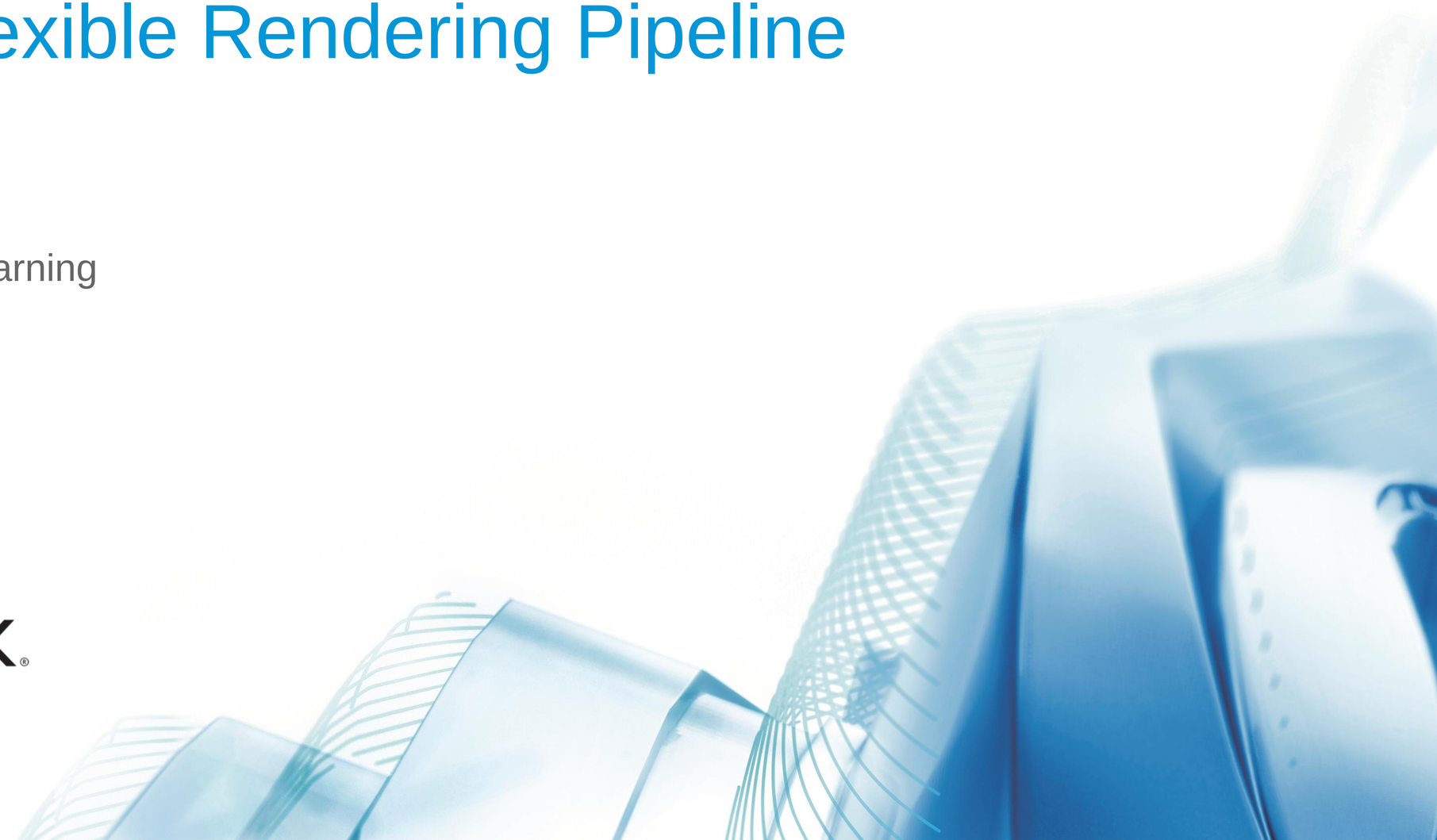
Rendering Everything Everywhere

Creating a Flexible Rendering Pipeline

George Maestri

Staff Author – LinkedIn Learning

AUTODESK. UNIVERSITY



George Maestri

Staff Author, CAD, 3D, Animation

Goal:

Render Everything Everywhere

Create a pipeline that allows for images to be created at any point.

Outline

Introduction / Definition

Current Technology

Possible Pipelines

Materials

Lights & Cameras

Recommendations

Futures

Introduction

Visualization

The Challenge

The Challenge

1 – We have to render for a **lot** of outputs

The Challenge

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Stills

The Challenge

1 – We have to render for a **lot** of outputs

Stills

Motion

The Challenge

1 – We have to render for a **lot** of outputs

Stills

Motion

Interactive/VR

The Challenge

1 – We have to render for a lot of outputs

The Challenge

1 – We have to render for a lot of outputs

2 – **Those outputs often require different technologies**

The Challenge

Stills

Motion

Interactive/VR

The Challenge

Stills

Classic Rendering

Arnold

V-Ray

…etc

Motion

Interactive/VR

Real Time Rendering

Unity

Unreal

…etc

The Challenge

1 – We have to render for a **lot** of outputs

2 – Sometimes those outputs require different technologies

3 – **Building an efficient pipeline is challenging**

The Challenge

1 – We have to render for a **lot** of outputs

2 – Sometimes those outputs require different technologies

3 – Building an efficient pipeline is challenging

4 – **Understand What Works, What Doesn’t**

It’s Kind of a Mess

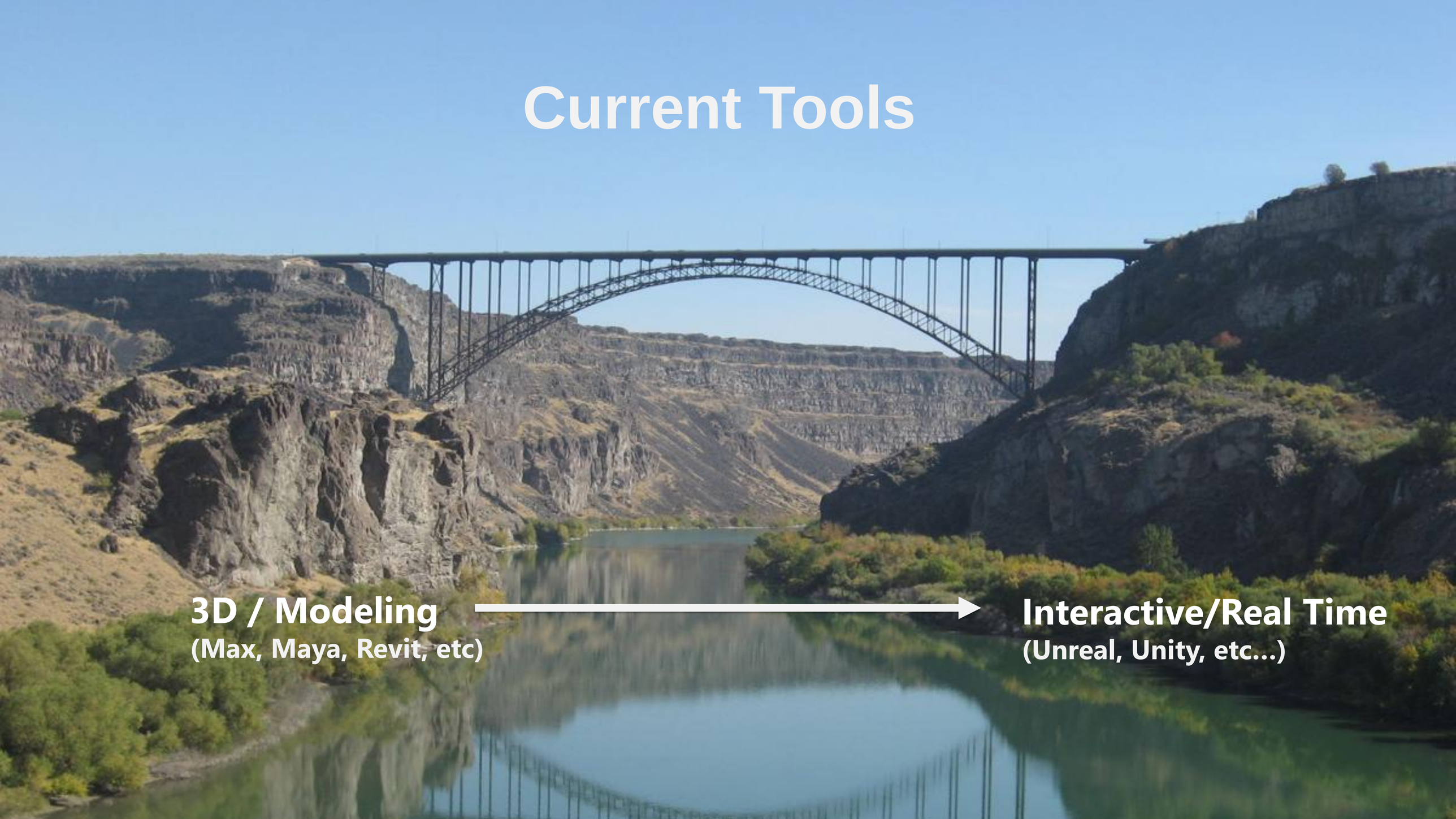
1 – Traditional 3D Creation Tools (Maya, 3ds Max, Revit, etc…)

2 – Renderers Galore (Arnold, V-Ray, Redshift, Octane, etc)

3 – Translation tools (that don’t always work)

4 – Real-Time Engines (different workflows / requirements)

Current Tools



Obstacles

Familiarity with Tools – Artists often go with what they know.

Archival Assets – All that stuff you created may need to change

Outside Assets – Clients and freelancers also need to be on board.

