

# NVIDIA Developer Toolkit

March 2005



## Why Do We Do This?



- Investing in Developers Worldwide
  - Powerful tools for building games
    - Performance Analysis
    - Content Creation
    - Software Development
  - Practical SDK with technical documentation
  - Web Site and Newsletter [developer.nvidia.com](http://developer.nvidia.com)
- Registered Developer Program
  - Pre-Release Drivers
  - Early Access to Developer Tools
  - Online Support Forums & Bug Submission

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# NVIDIA SDK

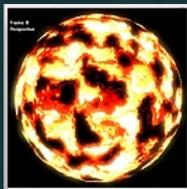
*The Source for GPU Programming*



Hundreds of code samples and effects that help you take advantage of the latest in graphics technology.

- Tons of updated and all-new DirectX and OpenGL code samples with full source code and helpful whitepapers: GPU Cloth, Geometry Instancing, Rainbow Fogbow, 2xFP16 HRD, Perspective Shadow Maps, Texture Atlas Utility, ...

- Hundreds of effects, complete with custom geometry, animation and more: Skin, Plastics, Flame/Fire, Glow, Gooch, Image Filters, HLSL Debugging Techniques, Texture BRDFs, Texture Displacements, HDR Tonemapping, and even a simple Ray Tracer!

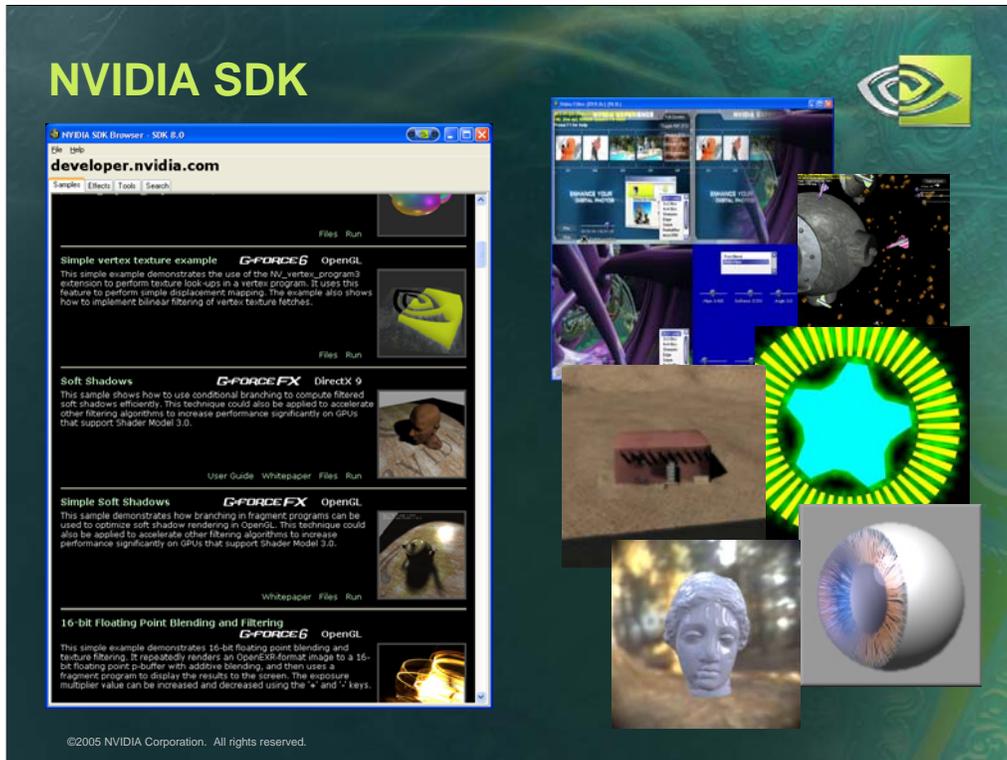


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## SDK Browser

- 100+ code samples
- 250+ compelling effects

Search and filter to find exactly what you need



## Practical Code Samples

- Video Filtering
- Antialiasing with Post-processing
- Deferred Shading
- Geometry Instancing

## Compelling Effects

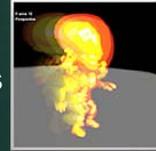
- Image processing shaders
- Post-processing effects
- UV & MIP level debugging shaders
- Powerful examples of DXSAS

## FX Composer

game developer  
**FRONTLINE**  
FINALIST '04



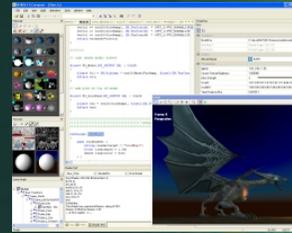
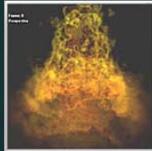
- CREATE your shaders in a high powered IDE
  - Native support for HLSL .FX development
  - Render-to-texture effects
  - Save out pre-rendered ("baked") textures
- DEBUG your shaders with visual shader debugging
  - Unique real-time preview of intermediate targets
  - Import your own geometry, complete with animation
- TUNE your shader performance with advanced analysis
  - Vertex & pixel shader performance metrics
  - GPU-specific scheduling & disassembly



Full plug-in SDK and scripting support for automation

EverQuest® content courtesy  
Sony Online Entertainment Inc.

