

ATI FireGL™ Accelerators from AMD Make Workstation Graphics a Snap to Manage

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Workstation users are among the most demanding clients for IT administrators, pushing the limits of technology with compute- and graphics-intensive applications for 3D design, animation, CAD/CAM, and medical imaging. ATI FireGL™ workstation graphics accelerators from AMD help reduce TCO by streamlining configuration, boosting creativity, and ultimately enhancing user productivity. In addition, AMD's software engineering teams help ensure ATI FireGL accelerators are optimized and ISV certified for today's leading design and visualization applications.

It just works

"Install it, and then don't worry about it." That's the mantra for IT administrators and a goal AMD sets for customers using and managing graphics workstations. While the ATI FireGL™ family of workstation graphics accelerators from AMD can help boost user productivity with world-class features and highly tuned performance for leading computer-aided design (CAD) and content-creation applications, enterprise benefits reach far beyond raw graphics horsepower. By streamlining the installation, configuration, and upgrade process, ATI FireGL graphics accelerators can help cut down on the time it takes to deploy new systems, perform routine maintenance, and respond to support requests—helping reduce total cost of ownership (TCO) while freeing the IT team for more value-added tasks.

ATI FireGL accelerators can offer outstanding benefits for IT administrators, including

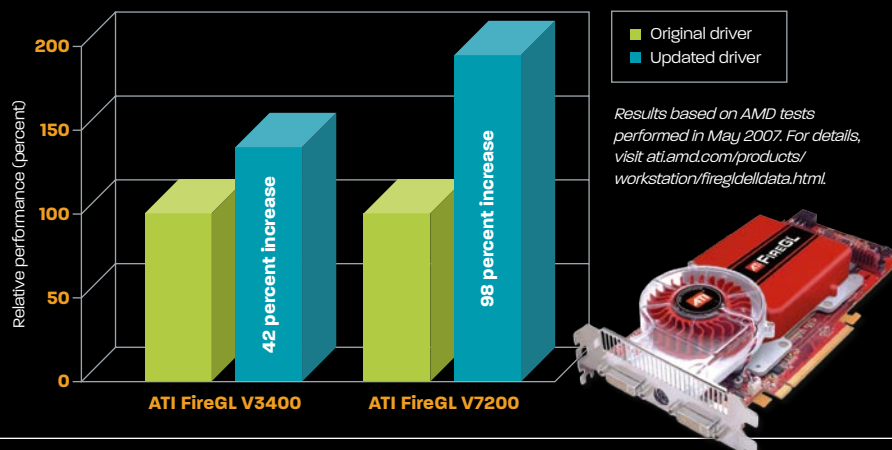
independent software vendor (ISV) certification with comprehensive compliance, performance, and functionality verification, plus Auto Detect optimized configuration profiles.

Optimized and certified. AMD runs a rigorous tuning program to optimize ATI FireGL driver software for leading professional 3D applications, as well as to help ISVs optimize their software for ATI FireGL hardware. The exacting certification processes, conducted by the software vendors, puts ATI FireGL graphics accelerators up against a battery of simulations and real-world scenarios to help ensure the compatibility and stability workstation users require. In addition, AMD's quality assurance engineers conduct comprehensive compliance, performance, and functionality verification tests, and work closely with application and workstation vendors to refine ATI FireGL products—helping create top-flight reliability and performance in the field.

More than 40 graphics programs are tested with ATI FireGL accelerators, in categories including CAD, computer-aided engineering (CAE), as well as architecture, engineering, and construction (AEC); digital content creation (DCC) and digital media; geographical information systems (GIS) and visualization; life sciences; and oil and gas. Individual applications include Adobe Photoshop and Premiere Pro; Autodesk AutoCAD, 3ds Max, and Maya; Avid SOFTIMAGE|XSI; Dassault Systemes CATIA; ESRI ArcGIS; PTC Pro/ENGINEER; SolidWorks Corp. SolidWorks; and UGS Solid Edge. (For a complete list of certified applications, visit ati.amd.com/products/workstation/ISVCertsFireGL.pdf.)