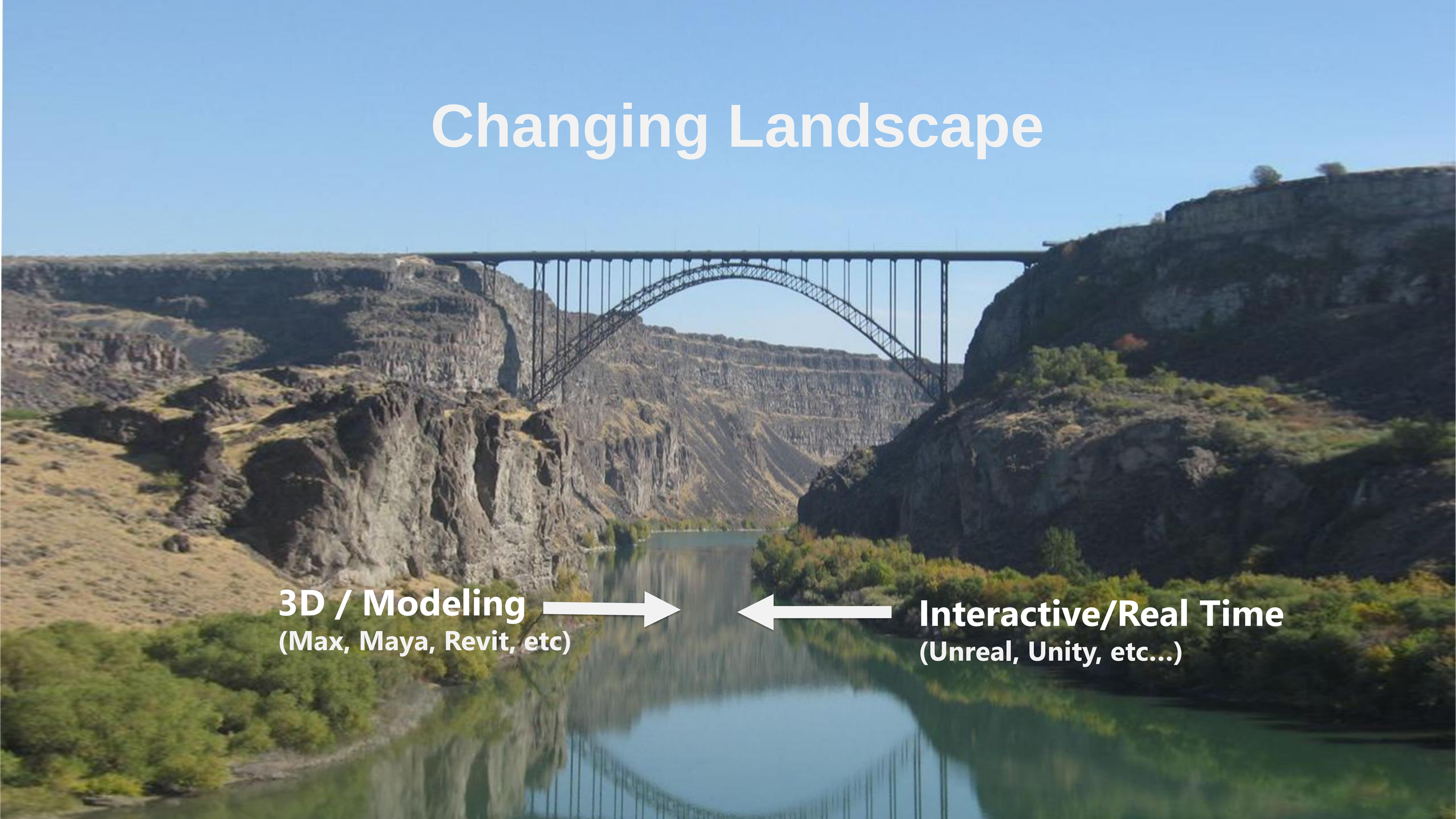
Changing Landscape – Which technology will prevail?

Changing Landscape

3D / Modeling
(Max, Maya, Revit, etc)

Interactive/Real Time
(Unreal, Unity, etc...)

Changing Landscape



Paradigm Shift

The move towards Real-Time rendering and interactivity has created a **paradigm shift** in the way we create images.

Workflows are changing quickly, creating **obstacles**.

This will eventually get better, but how do you survive the shift?

Technology

Rendering Technology

PARADIGM SHIFT

Rendering technology is increasingly moving towards real-time creation and playback.

FASTER HARDWARE

Fast graphics cards allow for much higher quality and more interactive rendering.

SOFTWARE EVOLUTION

Traditional Tools embracing the GPU as well as prioritizing interactivity.

“Classic” Rendering

“CLASSIC” WORKFLOW

The classic workflow is tightly integrated into the 3D creation tools, creating a seamless workflow

Ability to do Post-Processing/Compositing for added quality.

RENDERING TAKES AS LONG AS NEEDED

Image quality is king.

High-end features/effects can be added, but at a speed cost.

Interactivity takes a back seat.

“Classic” Rendering

“CLASSIC” PROS

No compromise on image quality.

Familiar workflows

Tight integration with 3D apps – easy to create an image.

Can do finishing/compositing on output.

“CLASSIC” CONS

Not truly interactive

No “VR”

Some things just take longer

“Real-Time” Rendering

“REAL-TIME” WORKFLOW

Emphasis is on speed/real-time first.

True interactivity with scene contents

VR/AR and other advanced visualizations

RENDERING HAPPENS NOW

Every image takes 1/30 second

Very quick iterations when authoring

“Real-Time” Rendering

“REAL-TIME” PROS

True Interactivity

Instant Results / Quick iterations

VR/AR

“REAL-TIME” CONS

Speed sometimes wins over Quality

Unfamiliar workflows

Integration with 3D Tools can be challenging.

Grey Area

CLASSIC IS GAINING SPEED

Interactive viewports

Better GPU support/integration

Fewer iterations

REAL TIME IS GAINING QUALITY

Raytracing with RTX/Nvidia

Advanced Features

Better quality

Classic Getting Faster

Real-Time Getting Better

We’re Not Quite There (yet)

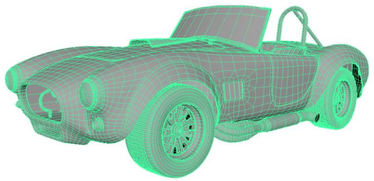
THE LINES ARE BLURRING

EACH STILL HAS ADVANTAGES

Pipelines

Typical Pipeline

MODELING



UV/TEXTURES

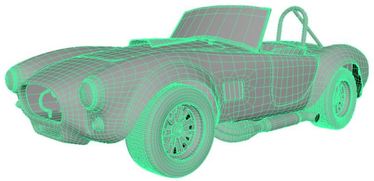
MATERIALS

LIGHTS/CAMERAS

RENDER

Typical Pipeline

MODELING



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MATERIALS

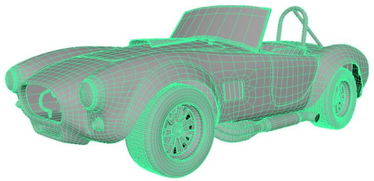
LIGHTS/CAMERAS

RENDER

3D / Modeling
(Max, Maya, Revit, etc)

Typical Pipeline

MODELING



UV/TEXTURES

MATERIALS

LIGHTS/CAMERAS

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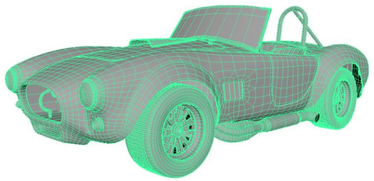
Classic
(Arnold, V-Ray, etc)

Interactive/Real Time
(Unity, Unreal, etc)

Typical Pipeline

MODELING



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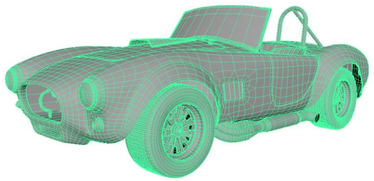

UV/TEXTURES

MATERIALS

LIGHTS/CAMERAS

RENDER

3D / Modeling
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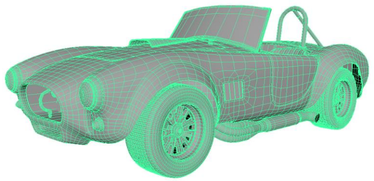
GREY AREA

Interactive/Real Time
(Unity, Unreal, etc)

Typical Pipeline

MODELING



UV/TEXTURES

MATERIALS

LIGHTS/CAMERAS

RENDER

3D / Modeling
(Max, Maya, Revit, etc)

Interactive/Real Time

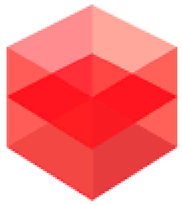
Possible Pipelines

Render Classic Only

Render Real-Time Only

Move Between the Two

Possible Pipeline : Render 100% Classic



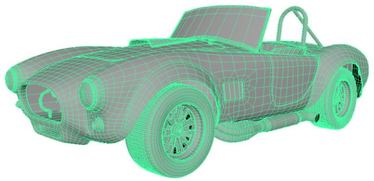
REDSHIFT

octanerender

PIXAR's
RenderMan

Possible Pipeline : Render 100% Classic

MODELING



UV/TEXTURES

MATERIALS

LIGHTS/CAMERAS

RENDER

3D / Modeling
(Max, Maya, Revit, etc)

Classic
(Arnold, V-Ray, etc)

Possible Pipeline : Render 100% Classic

Render Everything “Classic”

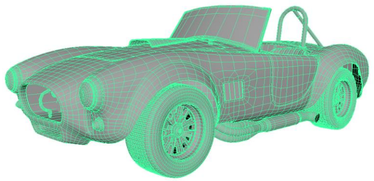
Interactivity is limited to real-time in viewports

Possible Pipeline : Render 100% Classic

Possible Pipeline : Render 100% Real-Time

Possible Pipeline : Render 100% Real-Time

MODELING



UV/TEXTURES

MATERIALS

LIGHTS/CAMERAS

RENDER

3D / Modeling
(Max, Maya, Revit, etc)

Interactive/Real Time

Possible Pipeline : Render 100% Real-Time

Gain Latest Features

May Compromise Some Quality

May Compromise Integration

Possible Pipeline : Render 100% Real-Time

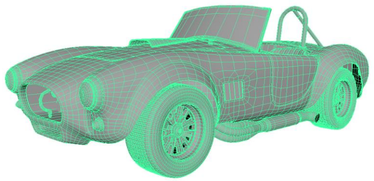
Pros

Cons

Possible Pipeline : Use Both / Hybrid

Possible Pipeline : Use Both / Hybrid

MODELING



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3D / Modeling
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Classic
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Interactive/Real Time
(Unity, Unreal, etc)

Possible Pipeline : Use Both / Hybrid

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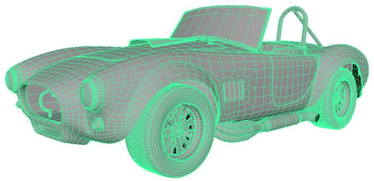