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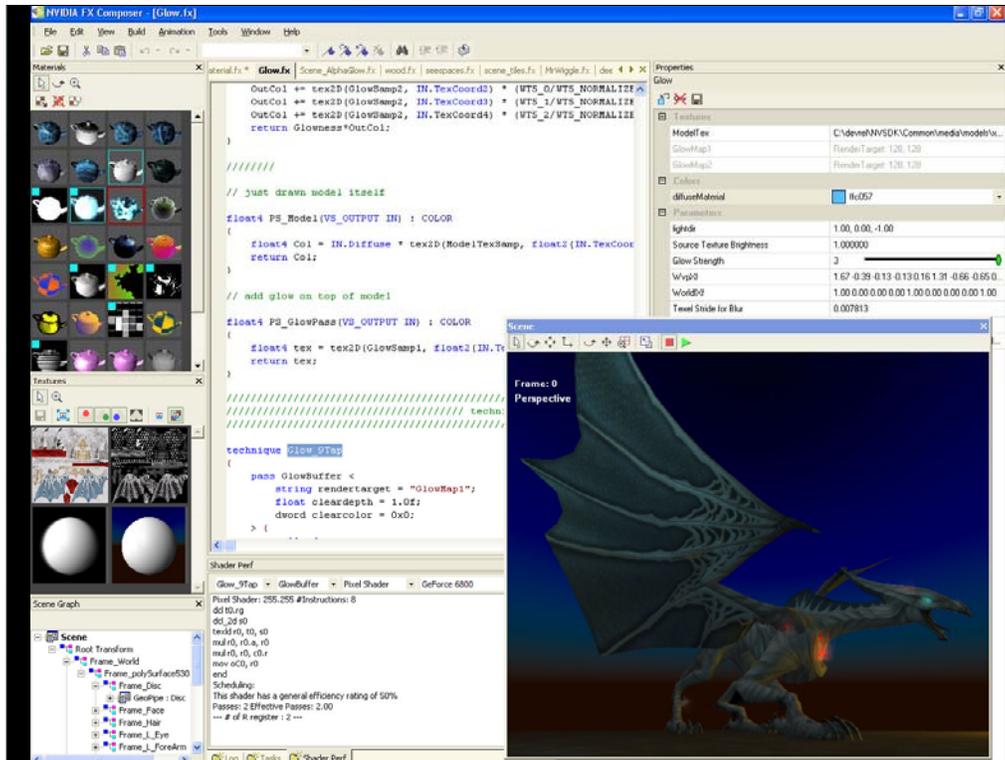
Be sure to check out the complete User Guide and helpful tutorials!

Also see the full presentation dedicated to FX Composer.

EverQuest® content courtesy Sony Online Entertainment Inc.

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## CREATE your shaders in a high powered development environment

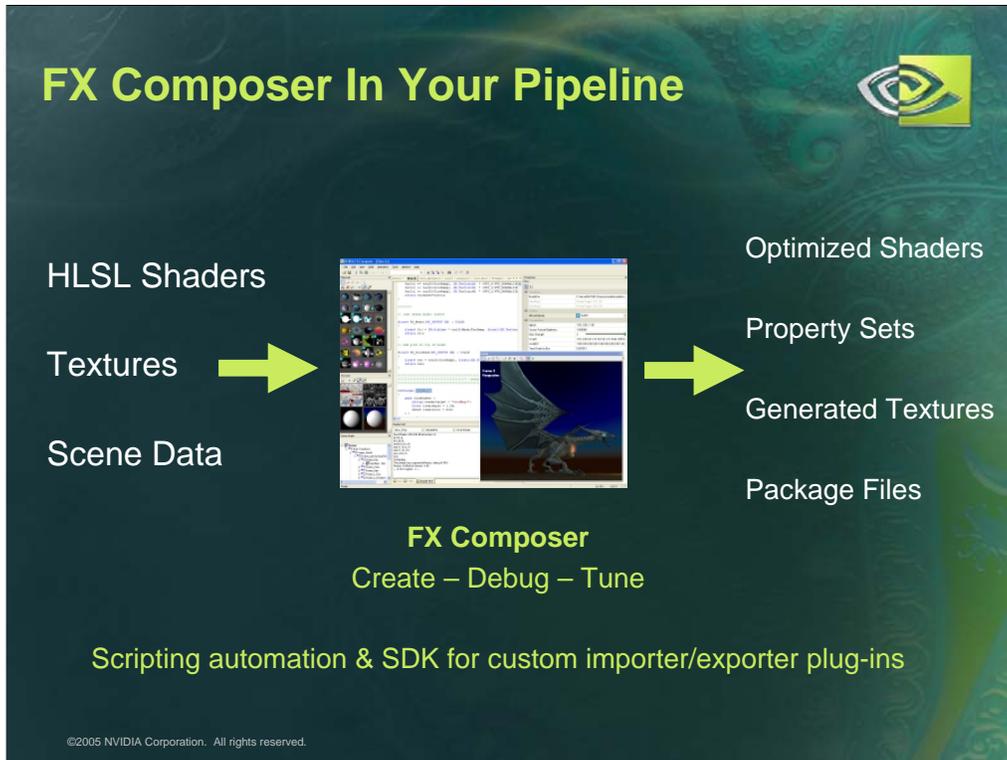
- Sophisticated text editing with intellisense (auto-complete) and syntax highlighting
- Work directly with HLSL .FX files, creating multiple techniques and passes
- Use the .FX files you create with FX Composer directly in your application
- Convenient, artist-friendly graphical editing of shader properties
- Supports Microsoft DirectX standard HLSL semantics and annotations
- Support for all DirectX 9.0 shader profiles
- Develop your shaders on your own models with lighting and animation

