



TRACTOR

Tractor vs Alfred

How does Tractor compare to Alfred?

Tractor is intended to replace Pixar's existing Alfred and Alfserver products. In addition it is a cost effective standalone solution that can be deployed to control a wide variety of non-render tasks such as physics simulations or compositing tasks.

Because Alfred and Alfserver are still committed to production, Tractor will be phased in to replace these products over an extended transition term ending on June 30th 2012.

What is the biggest difference?

The biggest difference is that Tractor has a significantly simpler licensing model:

- With Alfred, each individual user desiring to control remote render tasks from a personal workstation needs to acquire a separate Alfred license. Likewise an Alfserver remote execution server license has to be installed on every network client to which those tasks are submitted.
- In contrast, Tractor uses a simpler "task centric" licensing model that regulates the number of tasks running simultaneously across the entire render farm, independent of the number of users or the total number of spooled jobs. Any number of the plug-and-play Tractor-Blade servers can be started, only those that are actively executing tasks are counted. Tractor-Engine and Tractor-Dashboard are accessible to everyone, and desktop users are not licensed individually, as was the case for Alfred.

Tractor's flexible task centric licensing model is designed to align with RenderMan's change to Unlimited Threading in which a render is regarded as a singly invoked task with no restriction on the resources applied to that task, and with few dependencies determined by specific hardware configurations.

How do Alfred and Alfserver users transition to Tractor?

Because of Tractor's simplified task centric licensing model, the transition plan provides all Alfred and Alfserver licenses on current maintenance with the option of a "like for like" free conversion to Tractor at any time within the transition term ending on June 30th 2012. This option can be exercised at any time during this term and is not reversible. Alfred and Alfserver will remain supported over this period at the end of which both products will be no longer supported or sold.

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The simplest way to relate “like for like” to your current license entitlement is that 1 Alfred license translates to 1 equivalent Tractor license. Likewise 1 Alfserver license translates to 1 equivalent Tractor license. It does not matter if Alfred and Alfserver were purchased as standalone products or included as part of RenderMan Studio, RenderMan Artist Tools or RenderMan Pro Server. In all situations the free “like for like” principle applies. For example:

- 1 RenderMan Studio and 100 RenderMan ProServer licenses will transition to 101 Tractor licenses.
- 10 Renderman Studio and 200 RenderMan Pro Server licenses will transition to 210 Tractor licenses.
- 1 RenderMan Studio license will transition to 1 Tractor license.
- 10 standalone Alfred licenses and 5 standalone Alfserver licenses that were separately purchased will transition to 15 Tractor licenses.

Only licenses on current maintenance qualify for the free transition to Tractor, which from its inception is intended to be a standalone product with an independent release schedule, allowing Pixar to deliver timely product updates for greater operational flexibility. For further information on the transition plan and how it impacts your existing entitlement please email rendermansales@pixar.com.

For more information, contact us on 020 7348 1920 or email us on technology@escapestudios.com.

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