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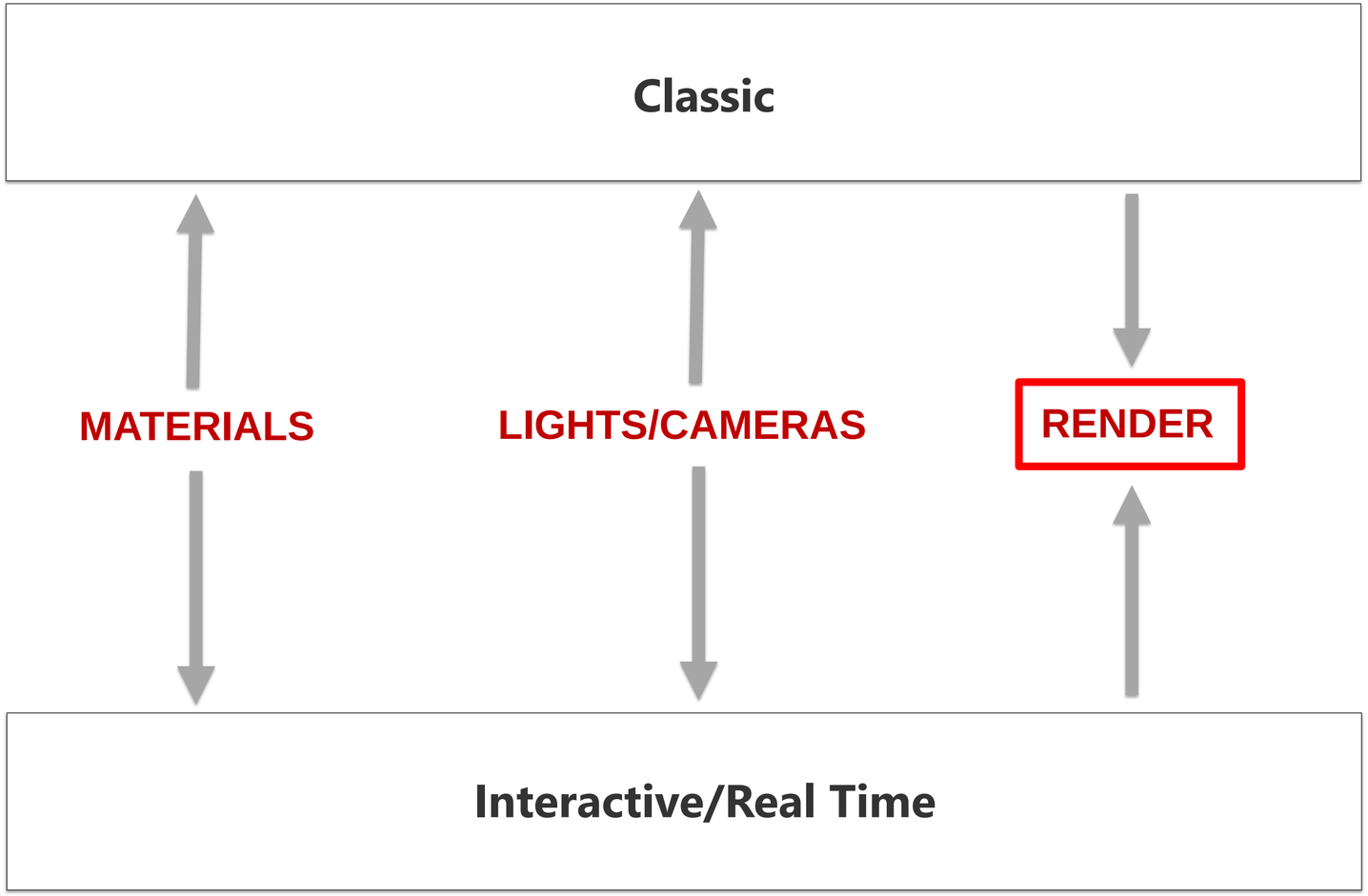


Materials

MATERIALS

BIGGEST HURDLE

Different Algorithms (Blinn/Phong/Albedo/PBR)

Lots of Parameters

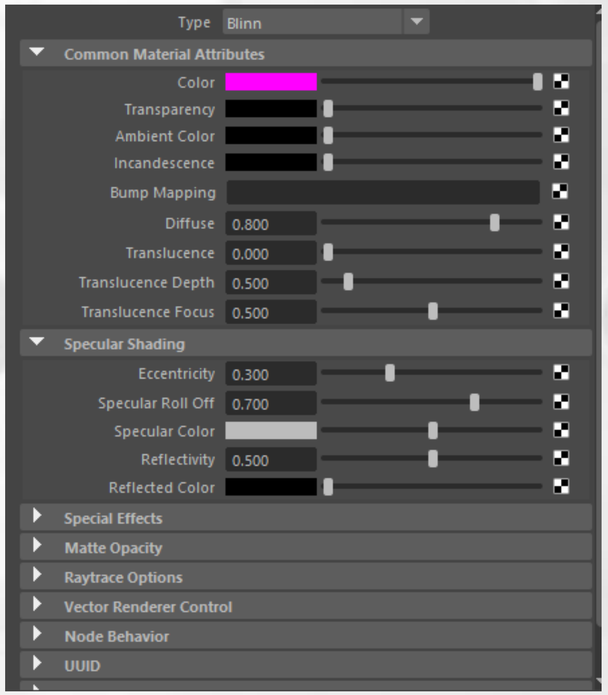
Custom Features

Different “Looks”

Different Shading Models

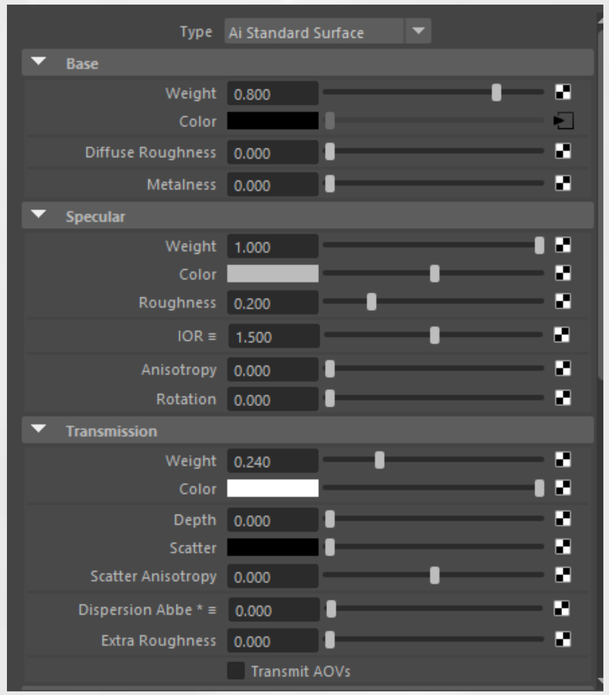
STANDARD

Phong / Blinn / Lambert

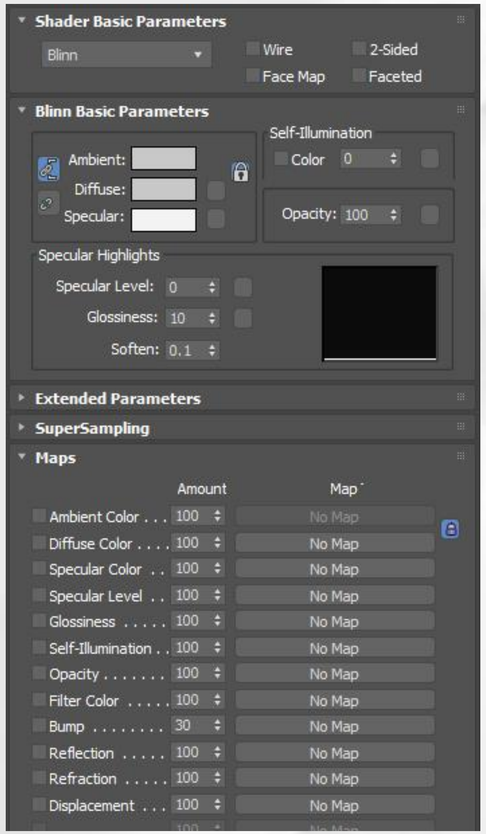


PHYSICAL

Physically **B**ased **R**endering (PBR)



Lots of Parameters



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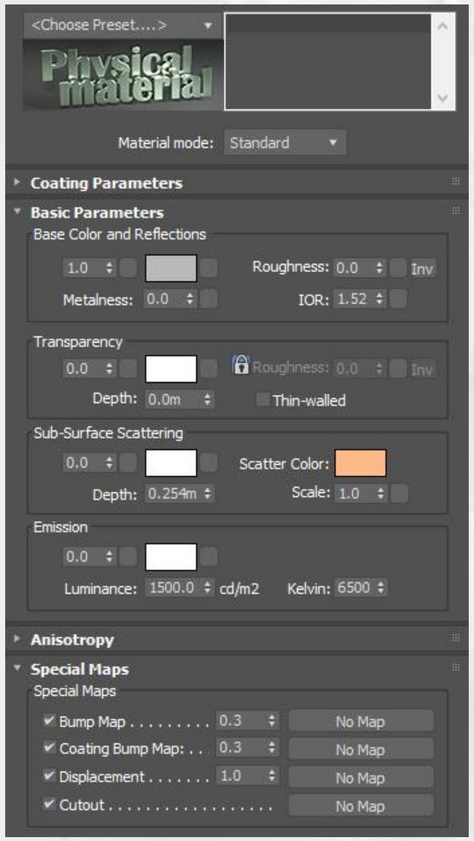
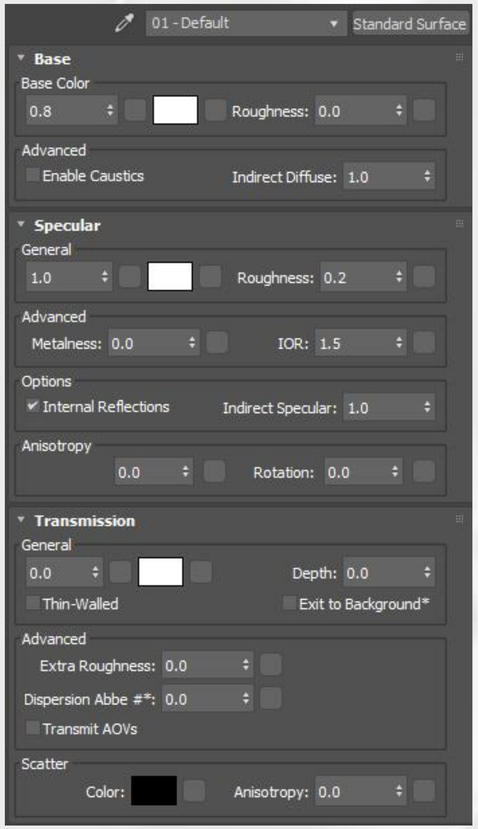
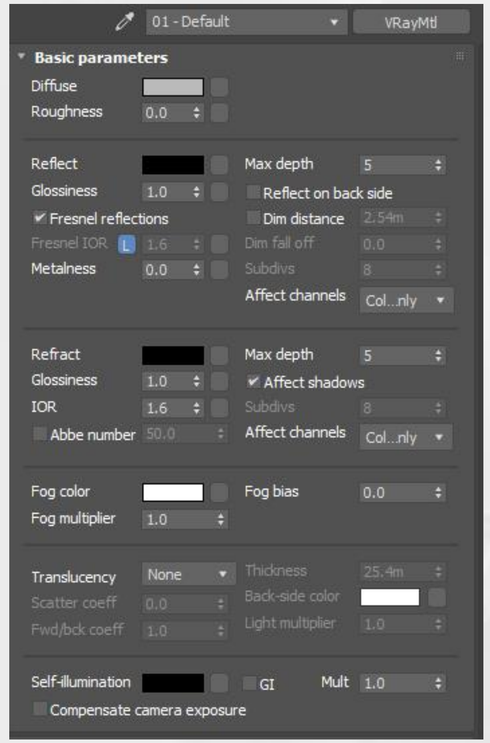


PHYSICAL



ARNOLD



V-RAY

Different Models

STANDARD

Phong / Blinn / Lambert

- Color
- Specularity
- Specular Falloff
- Reflectivity
- Transparency
- Bump/Normal
- Refractions

PHYSICAL

Physically **B**ased **R**endering (PBR)

- Base Color
- Metallic
- Roughness
- Opacity
- Normal
- Refractions

Different Models

STANDARD

Phong / Blinn / Lambert

- Color
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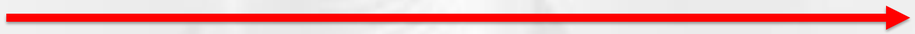