## DEBUG your shaders with visual shader debugging features

- Interactive compiler helps you find and fix problems
- Visible preview of source and intermediate textures targets
- Interactive jump-to-error feature helps you fix problems quickly

## TUNE your shader performance with advanced analysis and optimization

- Enables performance tuning workflow for vertex and pixel shaders
- Simulates performance for the entire family of GeForce FX GPUs
- Capture of pre-calculated functions to texture look-up table
- Provides empirical performance metrics such as GPU cycle count, register usage, pixels per second, and more
- Optimization hints notify you of performance bottlenecks



## Goes-in

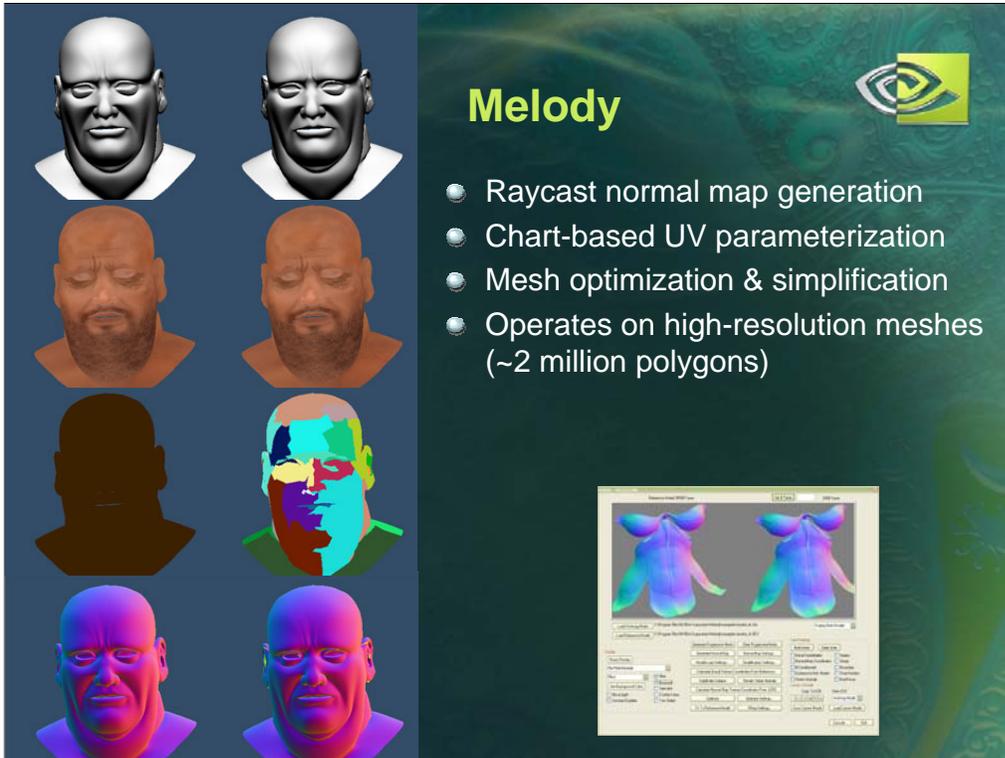
- Supports all DirectX texture formats
- Import scene data from .obj, .x, .ply, or .x files

## Comes-out

- Use the Shader Perf panel to optimize your shaders
- Save properties sets as XML files (re-apply in engine)
- Save textures generated by HLSL functions (e.g. noise)
- Package shaders, textures & full scene in one file for review/collaboration

## Scripting automation & SDK for custom importers/exporters

- Sample code for custom importers & exporters
- Save properties bundles in your own format
- Automate just about anything using .NET scripting  
 (e.g. screenshots for all shaders in a directory)



