



nVIDIA®

NVIDIA FX Composer

**Developer Presentation
June 2004**

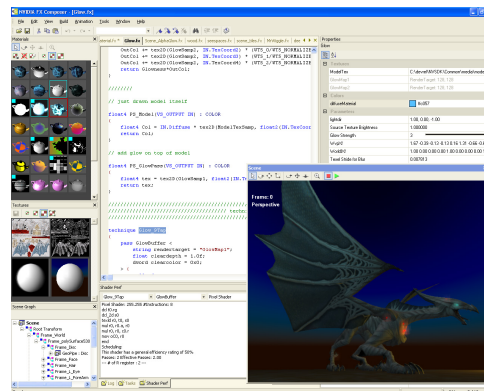




NVIDIA FX Composer

FX Composer empowers developers to create high performance shaders in an integrated development environment with real-time preview & optimization features available only from NVIDIA.

- **CREATE** your shaders in a high powered developer environment
- **DEBUG** your shaders with basic shader debugging features
- **TUNE** your shader performance with advanced analysis and optimization features



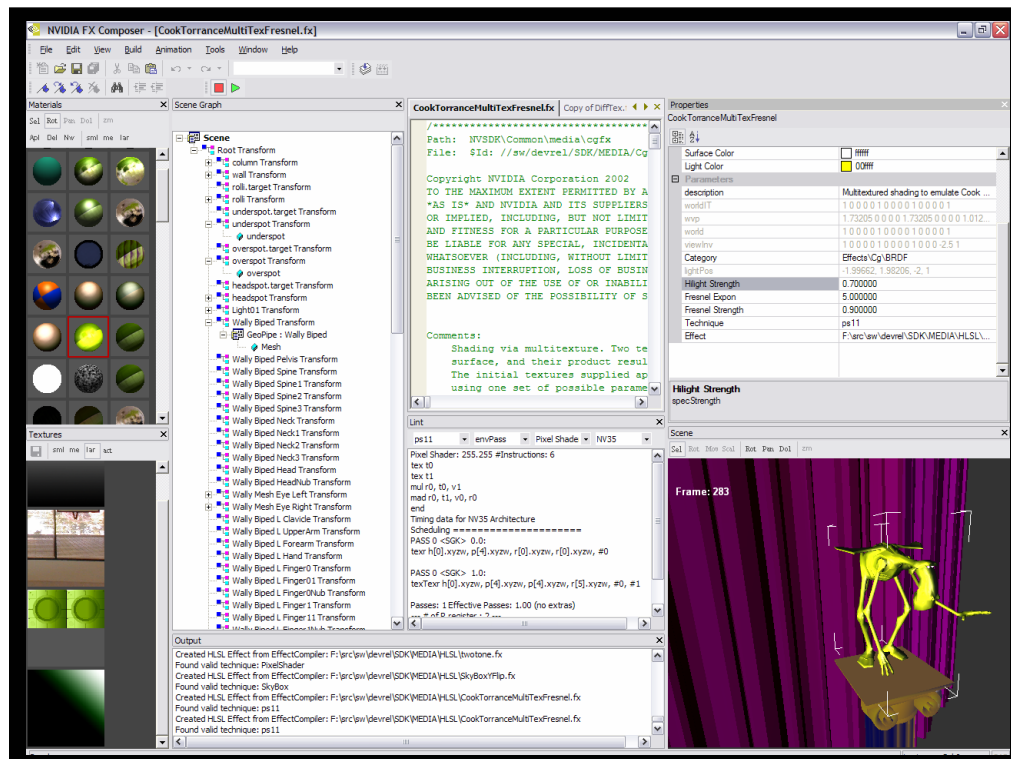
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Be sure to check out the complete User Guide and helpful tutorials!

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The user interface features highly configurable *drag-n-dock* panels:

Materials: real-time 3D preview of .FX files

Textures: source and intermediate textures for selected material

Text Edit: syntax highlighting & intellisense for auto-completion

Properties: HLSL variables exposed via standard semantics and annotations
Convenient editing with sliders, color-picker and matrix editor tear-offs

Scene Graph: navigate, select & edit properties

Shader Perf: DirectX assembly, GPU cycle count, efficiency/utilization rating, register usage, FPS, etc.

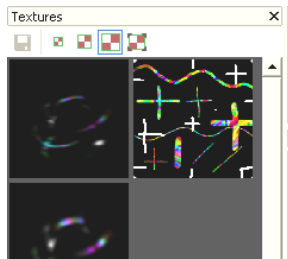
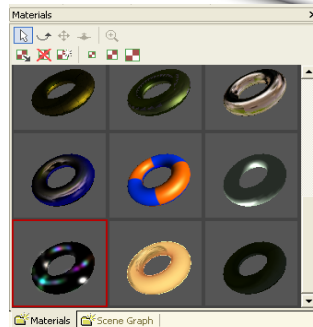
Scene: preview your own scene with lighting and animation

Tasks: lists errors and support jump-to-error debugging of .FX files

Log: displays compiler output and tells you what's happening in the background

Materials & Textures

- Preview all the FX files in your scene at the same time
- Apply them to the appropriate parts of your scene in the Scene panel



- View source textures
- Preview render targets
- Save any texture to disk!