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Translation Tools

STANDARD FORMATS

FBX

OSL (Open Shading Language) - future

Material X - future

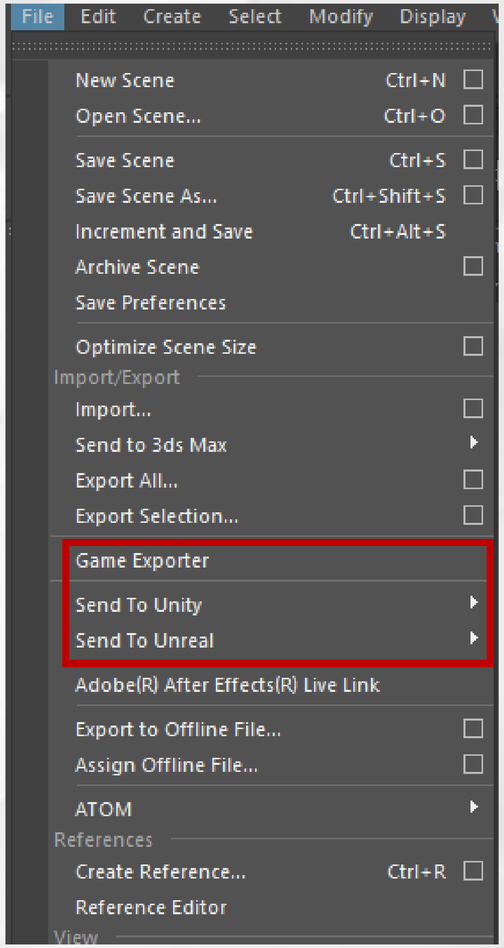
THIRD PARTY TOOLS

Datasmith (Unreal)

Custom scripts

Others

FBX


File
Edit
Create
Select
Modify
Display
New Scene Ctrl+N
Open Scene... Ctrl+O
Save Scene Ctrl+S
Save Scene As... Ctrl+Shift+S
Increment and Save Ctrl+Alt+S
Archive Scene
Save Preferences
Optimize Scene Size
Import/Export
Import...
Send to 3ds Max
Export All...
Export Selection...
Game Exporter
Send To Unity
Send To Unreal
Adobe(R) After Effects(R) Live Link
Export to Offline File...
Assign Offline File...
ATOM
References
Create Reference... Ctrl+R
Reference Editor
View


FBX

FBX

CREATED BY **KAYDARA**

FBX = “Filmbox”

Later became **Motionbuilder**

GREAT FOR MESHES / MOTION / RIGGING

Multiple mesh formats (Polygons, NURBS)

Supports animation and multiple takes

Supports skeletons/deformations

NOT IDEAL FOR MATERIALS

Supports “standard” material shading models (“Blinn, Phong, etc…)

Advanced rendering features not well supported

PBR shading models not really supported

FBX - MATERIALS

STANDARD

Phong / Blinn / Lambert

- Color
- Specularity
- Specular Falloff
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- Transparency
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- Refractions

PHYSICAL

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FBX - MATERIALS

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PHYSICAL

Physically **B**ased **R**endering (PBR)

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- Refractions

FBX

FBX IS GREAT FOR WHAT IT DOES BEST

- Models
- Animation/Rigging
- Basic Materials / Shading / UVs

YOU MAY NEED TO WORKAROUND

- Advanced Render Features
- Non-trivial shading models

Third-Party Translators

DATASMITH (UNREAL)

- Works well for supported packages (NOTE: Maya currently not supported)
- Translates materials with 80-90% accuracy
- Some advanced features still may not translate
- Works on some third-party renderers (V-Ray, Corona…)

OTHERS

- Third-party tools
- Custom scripts / Plug-ins

Translation

EVEN THE BEST TRANSLATION ISN’T 100% ACCURATE

TRANSLATE WHAT YOU CAN, FIX THE REST

Parallel Libraries

MAYA / 3DS MAX

Car_Paint_Red

Chrome_01

Rubber_01

Create Equivalent Materials
on Both Sides

Standard Naming Schemes

UNITY / UNREAL

Car_Paint_Red

Chrome_01

Rubber_01

Parallel Libraries

MAYA / 3DS MAX

Car_Paint_Red

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FBX

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Chrome_01

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UNITY / UNREAL

Car_Paint_Red

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Parallel Libraries

MAYA / 3DS MAX

Car_Paint_Red

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Parallel Libraries

MAYA / 3DS MAX

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UNITY / UNREAL

Car_Paint_Red

Chrome_01

Rubber_01

Parallel Libraries

PROS

- Straightforward to Implement
- Enjoy best features of each renderer
- No worries about translation errors
- Gets easier as you go

CONS

- Maintaining dual libraries can be time-consuming
- Must enforce standard naming schemes
- Kind of annoying

Standardization

STANDARDIZE MATERIALS

Substance

STANDARDIZE RENDERER

V-Ray

Octane

Standardizing Materials

STANDARDIZED MATERIAL FORMATS

- OSL (Open Shading Language)
- PBR Based workflow
- Material X (future)

STANDARDIZE MATERIAL CREATION

- Substance

Standardized Formats

OSL (OPEN SHADING LANGUAGE)

- Lots of features/capabilities
- Supported in Arnold/V-Ray/Octane
- Limited Real-Time Support

PBR-BASED WORKFLOW

- Each renderer’s “PBR” is slightly different (not really a ‘format’).
- Still run into file format / translation issues

MATERIAL X

- Still future - Not developed/released.

Standardizing Material Creation

Standardizing Material Creation


File
Edit
Mode
Window
Viewport
Plugins
Help
Default camera
Material
LAYERS
TEXTURE SET SETTINGS
Base Color
Tech
Div
100
Placas
Norm
100
LogoSustance
Norm
100
Coalt
Norm
PROPERTIES - GENERATOR
GENERATOR
Generator
MG Dirt (Outdated)
Attributes
Parameters
$normalformat
0
Seed
Random
Invert
Off
Dirt Level
0.6
Dirt Contrast
0.5
Use Triplanar
Off
Triplanar Blending Contrast
0.6
Grunge Amount
0.3
MATERIALS
SHELF
Materi..
Search...
Skin
Filters
Brushes
Particles
Tools
Materials
Smart materials
Smart masks
All Season T...
Aluminium ...
Aluminium ...
Artificial Lea...
Baked Light...
Brass Pure
Calf Skin
Car Solid M...
Car Solid Pa...
Carbon Fiber
Carbon Fib...
Chrome
Coated Metal
Cobalt Pure
Concrete B...
Concrete Cl...
Concrete D...
Concrete Si...
Concrete S...
Copper Pure
Fabric Bam...
Fabric Base...
Fabric Deni...
Fabric Knitt...
[GPUIssuesCheck] The current TDR (GPU hang recovery) delay is low: 2s. Substance Painter can be interrupted by the OS ...
Cache Disk Usage: 32%

SUBSTANCE

CREATES "RENDERER-NEUTRAL” MATERIALS

Materials are created in Substance

These can then be used in the renderer of choice

Supports wide range of packages, including Real-Time engines

CREATE/DOWNLOAD MATERIAL LIBRARIES

Materials can be stored/archived for later use

Substance has a wealth of materials for download / purchase

Third party libraries also available

RESOLUTION-INDEPENDENT

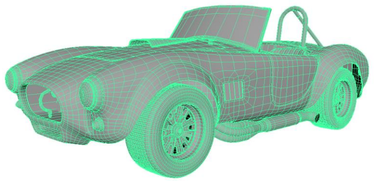
Materials / Textures are generated at render

Lower Res for Real-Time/Interactive

Higher res for quality stills/video

Typical Pipeline

MODELING



UV/TEXTURES

MATERIALS

LIGHTS/CAMERAS

RENDER

3D / Modeling
(Max, Maya, Revit, etc)

Classic
(Arnold, V-Ray, etc)

Interactive/Real Time
(Unity, Unreal, etc)


octanerender
v·ray
unity
MORE…

Lighting

Lighting

CLASSIC LIGHTING

Standard Lights (Spot, point, directional, etc…)

Special Lights (Area lights, etc)

Geometry Lights

Environmental Light

Secondary Light (bounce lighting)

REAL-TIME LIGHTING

Standard Lights

Special Lights

Environmental Light

Secondary Light (bounce lighting)

Lighting

CLASSIC LIGHTING

Standard Lights (Spot, point, directional, etc…)

Special Lights (Area lights, etc)

Geometry Lights

Environmental Light

Secondary Light (bounce lighting)

REAL-TIME LIGHTING

Standard Lights

Special Lights

Environmental Light

Secondary Light (bounce lighting)