### Head model comparison

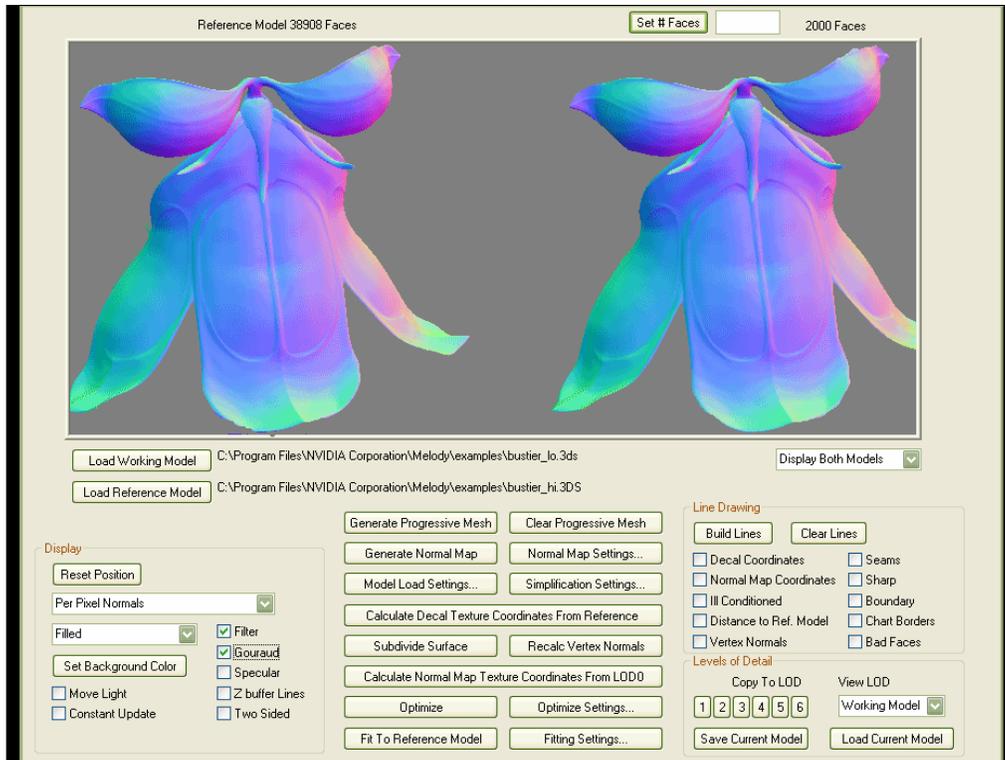
Left: 18k poly reference model

Right: 4k poly working model

(auto simplified using progressive mesh deformation algorithm)

Note various visualization modes (top to bottom):

1. Filled
2. Textured
3. Chart View
4. Object Space Normals



## Dawn's Bustier

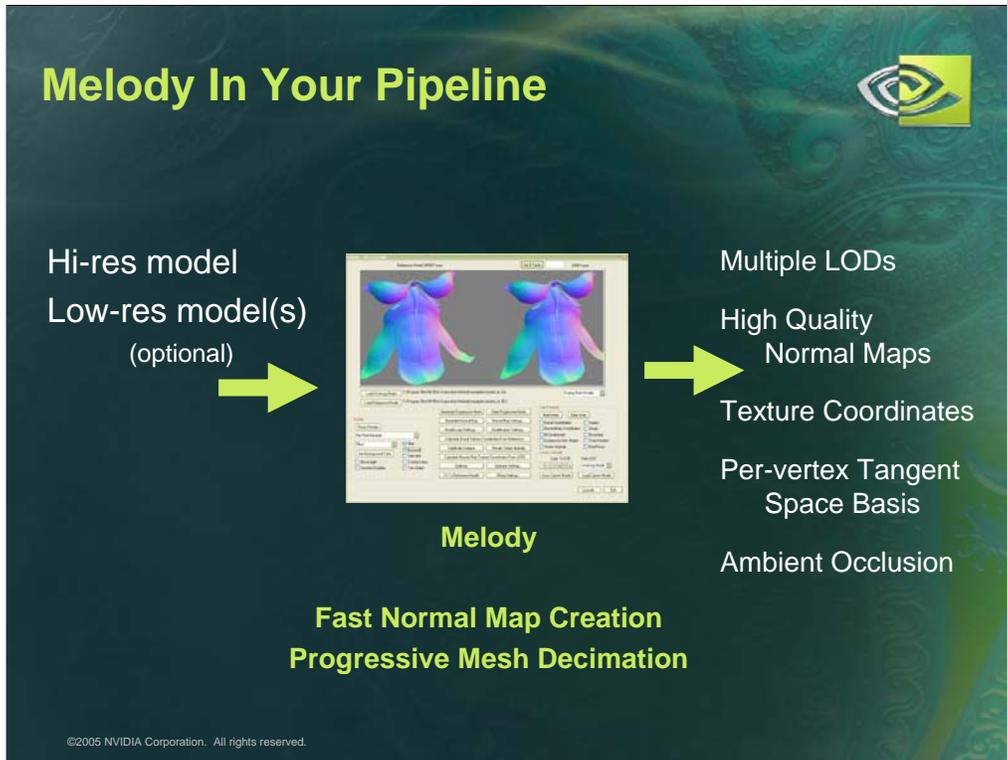
Left 38K polygons

Right 2K polygons with Melody normal map

*Can you tell the difference?*

### Visualization Options Include:

- Vertex or per-pixel normals (textured or not)
- Charts & attribute groups
- Tangent to object space
- Tangent or object space light mapping
- Combined with Filled, Wireframe or Outlined mode