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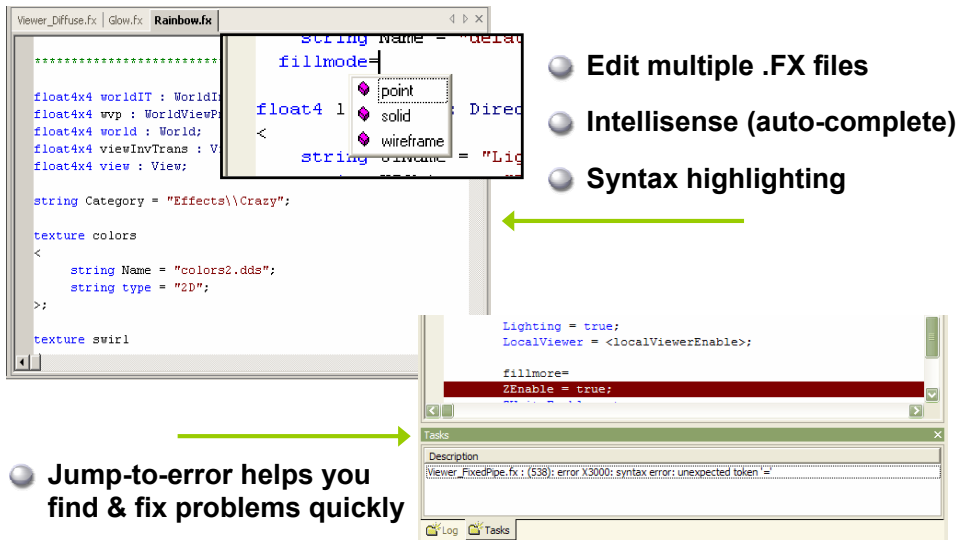
Visual Debugging

Real-time preview of your materials and textures can quickly reveal problems in your shader code

Performance improvement technique

The ability to save a texture target to disk makes it easy to “bake” expensive math into a texture and then modify your shader to do a less expensive texture lookup.

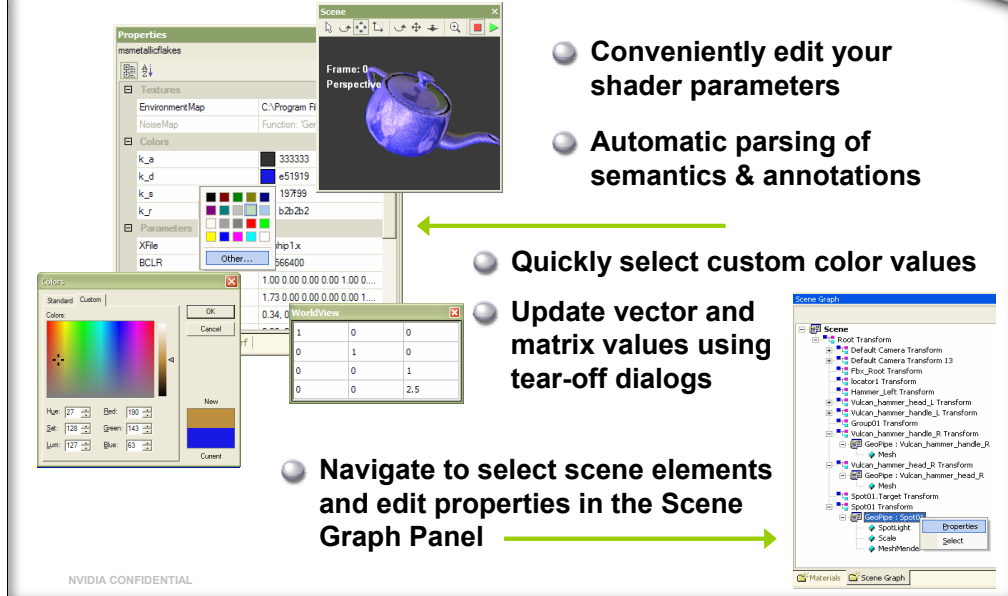
Editing and Debugging



The screenshot displays the NVIDIA FX Editor interface. The top pane shows a list of open files: Viewer_Diffuse.fx, Glow.fx, and Rainbow.fx. The main editor window displays the contents of Rainbow.fx, which includes Cg-style code for a material. The code is syntax-highlighted, with keywords in blue, literals in red, and identifiers in black. A context menu is visible over the 'fillmode' property, offering options like 'point', 'solid', and 'wireframe'. A green arrow points from the 'Syntax highlighting' bullet point to the highlighted code. Another green arrow points from the 'Jump-to-error helps you find & fix problems quickly' bullet point to the 'Tasks' pane at the bottom, which shows an error message: 'Viewer_FixedPipe.fx: (538): error X3000: syntax error: unexpected token '='.