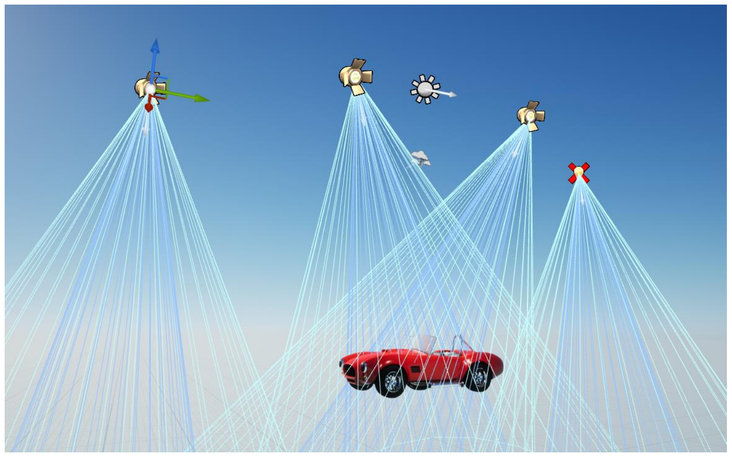
Baked Lighting

Stationary Lights

Dynamic Lights

Real-Time Lighting

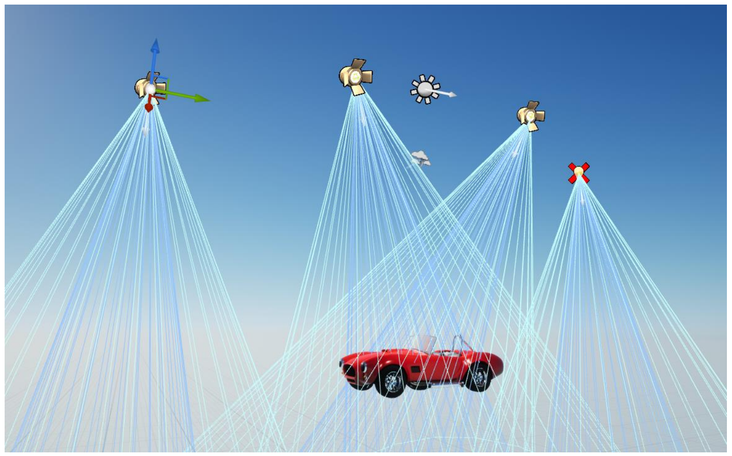
DIFFERENT WORKFLOW



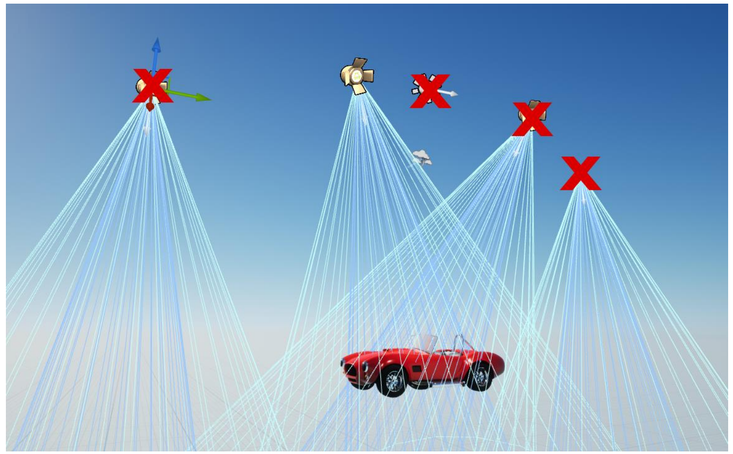
Light

Real-Time Lighting

DIFFERENT WORKFLOW



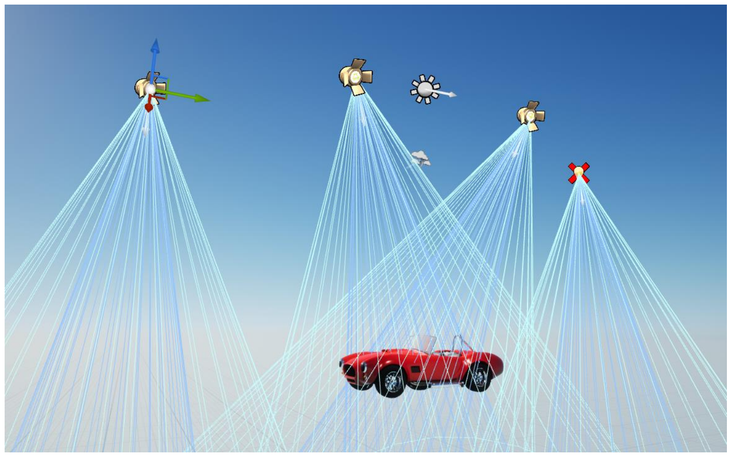
Light



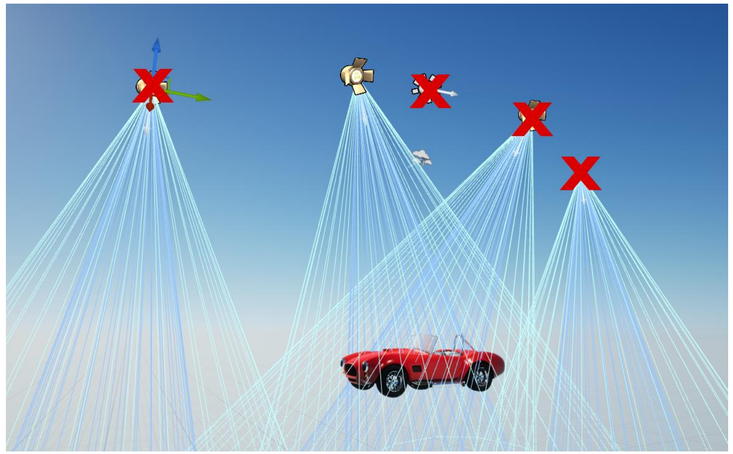
Bake

Real-Time Lighting

DIFFERENT WORKFLOW



Light

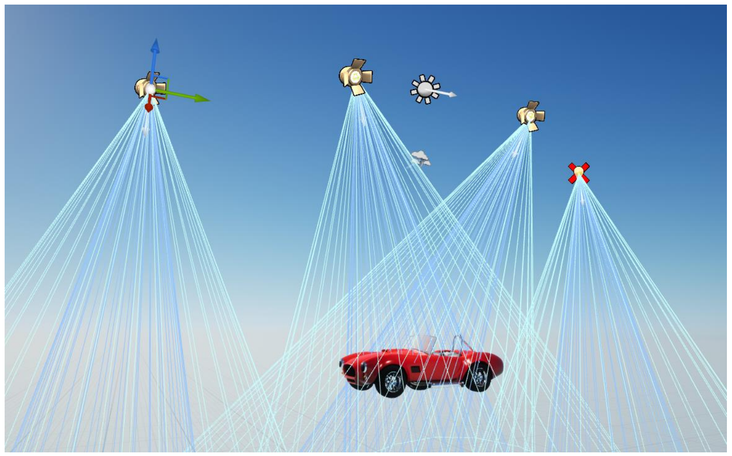


Bake

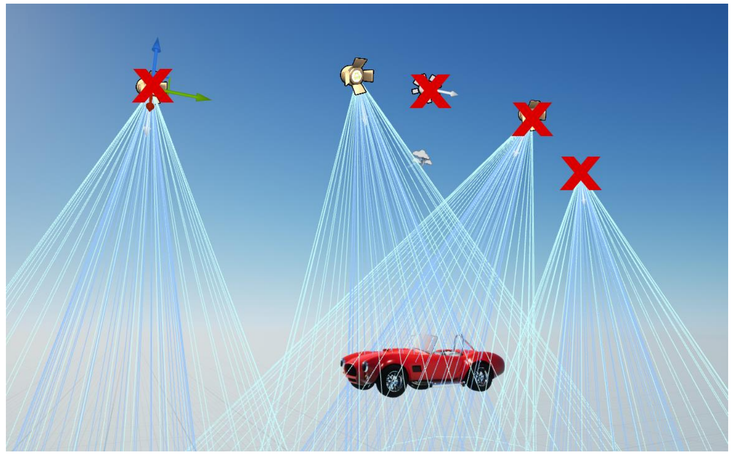
Interact / Render

Real-Time Lighting

DIFFERENT WORKFLOW



Light



Bake

Real-Time

Classic

Interact / Render

Baking Lights

REMOVES LIGHTS FROM FINAL CALCULATIONS

- Speeds up Real-Time rendering
- Simplifies calculations

CAN BAKE IN MULTIPLE PLACES

- Baking in Real-Time engine usually happens automatically
- Can bake externally in some classic renderers to utilize special features
- External baking also captures some **materials**, removing need to translate those.

NOT ALL LIGHTING CAN BE BAKED

- Any light that moves or changes.
- Any light casting shadows on moving objects

Baking Lights

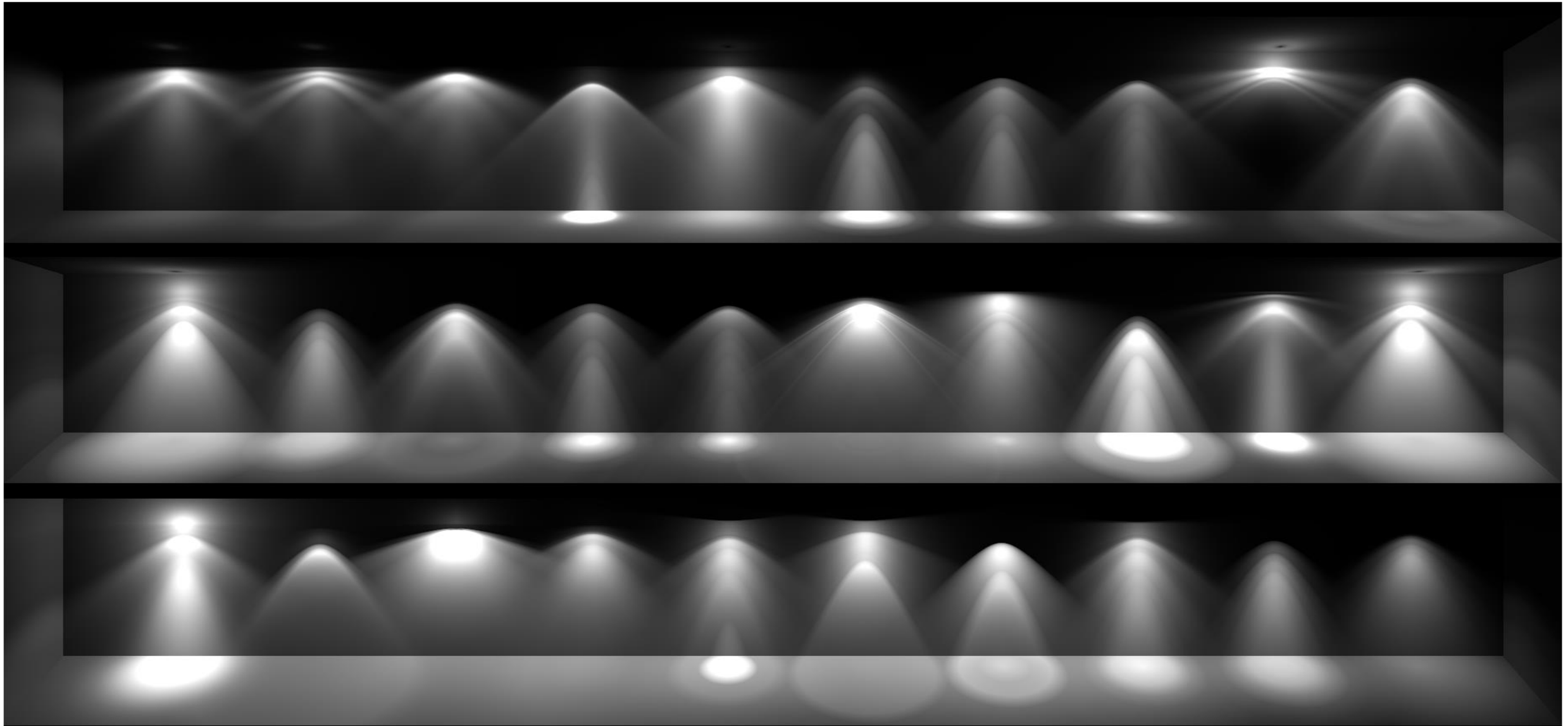
BAKING IN REAL-TIME ENGINES

- Lighting is designed in Real-Time engine
- Baking happens automatically (easy to implement)
- Lighting from 3D Applications will **need to be translated** if rendering everywhere

BAKING IN EXTERNAL (CLASSIC) RENDERER

- Removes the need to translate lights
- Can possibly remove the need to translate some materials
- Workflows can be challenging / not straightforward

Translating Lighting



Translating Lighting

FBX-SUPPORTED

- Spotlights
- Point Lights
- Directional

NOT FBX SUPPORTED

- Photometric / IES
- Environmental Lighting
- Area Lights, Rect Lights, Tube lights, etc…
- Directional

Translating Lighting

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- Area Lights, Rect Lights, Tube lights, etc…
- Directional

DATASMITH (3DS MAX / REVIT)

- Spotlights
- Point Lights
- Directional

- Photometric / IES
- Environmental Lighting
- V-Ray lights
- Corona Lights

Translating Lighting

FBX TRANSLATION

- Only basic lights come across
- WILL need to tweak in Real-Time Engine

DATASMITH TRANSLATION

- More stuff comes across
- Not perfect – will still need adjustment.