### Goes-in

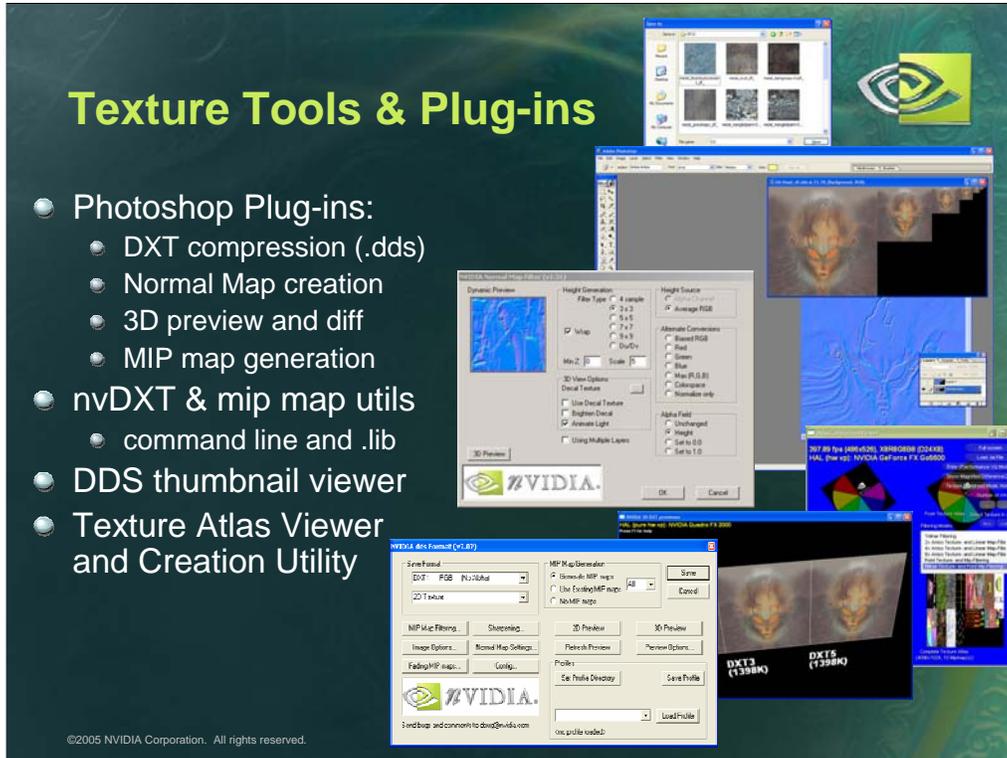
- Import models from .obj, .3ds or .ply files.
- Import a low-res model or generate LODs using Melody

### Comes-out

- Multiple LODs ( )
- Normal map file for each low-res model (tons of options)
- Object space and tangent space normal maps
- FP support (8 or 32 bits / channel)
- Displacement maps
- Re-sampled color map (normal & color)
- Greyscale Height map
- Generates ambient occlusion term

### Visual Preview

- Simple object manipulation
- Powerful visualization modes



- Photoshop Plug-ins:
  - DXT compression (.dds)
  - Normal Map creation
  - 3D preview and diff
  - MIP map generation
- nvDXT & mip map utils
  - command line and .lib
- DDS thumbnail viewer
- Texture Atlas Viewer and Creation Utility

### Photoshop Plug-ins

- Allows saving in various formats, incl. DXTC (.dds files)
- Generate mip-maps in variety of ways  
(box filter to Kaiser gamma-space filter)
- Preview w/ 3D rendering options  
(e.g. anisotropy, format comparisons etc.)
- Create normal maps from height maps

### nvDXT & mip map utilities

- Command line interface for pipeline automation
- Available .lib for tools integration
- Detach & Stitch utilities to manipulate MIP maps

### DDS Thumbnail Viewer

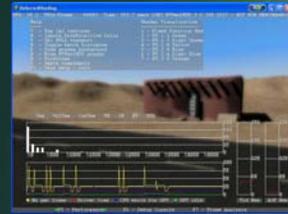
- Provides convenient preview of DXT compressed files.

Also check out our Texture Atlas whitepaper...

## NVPerfHUD 3



- Graph overlay of various vital statistics
  - Shown on top of your running application
  - Perform pipeline experiments to identify bottlenecks
- Debug Console shows runtime warnings, errors and custom messages from your application
- Frame Analysis Mode
  - Freeze the current frame and step through it one draw call at a time
  - Use advanced State Inspectors for each stage in the graphics pipeline



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*Be sure to check out the User Guide for full details!*

When NVPerfHUD is activated, you can perform graphics pipeline experiments, display graphs of performance metrics, and explore potential problems using several performance visualization modes. You can also switch to the Debug Console or Frame Analysis Mode for deeper analysis. Use these shortcut keys to switch modes:

