Alienbrain Windows Client:

- Pentium-4 class CPU(s)
- min. 256 MB RAM, min. 1GB free disk space
- Windows 2000 (SP4+), XP Professional (SP2+), Windows Server 2003 (SP1+)

### Alienbrain Cross-Platform Client:

- Mac OS X 10.3 or higher
- Redhat Enterprise Linux v3 & v4,
- Suse Linux Professional 9.

## INTEGRATIONS

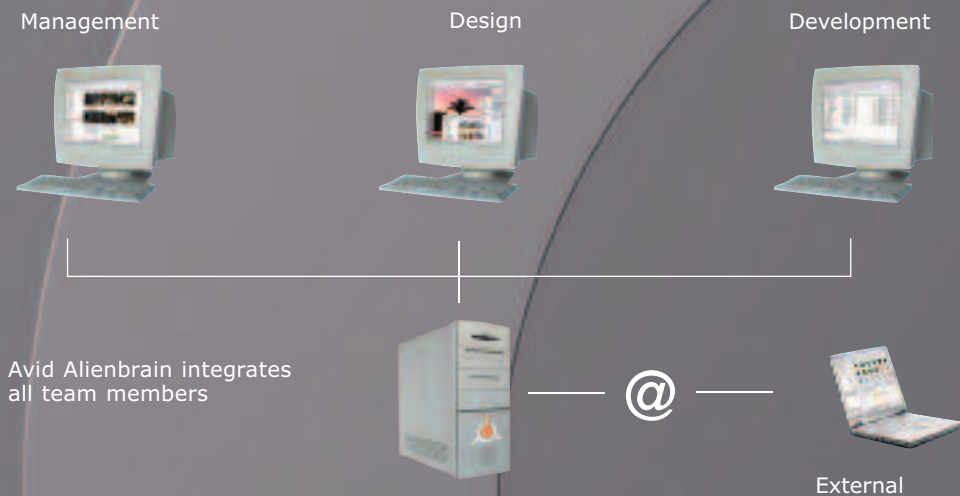
Plug-ins are available for seamless integration into a variety of content creation applications:

- SOFTIMAGE@IXSI, Autodesk 3ds Max and Autodesk Maya, Adobe Photoshop
- Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), Windows Explorer
- Microsoft Visual Studio, Metrowerks CodeWarrior

Avid Alienbrain supports the following file formats for preview and thumbnails: Adobe Photoshop Document, Amiga IFF, CompuServe GIF, JPEG, Kodak Photo CD, Kodak Cineon, Macintosh Quickdraw/Pict, Maya, MNG, OpenEXR, PaintShopPro Image, Pixar picture file, PNG, SciTex Continuous Tone, Silicon Graphics RGB, Softimage bitmap, Sony Playstation TIM PSX, Sony Playstation2 TIM2, Sun Raster Images, Sun TAAC, TIFF Revision 6, TrueVision Targa, Windows Bitmap, Windows Icon, X11 BitMap, X11 PixMap, Zsoft Publisher's Paintbrush and many more. The system can easily be extended to support other or custom file formats by using the SDK.

## Select the optimal solution for your project

Avid Alienbrain offers two primary product versions: Alienbrain Essentials and Alienbrain Advanced. The scope, complexity and ambition level of your project will determine the right solution for you.



**Alienbrain Essentials** offers production asset management for almost any project, at a rock-bottom price.

**Essentials for Artists** features unrivaled 3rd-party support via intuitive 2D/3D integrations into leading content creation. Artists can work visually with graphical assets, using fast previews, thumbnails and an artist-friendly user interface.

**Essentials for Programmers** features state-of-the-art software configuration management with advanced branching, change sets, a top-notch Microsoft Visual Studio integration and a copy of the award-winning Araxis Merge Professional.

**Alienbrain Advanced** offers production asset management for complex projects. It builds on the features of Alienbrain Essentials, adding sophisticated reporting and communication tools and high-end interoperability. These tools enable team leads and managers to track and control project status, detect resource conflicts and take appropriate action.

**Plug-ins** for high-end design and animation tools such as Autodesk StudioTools, and a copy of the award-winning Araxis Merge Professional are included.

Alienbrain Advanced brings visual asset management to **Mac OS X** and **Linux** so entire teams can share Alienbrain benefits.

The **Free Alienbrain Reader** provides read-only access to Alienbrain repositories. Typical applications for the Reader include:

- **Rendering:** Read-only access for render nodes and batch processes
- **Review & Approval:** Read-only access for reviewers who don't modify assets.

## LOCATIONS

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