Standardize Rendering

Standardized Rendering

ONE RENDERER FOR (ALMOST) EVERYTHING

Get renderer that can plug into **both** 3D App and Real-Time App

- Lighting is supported
- Materials are also supported
- Other rendering features can come across

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V-Ray Workflow

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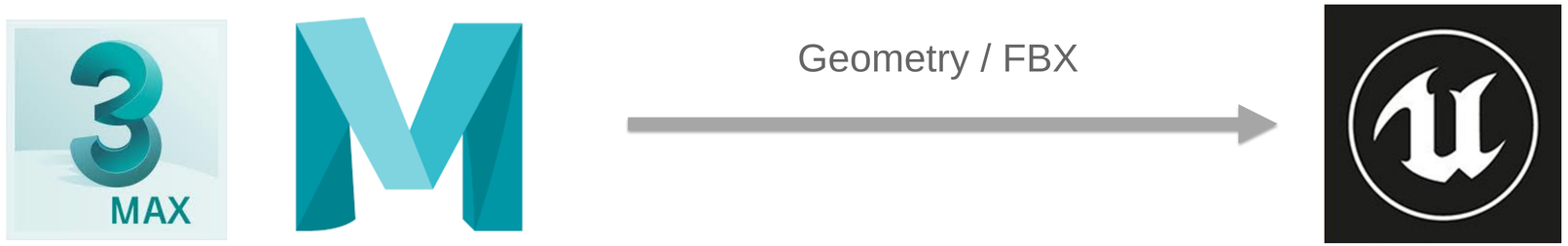

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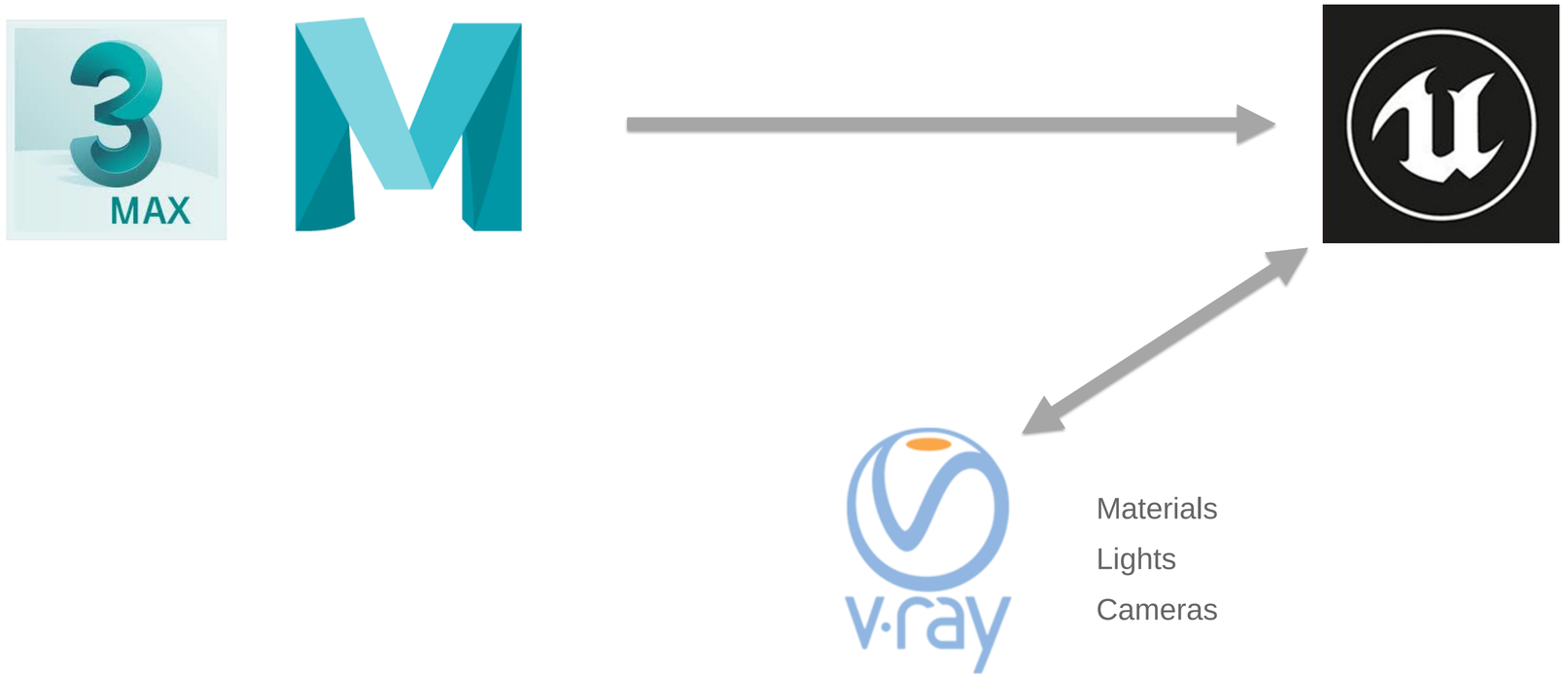
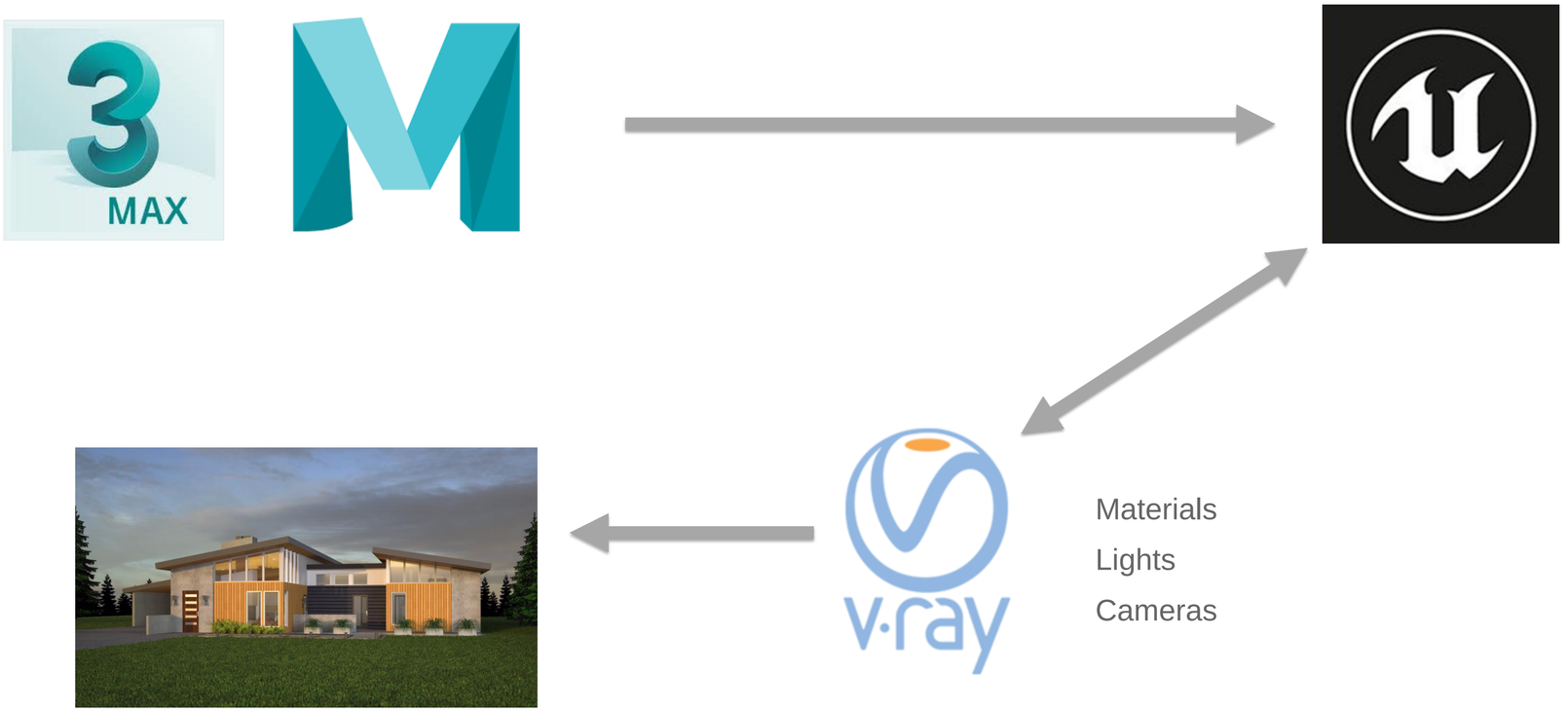