### **F5 Performance Analysis Mode**

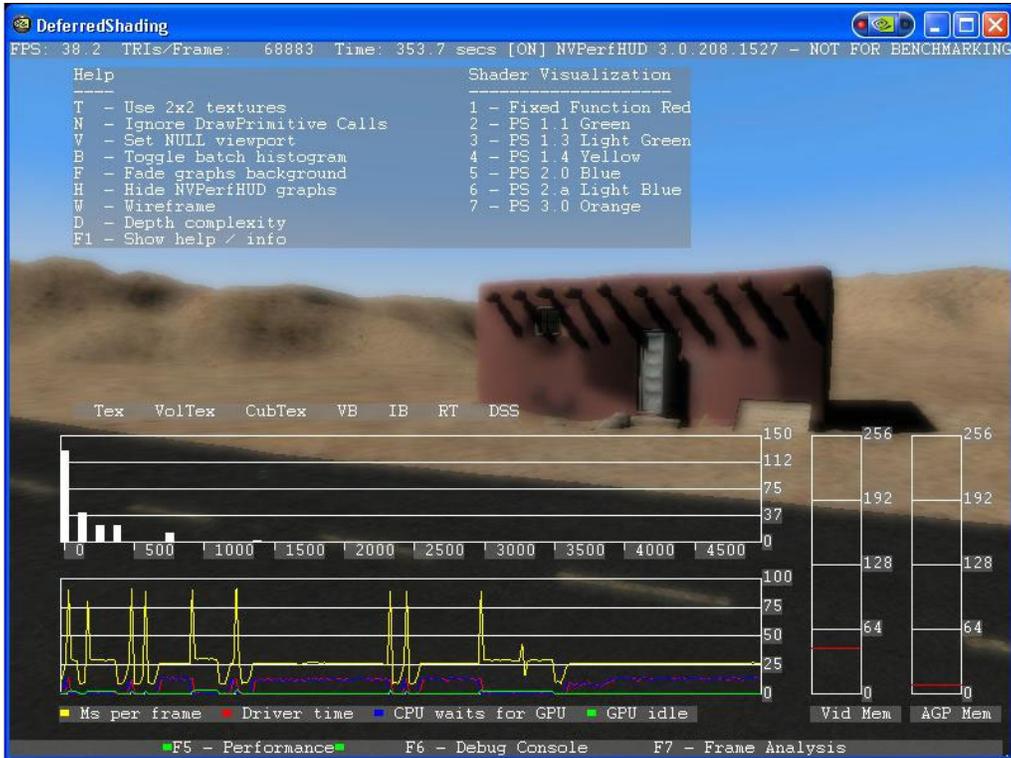
Use timing graphs and directed experiments to identify bottlenecks.

### **F6 Debug Console Mode**

Review messages from the DirectX Debug runtime, NVPerfHUD warnings and custom messages from your application.

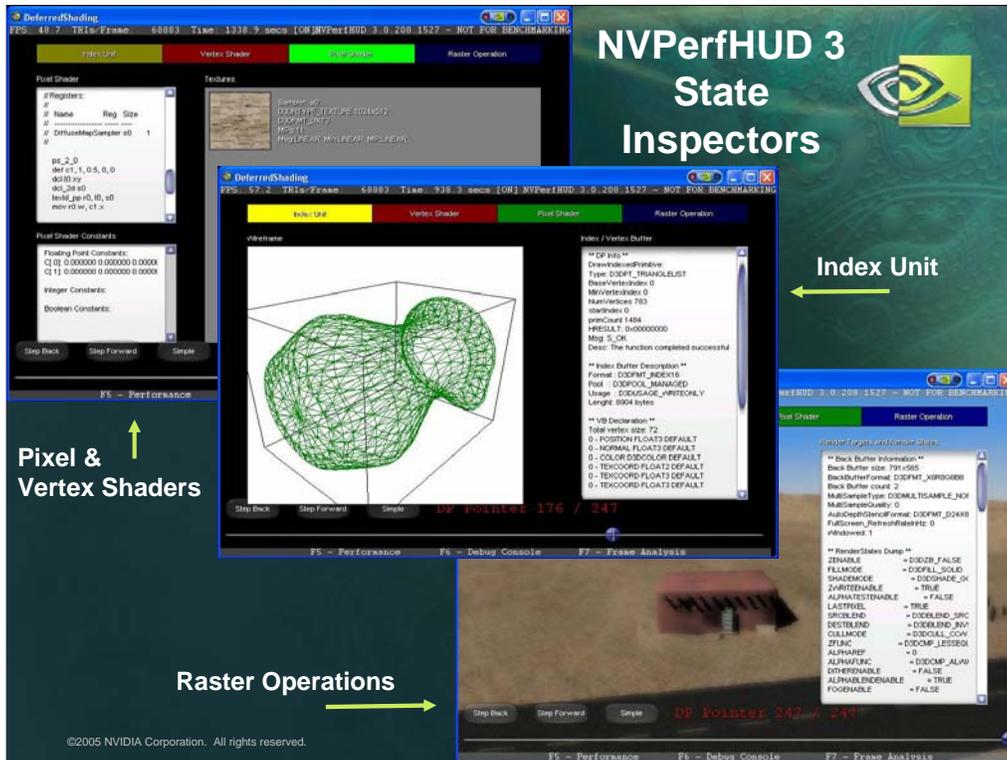
### **F7 Frame Analysis Mode**

Freeze the current frame and step through your scene one draw call at a time, using advanced State Inspectors for state of the graphics pipeline.



Configure the information displayed on the screen and perform several graphics pipeline experiments:

- F1**            Cycle display of helpful information
- B**             Show Batch Size Histogram
- F**             Fade Background
- H**             Hide Graphs
- W**             Show Wireframe
- D**             Show Depth Complexity
- T**             Isolate the texture unit by forcing the GPU to use 2x2 textures
- V**             Isolate the vertex unit by using a 1x1 scissor rectangle to clip all rasterization and shading work
- N**             Eliminate the GPU (and state change overhead) by ignoring all draw calls



When NVPerfHUD is activated, you can perform graphics pipeline experiments, display graphs of performance metrics, and explore potential problems using several performance visualization modes. You can also switch to the Debug Console or Frame Analysis Mode for deeper analysis.