When an ATI FireGL accelerator is paired with a certified application, professional engineers, designers, and animators can expect a stable and high-performance workstation graphics environment on both Microsoft® Windows® and Linux® platforms. Moreover, IT administrators

Ongoing driver optimization enhances ATI FireGL™ performance



don't have to worry about driver conflicts or the many other compatibility issues that can emerge when running powerful graphics programs.

Automatic performance tuning. A new feature recently integrated in the ATI FireGL driver is called Auto Detect. When a workstation equipped with an ATI FireGL accelerator launches a certified application, the accelerator automatically detects this action and loads the configuration profile optimized for that application. This relieves a big IT headache—assisting users who aren't sure how to load graphics drivers, configure control panels, or take other steps required to launch applications on workstations equipped with accelerators that don't offer Auto Detect. In addition, Auto Detect enables optimized driver performance when running multiple applications simultaneously as users switch between windows.

Eye-opening performance

Few applications demand more processing power than professional graphics software; incredible amounts of computation are required to transform, rotate, and scale large 3D data sets, then render images on the screen. Plus, users want big screens, pinpoint sharpness, and near-perfect color displays. And they want it now, without tapping their feet while new images are being rendered.

ATI FireGL accelerators are built on a scalable, ultra-threaded graphics architecture and innovative 512-bit ring bus memory system designed to handle the most complex 3D models, the largest data sets, and the highest-definition textures used today. With the 10-bit display pipeline and high dynamic range (HDR) 16-bit per RGB color component output, ATI FireGL accelerators are designed to produce over 1 billion colors on a 10-bit display. Multiple parallel geometry engines and pixel shader processors help reduce render time. The ATI FireGL graphics processing unit enables 128-bit full floating point precision and supports up to 1 GB of graphics double data rate 3 (GDDR3) memory.

This cutting-edge performance can also help sustain the IT department's workstation investment. For example, when ATI FireGL accelerators are first released, they often support features that are touted in upcoming ISV application releases. When these applications become available, the next-generation features can be enabled on the ATI FireGL accelerators through a software update. In addition, AMD's ongoing software development and driver tuning have demonstrated that users can boost application performance without having to spend a penny more on hardware. AMD tests have demonstrated that an updated version of the ATI FireGL driver increased ATI FireGL V3400 performance by up to 42 percent and ATI FireGL V7200 performance by up to 98 percent over

a previous driver version (see figure). In this way, ATI FireGL accelerators also contribute to reduced TCO by extending the useful life of the workstations in which they are installed.

Graphics professionals can never get enough visual real estate; the more and bigger screens they have, the faster and more effectively they can work. To help meet these demands, ATI FireGL accelerators together with Dell Precision™ workstations continue to enhance productivity and overall user experience. For example, by tapping the two dual-link-enabled Digital Visual Interface (DVI) ports on the ATI FireGL V7200 accelerator, users can drive two 30-inch Dell UltraSharp™ wide-screen monitors at up to 2560 x 1600 resolution each, creating a massive desktop up to 5120 pixels wide.

Completing the picture

AMD offers a range of ATI FireGL accelerators—from entry-level to ultra-high-end—because professional graphics is not a one-size-fits-all category. Dell matches this approach with its Dell Precision line of workstations, allowing each unit to be customized for the needs of an individual user. For IT administrators seeking to lower TCO, this combination makes it easy to avoid spending too much—or too little.

Dell Precision 390, 490, and 690 workstations can be ordered with ATI FireGL V7200 and ATI FireGL V3400 accelerators. In addition, other models of Dell workstations with PCI Express can incorporate ATI FireGL cards. Regardless of which ATI FireGL accelerator is installed, a unified driver supports all models, solving yet another problem for IT professionals by enabling them to easily and efficiently manage a variety of configurations deployed throughout the enterprise.

Get the details on ATI FireGL™ workstation graphic accelerators in Dell Precision workstations now!

ATI FireGL™ accelerators from AMD:
ati.amd.com/firegl

Dell Precision workstations:
www.dell.com/precision

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