

DreamWorks Animation Releases USD Manager to the Open Source Community

Glendale, Calif. – March 29, 2019– DreamWorks Animation, A Comcast Company (NASDAQ: CMCSA) today announced the launch of USD Manager (usdmanager.org), a graphical tool for lightweight browsing and editing of Universal Scene Description files (graphics.pixar.com/usd). This new tool combines the best features of a web browser and text editor into one application, offering easy inspection of a scene's hierarchy of files, plus hooks to deeply integrate with other pipeline tools, and text-based workflows. USD Manager serves as a quick option for prototyping new ideas, allows simple navigation to files referenced several layers deep in a pipeline, provides an application launcher for custom file formats, and assists as a learning tool in understanding the complex hierarchy of shots and assets.

"DreamWorks Animation is committed to a vibrant Open Source community for the industry, with our strong support of the Academy Software Foundation, and participation in numerous projects," said Andrew Pearce, VP of Global Technology at DreamWorks. "We have benefitted from using Open Source, and we are pleased to continue to contribute back to the Open Source community in launching USD Manager."

Mark Sandell, Supervising Technical Director and developer of the new tool, said, "I developed USD Manager in response to how often TDs and artists would open up one file in a text editor, find a reference to another file, run a few commands to open a referenced file in another text editor, and so on, until finally reaching the scene data they were looking for. It was a very tedious process that I knew we could do something to improve. During the early days of *How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World*, when DreamWorks decided to adopt USD, I was happy to expand an earlier tool I'd developed to now work with this new format. It has since proved invaluable in our rapid adoption of USD across multiple departments and active projects, and has become an essential tool in the day-to-day workflow for our Technical Directors. We use USD Manager daily in conjunction with existing open-source tools like `usdview`, and I'm happy to see it speed through technical barriers, allowing us to test new creative ideas, and push our feature film pipeline forward."

"At Pixar we are doubly excited about DreamWorks' release of USD Manager. It's thrilling to see the open-sourcing of such a substantial piece of work that builds on USD, and is a great validation of the decision to open-source USD itself. We are also eagerly anticipating using it ourselves in both R&D and production, as it is a fantastic debugging and learning tool for USD compositions", said F. Sebastian Grassia, Lead Engineer of the USD project.

DreamWorks began development of USD Manager in 2017 and has extended and improved it over the course of several feature film productions.

About DreamWorks Animation

DreamWorks Animation (DWA), a division of the Universal Filmed Entertainment Group, within NBCUniversal, a subsidiary of Comcast Corporation, is a global family entertainment company with feature film and television brands. The company's deep portfolio of intellectual property is supported by a robust, worldwide consumer products practice, which includes licensing, and location-based entertainment venues around the world. DWA's feature film heritage includes many of the world's most beloved characters and franchises, including *Shrek*, *Madagascar*, *Kung Fu Panda*, *How to Train Your Dragon*, *Trolls* and *The Boss Baby*, and have amassed more than \$14.5 billion in global box office receipts. DreamWorks Animation's television business has quickly become one of the world's leading producers of high-quality, animated family programming, reaching consumers in more than 190 countries. Creating a diverse array of original content in a variety of formats and delivering deep, fully immersive worlds served up with compelling characters, the prolific studio has garnered 22 Emmy[®] Awards since inception in 2013.