

TR126250

Virtual Collaboration with VRED Server

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Learning Objectives

- Learn how to use VRED Server for design reviews
- Learn about basic administration in VREDServer Manager
- Learn how to set up and run a design collaboration session
- Learn how to use the outcome of the session in the process

Description

Based on the streaming capabilities of VRED Server, Autodesk created a new, flexible way to quickly review and collaborate designs within the Studio of the Future. This will change the design collaboration and allow device-independent reviews between the main stakeholders of the studio. The application can be installed out of the box without big customization to give our customers easy access to this sophisticated technology. In this presentation, we will explain and demonstrate the current state and latest changes of this product. The goal is to have all attendees understand the basic way of using this new product efficiently.

Speaker(s)

Lukas Fäth joined Autodesk, Inc., 5 years ago with the acquisition of PI-VR, a 3D visualization software company. After graduating in digital media in cooperation with the PI-VR, Lukas was involved in the visual and conceptual development of VRED high-end virtual prototyping software. As a 3D artist he created marketing imagery and tested VRED technology to guide future development. Lukas was responsible for quality assurance, support, and consulting, and is a professional VRED software trainer for the automotive industry and computer-generated imagery agencies with a strong artistic knowledge base. He is now taking care of product management for the VRED product family.

Collaboration Sessions

A collaboration session is a meeting to present and view a specific scene and all the related information, like the configuration, bookmarks, notes and much more in a shared live stream. One example use case could be a design review. A session can be setup for a specific date and time or for spontaneous meetings. It requires assigning an organizer to start the presentation and with special privileges, like switching the presenter at any point in a session without the permission of the current presenter.

Furthermore, it is possible to manually assign a collaboration session to a selected node group or to automatically assign it to a node group during start up. This requires a node group to be configured with the role "Collaboration session", that is not in use and has at least one render node assigned to it. In any case, the node group will be managed by the collaboration session and will be released when the session ends.

A session can only be edited and changed if it has not started or is not completed yet, but it is possible to restart again if desired.

Create Nodegroup

To complete the first-time setup, it is necessary to create at least one node group. A node group is a virtual container that groups nodes for one specific use case like a collaboration session, a scene preview etc.

The node groups can be created and managed in the "Node groups" section on the edit page of a VRED server.

The available nodes section lists all unassigned nodes, grouped by their respective repository. Each node can be assigned to a node group only once. There are multiple ways to assign a node: A double click or drag and drop of one or multiple nodes that are selected by mouse or by using the CTRL or SHIFT key in combination with a mouse click.

Add Nodes

In order to allow using render nodes, it is required to add them to a repository. A first repository should be created by the setup wizard and can directly be accessed through the "Edit" button in the node repositories panel on the dashboard or the node repositories page.

Nodes can be added through the nodes collection or the node repository edit page.

The latter one provides an "Add nodes" wizard that allows to load nodes from a VHPC file or to add nodes by providing an IP range.

Create Session

A session consists of a meaningful title, an organizer that has special privileges and at least the scene to be reviewed. A specific node group can be assigned, but requires the role

"Collaboration session". The start time, end time, and time zone is required to specify the start and end of a session and is visible to other users. The time zone setting makes sure that the start time of the session will be displayed correctly to each user, depending on the respective time zone. For sessions with a start time, the system will take care that it starts automatically. This

also applies to the end time. Depending on the “policies.force_end” value in the global settings, the session will be closed immediately or when all users have left the session.

Run Session

In order to run a session, it has to be started first. If a start time is specified, the system will start the session automatically. Alternatively, an administrator and the organizer are always allowed to start a session manually. Besides that, the session will start automatically once the organizer joins it.

The same applies to ending a session. An administrator or organizer can always end a session from the collaboration session collection page. Moreover, an organizer can close the session by clicking the “Close session” button on the session page in the upper right corner.

Export Scene

A user can export a scene that has been saved previously by clicking “Export Scene” at the bottom of the scene edit page. The exported ZIP file contains all meta data, configurations, preview images, and scene specific settings. It does not contain the scene file itself.