Standardized Rendering



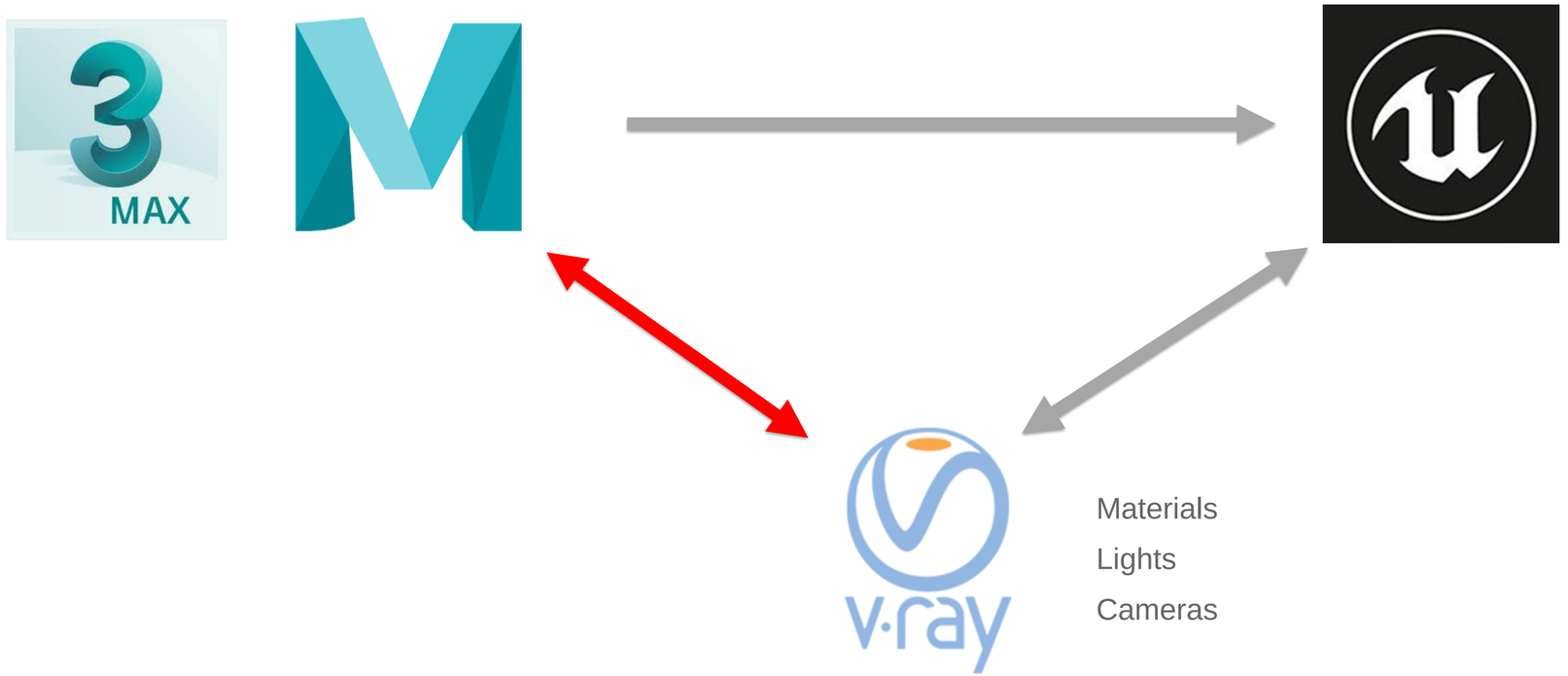
Standardized Rendering

Materials

Lights

Cameras

Standardized Rendering



Standardized Rendering

Materials

Lights

Cameras

Standardized Rendering

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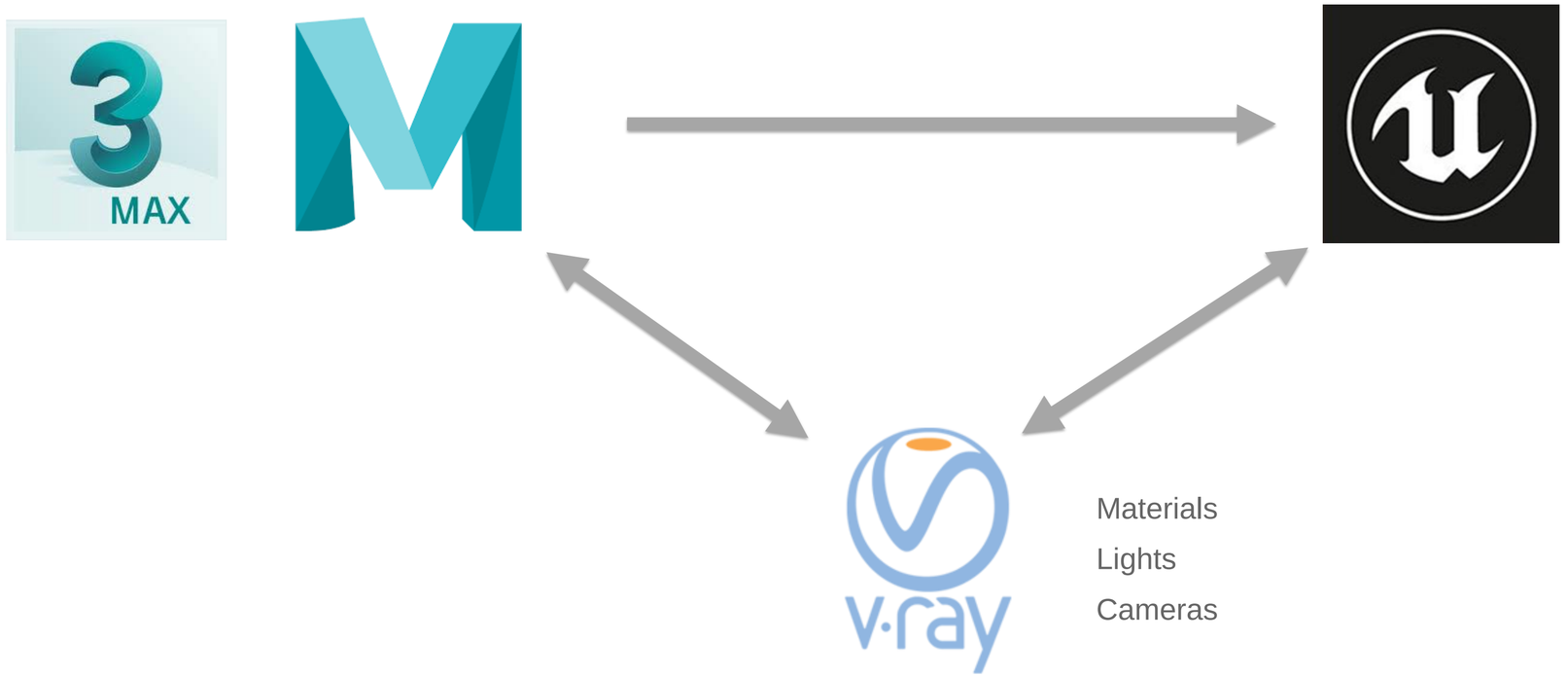
Lights

Cameras

Standardized Rendering



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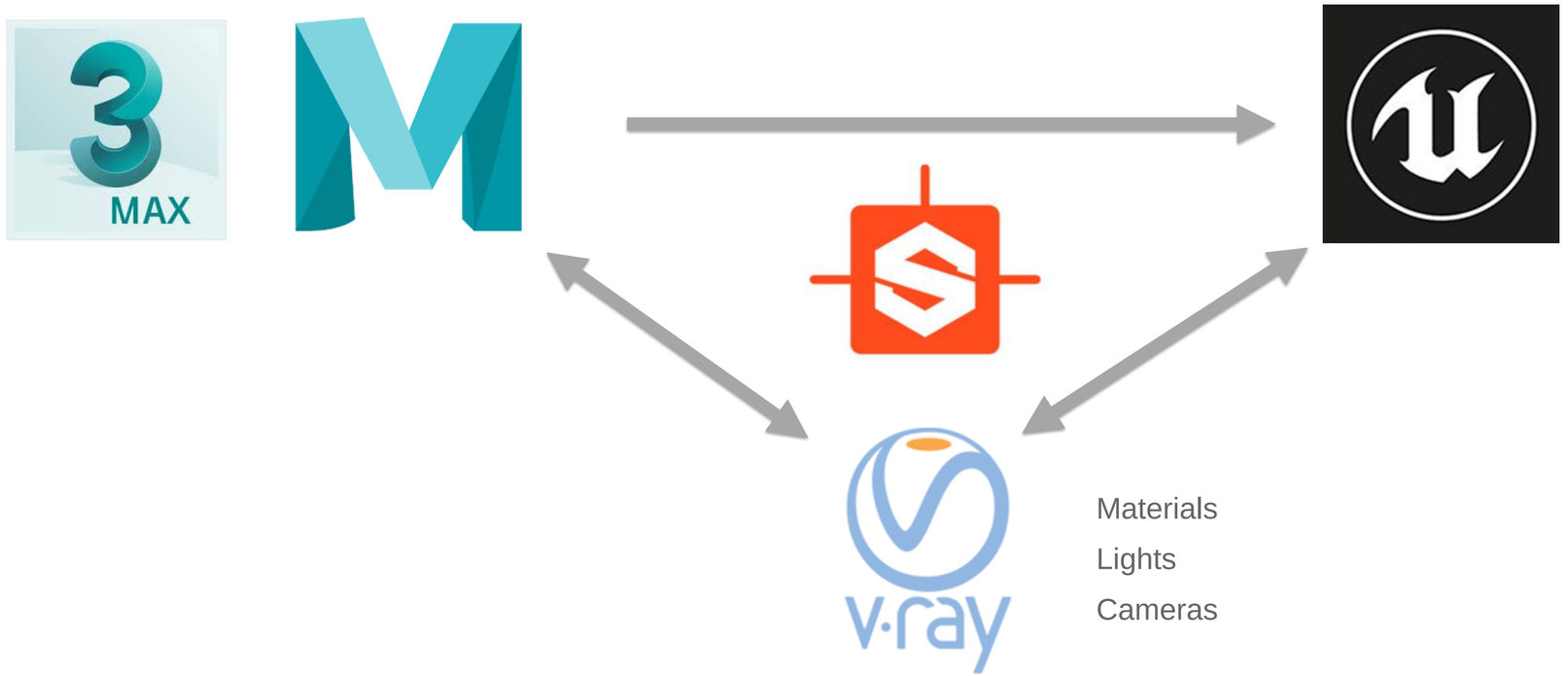

V-Ray Workflow

A FEW CAVEATS….

FBX does not move V-Ray materials, lights, etc.

Moving V-Ray between scenes requires using .vrscene files

Not all V-Ray features are supported in Unreal

V-Ray Workflow

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Octane

3DS Max

Maya

AutoCAD

Inventor

Revit

Blender

Cinema 4D

SketchUp

MODO

Nuke

Octane

3DS Max

Maya

AutoCAD

Inventor

Revit

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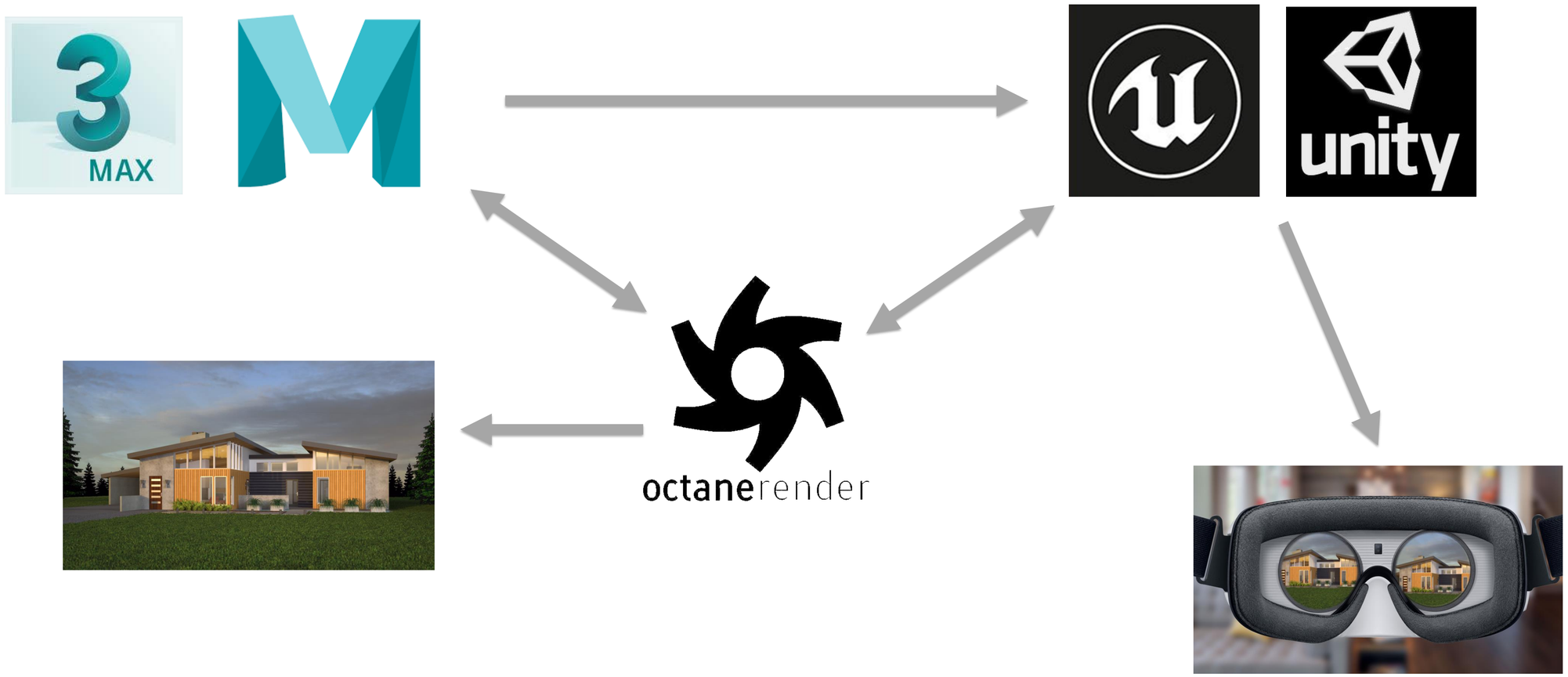
MODO

Nuke

Octane Workflow



Other Considerations

Cameras

Cameras are straightforward

A few simple parameters (position, orientation, FOV, etc…)

They do translate via FBX

Some render-specific things may not translate (effects, bokeh, etc…_

Usually set up for a specific render

Most times, we set up the camera for the specific shot

Recreating a single camera is not that big of a task

Interactive/VR is a separate camera

You’ll still set up VR in the Real-Time engine, no need to translate

Visual Effects

Can be resource-intensive

Some effects can be very compute-intensive, not ideal for real time

Offline or Classic rendering may suit these better

Much better tools in 3D apps (Bitfrost, Hair, Fur, etc…)

Real-Time can handle some

Much progress on real-time front.