### Index Unit State Inspector

Verify all the information used to fetch the vertex data and make sure the geometry associated with the current draw call is correct.

### Vertex and Pixel Shader State Inspectors

Verify that the shader program constants and textures are correct for the current draw call. Make sure the constants are not **#NAN** or **#INF**.

### Raster Operations State Inspector

Confirm that the back buffer format has an alpha component when blending doesn't seem to be working properly, verify that opaque objects are not drawn with **blendEnable**, etc.

# NVPerfHUD 3 Quick Reference

When NVPerfHUD is activated, you can perform graphics pipeline experiments, display graphs of performance metrics, and explore potential problems using several performance visualization modes. You can also switch to the Debug Console or Frame Analysis Mode for deeper analysis. Use these shortcuts to switch modes:

**F5 Performance Analysis Mode** - Use timing graphs and directed experiments to identify bottlenecks.

**F6 Debug Console Mode** - Review messages from the Direct Debug runtime, NVPerfHUD warnings and custom messages from your application.

**F7 Frame Analysis Mode** - Freeze the current frame and step through your scene one draw call at a time, using advanced State Inspectors for state of the graphics pipeline.

**Performance Analysis Mode**  
Configure the information displayed on the screen and perform several graphics pipeline experiments:

- B** Cycle display of helpful information
- H** Show Batch Size Histogram
- F** Fade Background
- H** Hide Graphs
- W** Show Wireframes
- D** Show Depth Complexity
- T** Isolate the texture unit by forcing the GPU to use Z12 textures
- V** Isolate the vertex unit by using a 1x1 scissor rectangle to clip all rasterization and shading work
- N** Eliminate the GPU (and state change overhead) by ignoring all draw calls

Helpful Information (F1 toggles)

Batching Graph (B)

Timing Graph (H)

Memory Graphs

Using the **Index Unit State Inspector** you can verify all the information used to fetch the vertex data and make sure the geometry associated with the current draw call is correct.

Use the **Vertex and Pixel Shader State Inspectors** to verify that the shader program constants and textures are correct for the current draw call. Make sure the constants are not **#NaN** or **#INF**.

Using the **Raster Operations State Inspector** you can confirm that the back buffer format has an alpha component when blending doesn't seem to be working properly, verify that opaque objects are not drawn with blendable, etc.

**Frame Analysis Mode**  
Use the slider or the left/right arrow keys and the options below to scrub through your scene:

- A** Toggle Simple/Advanced display
- J** Jump to Warnings
- W** Show Wireframes
- D** Show Depth Complexity

**State Inspectors**  
Click on the Advanced... button to use the advanced State Inspectors. You can click on the colored bar or use the shortcut keys below to switch between State Inspectors:

- 1 **Index Unit** - fetches vertex data
- 2 **Vertex Shader** - executes vertex shaders
- 3 **Pixel Shader** - executes pixel shaders
- 4 **Raster Operations** - post-shading operations

**Identifying Bottlenecks**

**Methodology**

1. Identify the bottleneck
2. Optimize the bottleneck stage
3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 until desired performance level is achieved.

**CPU Optimizations**

- 1 **Reduce Resource Loading**
  - Avoid too many reads from a surface you were previously writing to
  - Avoid writing to a surface you only reading from, like a texture or a vertex buffer
- 2 **Minimize Number of Draw Calls**
  - If using triangles, use degenerate triangles to stitch together distant objects
  - Use texture pages
  - Use the vertex shader constant memory as a lookup table of matrices
  - Use geometry instancing if you have multiple copies of the same mesh in your scene
  - Use GPU shader branching to increase batch size
  - Defeat decisions as far down in the pipeline as possible
- 3 **Reduce Cost of Vertex Transfers**
  - Use the lowest number of bytes possible in vertex format
  - Generate per-vertex, derivable vertex attributes inside the vertex program instead of storing them inside of the GPU vertex format
  - Use 16-bit indices instead of 32-bit indices
  - Access vertex data via a memory aligned pointer
- 4 **Optimize Vertex Processing**
  - Put out-of-order computations onto the CPU
  - Optimize for the post-Tx vertex cache
  - Reduce the number of writes/updates
  - Use vertex processing LOD
  - Use optimal coordinate space
  - Use vertex branching to early-out of computations

**GPU Optimizations**

- 1 **Speed up Pixel Shading**
  - Render depth first
  - Help early-Z optimizations finish early pixel processing
  - Store complex functions in textures
  - Move per-pixel work to the vertex shader
  - Use the lowest precision necessary
  - Avoid unnecessary normalization
  - Use half precision normals when possible (e.g. norm\_ptr)
  - Consider using color shader look-up-table
  - Disable Z-test filtering when unnecessary
- 2 **Reduce Texture Bandwidth**
  - Reduce the size of your textures
  - Always use mipmapping on any surface that may be needed
  - Compress all color textures
  - Avoid expensive texture formats if not necessary
- 3 **Optimize Transfer/Buffer Bandwidth**
  - Render depth first
  - Reduce alpha blending
  - Turn off depth writes when possible
  - Avoid unnecessary color buffer clears
  - Render front-back clears
  - Optimize alpha rendering
  - Only use floating point buffers when necessary
  - Use a 16-bit depth buffer when possible
  - Use a 16-bit color when possible

**Graphics Pipeline**

Application → Draw → Vertex Shader → Rasterizer → ROP

Texture Memory → Rasterizer

Refer to the NVPerfHUD User Guide for optimization details.