- Edit multiple .FX files
- Intellisense (auto-complete)
- Syntax highlighting
- Jump-to-error helps you find & fix problems quickly

Previewing & Customizing



The screenshot displays the NVIDIA FX Composer interface. On the left, the **Properties** panel shows material parameters for 'metallicflakes', including textures, environment maps, and color values (k_a, k_d, k_s, k_r). A color picker dialog is open, showing a spectrum of colors. In the center, the **Scene** panel shows a 3D preview of a teapot. On the right, the **Scene Graph** panel shows a hierarchical tree of scene elements, including transforms, cameras, and meshes. A green arrow points from the 'Scene' panel to the 'Scene Graph' panel, indicating navigation.

- Conveniently edit your shader parameters
- Automatic parsing of semantics & annotations
- Quickly select custom color values
- Update vector and matrix values using tear-off dialogs
- Navigate to select scene elements and edit properties in the Scene Graph Panel

Load a couple example .FX files & sample projects:

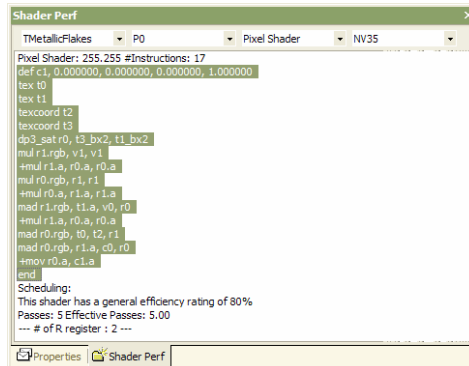
- glow.fx
- uber_mats.fxcomposer
- waves.fxcomposer
- fire.fxcomposer
- alien_gooch.fxcomposer

Some known issues & sticky bits:

- Use mouse pointer to dock panels
- Careful which properties you're editing!

Tune Your Shader Performance

- **User the Shader Perf panel**
- **Select the technique, pass and vertex or pixel shader to analyze**
- **Simulate pixel shader performance on any recent NVIDIA GPU**
- **Optimized DirectX Assembly**
- **NVIDIA performance analysis**
 - GPU cycle count
 - Efficiency / utilization rating
 - Number of passes
 - Register usage



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Technique, pass and vertex/pixel options updated automatically from your HLSL code

Performance analysis features supported on all GeForceFX and QuadroFX GPU's.

Simulate performance on the entire family without changing your graphics board!

GPU selection for pixel shader performance analysis only

NVIDIA FX Composer



Scene Panel

- Preview your 3D scene in real-time
 - Apply materials to scene elements
 - Manipulate the scene elements or the entire scene
 - Use primitives or import .x models and .nvb scenes
 - Set your own key frames or play existing animations
 - Place lights and customize lighting properties
 - Select user-defined cameras or default scene camera

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Placing & connecting additional lights in the scene

- Right-click in Scene Panel and select Create->Point Light
- Click on "lightDir" (grayed out) in the Properties Panel
- Select the newly created light
- Note the updated display of the parameter in the dialog
 - Choose 'rotate object', and spin the light.

Note: It's a direction-only entry in the material, so the position of the directional light is unimportant, just it's orientation.

Support for multiple, user-defined cameras and camera path animation

Animation

Best results = import your animation from a DCC application

In FX Composer, just set the frame (F9/F10) and position your scene elements

Note: No way to delete key frames yet...

Frequently Asked Questions

- What is FX Composer?
- Where can I get it?
- Support Cg or GLSL?
- Integration with my engine?
- Integration with DCC applications?
- Compared to RenderMonkey, Effect Edit & others?
- Support for other platforms?

Get the latest version of FX Composer and review the full FAQ at
<http://developer.nvidia.com/fxcomposer>

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What is FX Composer?

FX Composer is an integrated development environment that provides developers with the features they need to create high performance HLSL shaders.

FX Composer empowers developers to create high performance shaders in an integrated development environment with real-time preview & optimization features available only from NVIDIA.

Support Cg or GLSL?

FX Composer was created to support the large number of developers using HLSL. We currently have no plans to add support for Cg or GLSL, but would like to hear from developers for whom this would be valuable.

Integration with my engine?

Developers can use FX Composer to create .FX files that can be used directly in their applications. NVIDIA is preparing an FX Composer SDK that will allow developers to import their own geometry and much more.

Integration with DCC applications?

NVIDIA works closely with Microsoft to define DirectX features, including standard semantics and annotations that will enable you to share shaders between FX Composer and DCC applications. We will also work with DCC application vendors to ensure FX Composer works well with their products.

Compared to RenderMonkey, Effect Edit & others?

With FX Composer you work directly with .FX files and have access to detailed performance analysis & optimization features that help you create compelling, high performance content for real-time applications.

Support for other platforms?

FX Composer was written from the ground up to be a Windows application; however the performance analysis module of FX Composer may be available on other platforms in the future. We currently have no plans to create MacOS X or Linux ports, but would like to hear from developers for whom this would be valuable.