Some effects can be cached to save compute cycles

Unreal - Chaos

Post-Processing

Post-Production

Classic rendering can output multiple passes/layers for post

Photoshop/After Effects/Nuke are great for getting ultimate quality

Can also help with integration (live action / photos)

Real-Time

Great way to add another layer of quality/control.

Many post effects can be duplicated

Upper limit on how much you can do in real time.

Futures

Faster Machines / More convergence

Classic rendering gets fast enough to be real time

Real time gets enough power to be photoreal

Better Tools / Translation

Better movement of assets to/from Real-Time

Better translation tools

Standardization

OSL – Already a standard, may become more common

Material X – Common material definition

Recommendations

Recommendations

Best practices

Whatever pipeline you choose, s

Recommendations

Translation

Datasmith

3ds Max to Unreal has slight advantage

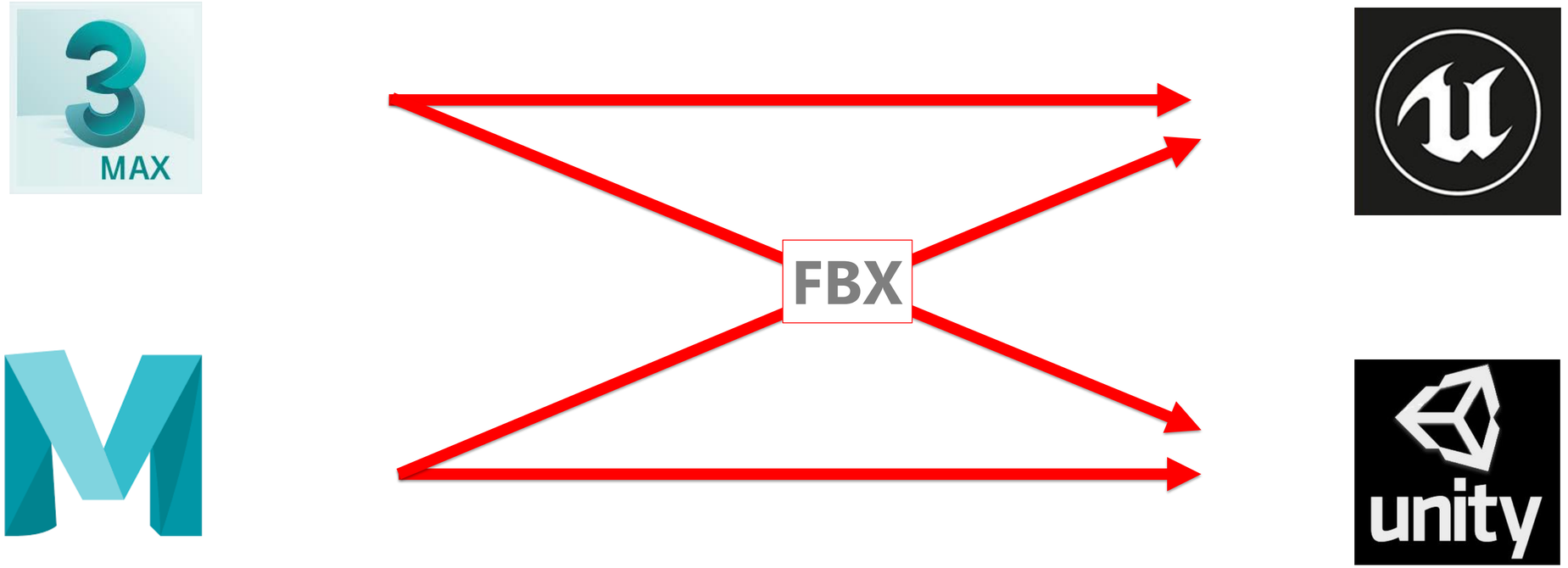
Datasmith will preserve a lot more data

Less need to revise/create new assets

.

Translation

Translation

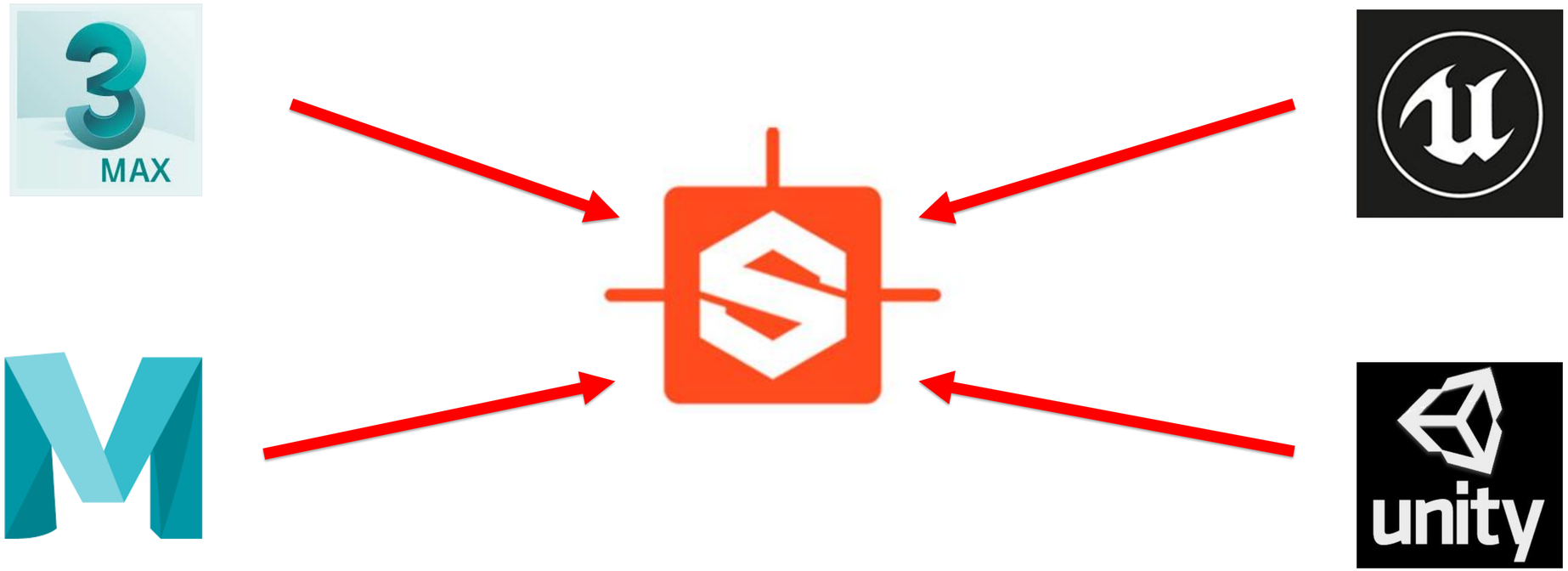


FBX can be used

- Will translate geometry, animation
- Some materials, lights, etc may not fully translate

Materials

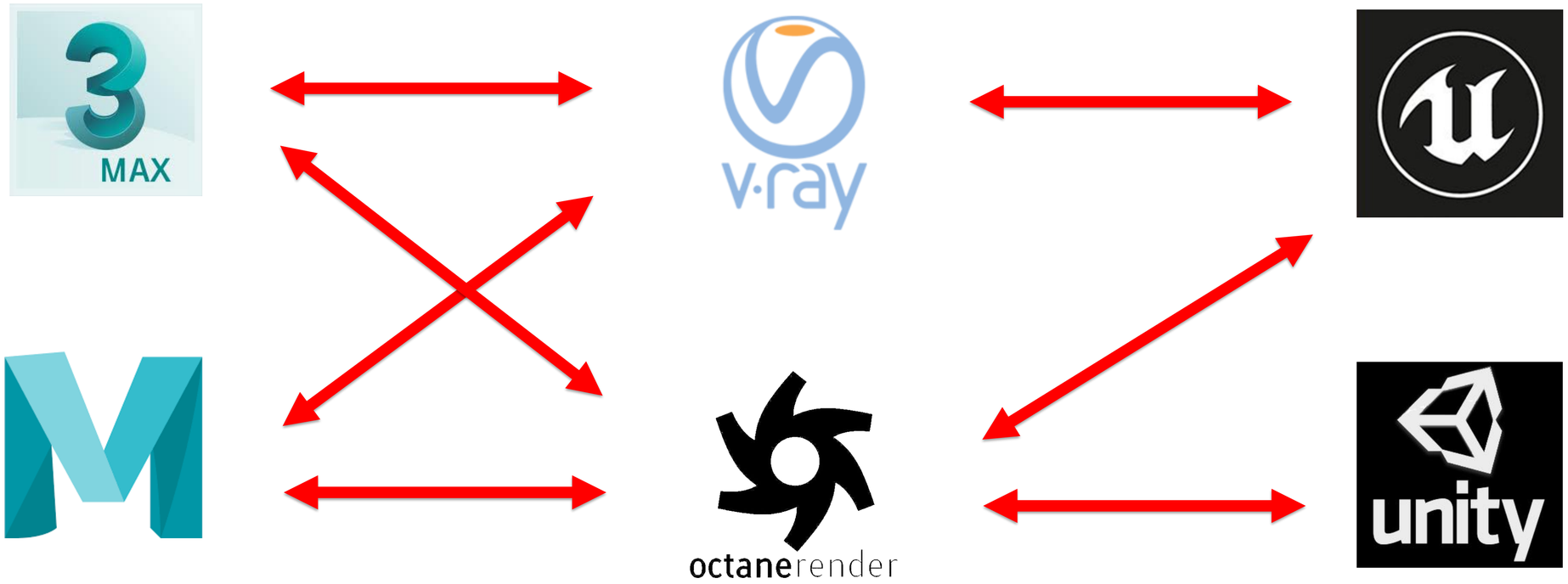
Materials



Substance to Manage Materials

Classic Rendering

Classic Rendering



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