This handy Quick Reference sheet is included in the NVPerfHUD installer.

Be sure to read through the complete User Guide with chapters on:

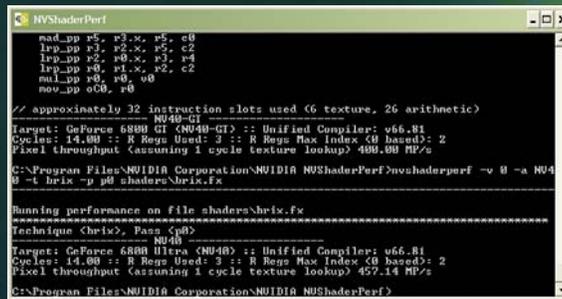
- Enabling NVPerfHUD
- Bottleneck Identification
- Crushing Bottlenecks
- Advanced State Inspectors
- Troubleshooting

## NVShaderPerf

- Same technology as Shader Perf panel in FX Composer
- Analyze DirectX and OpenGL Shaders
  - HLSL, GLSL, Cg, !FP1.0, !ARBfp1.0, VS1.x, VS2.x, VS3.x, PS1.x, PS2.x, PS3.x, etc.
- Shader performance regression testing on the entire family of NVIDIA GPUs, without rebooting!



```
Shader Perf
-----
Target: GeForce 6800 GT (NV40-GT) :: Unified Compiler: v66.81
Cycles: 12.00 :: R Regs Used: 4 :: R Regs Max Index (0 based): 3
Pixel throughput (assuming 1 cycle texture lookup) 466.67 MP/s
-----
Shader performance using all RRs
Cycles: 10.00 :: R Regs Used: 2 :: R Regs Max Index (0 based): 1
Pixel throughput (assuming 1 cycle texture lookup) 500.00 MP/s
-----
Shader performance using all FP32
Cycles: 22.00 :: R Regs Used: 4 :: R Regs Max Index (0 based): 3
Pixel throughput (assuming 1 cycle texture lookup) 254.55 MP/s
-----
PS Instructions: 30
ps_2_0
mov_0, 0, 1, 0, 0
add_ps r3, r2, r5, c2
lfp_ps r2, r0, r3, r4
lfp_ps r0, r1, r2, c2
mul_ps r0, r0, r0
mov_ps cCB, r0
```



```
NVShaderPerf
-----
mad_pp r5, r3, r, r5, c0
lfp_pp r3, r2, r, r5, c2
lfp_pp r2, r0, r, r3, r4
lfp_pp r0, r1, r, r2, c2
mul_pp r0, r0, r0
mov_pp cCB, r0

// approximately 32 instruction slots used (6 texture, 26 arithmetic)
-----
Target: GeForce 6800 GT (NV40-GT) :: Unified Compiler: v66.81
Cycles: 14.00 :: R Regs Used: 3 :: R Regs Max Index (0 based): 2
Pixel throughput (assuming 1 cycle texture lookup) 400.00 MP/s
-----
C:\Program Files\NVIDIA Corporation\NVIDIA NVShaderPerf\nvshaderperf -v 0 -a NV40
-i hrix -p ps shaders\hrix.fx

Running performance on file shaders\hrix.fx
-----
Technique Chrix> Pass 4(0)
-----
Target: GeForce 6800 Ultra (NV40) :: Unified Compiler: v66.81
Cycles: 14.00 :: R Regs Used: 3 :: R Regs Max Index (0 based): 2
Pixel throughput (assuming 1 cycle texture lookup) 457.14 MP/s
-----
C:\Program Files\NVIDIA Corporation\NVIDIA NVShaderPerf>
```

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### Identify shader performance issues:

- Run once across all your shaders to create a baseline report
- Run the same version again later to identify which shaders have improved / degraded performance

### Identify driver performance issues:

- Run once across all your shaders to create a baseline report
- Then run a different version on the same shaders to identify improvements and/or regressions

*Please let us know if you find any driver performance issues!!*

## Utilities, libraries and more...



- **NVMeshMender** (C++ src code)
  - Fixes problem geometry
  - Prepares meshes for per-pixel lighting
- **NVTriStrip** (.lib & src code)
  - cache-aware creation of optimized tri lists or strips

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### **NVMeshMender:**

- Creates tangent basis for per-pixel lighting
- Creates smoothed normals
- Creates u, v coordinates
- Handles mirrored (u,v) and cylindrical wrapping

### **NVTriStrip library:**

- Library to stripify arbitrary geometry meshes
- Flexibly optimizes for postTnL vertex caches
- Option to stitch strips using degenerate triangles
- Option to remap indices to improve vertex buffer locality
- Outputs lists or strips

## Questions / Feature Requests?



All of this and more, available now at

[developer.nvidia.com](http://developer.nvidia.com)

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Please send questions, feature requests & comments  
about our SDK and developer tools to:

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