

AVS/Express Documentation



This guide contains information about the documentation for the AVS/Express product from Advanced Visual Systems Inc. It is organized into the following sections.

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AVS/Express Documentation in PDF Format

AVS/Express Product Documentation

The following documentation is included in this set of Portable Document Format (pdf) files:

More information	Open Document	<i>Getting Started</i>
More information	Open Document	<i>Using AVS/Express</i>
More information	Open Document	<i>AVS/Express Toolkits</i>
More information	Open Document	<i>Visualization Techniques</i>
More information	Open Document	<i>Installing AVS/Express</i>
More information	Open Document	<i>Release Notes</i>

Additional AVS/Express-related Documentation

Also included on the CD is the documentation for the Spatial Data Interface product. SDI is an add-on product to AVS/Express that enables users to connect a spatial engine to an AVS/Express application in order to provide visual images of spatial and relational data within AVS/Express. SDI is at release 1.1, last updated in 1998. SDI is supported for all releases of AVS/Express from release 3.3 onwards. The following documentation is included on the CD for SDI:

More information	Open Document	<i>Spatial Data Interface Manual</i>
More information	Open Document	<i>Spatial Data Interface Release Notes</i>
More information	Open Document	<i>Spatial Data Interface Installation Guide</i>

In addition, more detailed technical information on the `read_field` and `read_ucd` modules is contained in a separate document:

More information	Open Document	<i>Read_Field and Read_ucd Module Information</i>
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IMPORTANT: The information provided for this 5.1 beta release of AVS/Express comes from the AVS5 product documentation. The module documentation contained in this PDF file is accurate for these modules in both the AVS5 and AVS/Express products. It will be reformatted for inclusion into the AVS/Express documentation at the final release of AVS/Express 5.1. For further information, please contact Technical Support; contact information is included at the end of this document.

Clicking on the links in the *More Information* column will take you to the *Information on the Individual Manuals* area of this document. Clicking on the links in the *Open Document* column will open the manual.

If you do not have a copy of the Adobe Acrobat Reader, you can download it at no cost from Adobe's web site at <http://www.adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat/readstep.html>.

About the PDF Files

Each file contains the complete contents of the book. For your convenience, the Table of Contents for each book contains links to the chapters and major sections within each chapter. In addition, each of the books contains bookmarks that are also links to the chapters and the major sections within the chapters. You can also use the Acrobat Reader's text-searching capabilities to find specific information you may be looking for.

Printing the PDF Files

When printing these .pdf files, you must set the postscript level to *Level 1* in the print dialog box. If the *Level 2 Only* button is selected, some of the images contained in these files will not print properly.

AVS/Express Documentation in Print

All of the guides in this pdf collection are available in bound versions. Please contact your local sales office for information on obtaining the books. Contact information appears at the end of this document.

Where to Start

This document and the on-line versions of the AVS/Express documentation have been designed to help you find the information you are looking for quickly and easily.

If You Are a Previous User of AVS/Express

Information on newer functionality, operating system levels, and features of the AVS/Express product not directly discussed in the documentation set is addressed in the *Release Notes*. Please consult this guide first for the most recent information on the product. If you know which volume of the documentation contains the information you are looking for, you can directly access the pdf version from the links to each individual volume on page 2 of this document.

If You Are a New User of AVS/Express

After reviewing the *Release Notes*, the *Getting Started* manual will provide you with basic information about installing, licensing, exploring, and running AVS/Express.

If you need additional examples or information, the International AVS Centre at Manchester University is a good source. Contact information for the IAC, and for Advanced Visual Systems Technical Support, is listed below.

Information on the individual manuals

AVS/Express Product Documentation

Release Notes

The Release Notes were updated with Release 5.1 of AVS/Express, but include information from release 4.0 onwards. The Release Notes document includes two sections:

- **The Release Overview**, which includes information on platforms, licensing, installation issues, compatibility issues, product improvements and documentation changes; and
- **New Features**, which includes detailed descriptions of the new features added to AVS/Express in the latest release.

Installing AVS/Express

This manual provides prerequisites and instructions for installing and licensing all AVS/Express release from Release 4.1 onwards on UNIX, Windows, and Linux platforms. This manual includes sections on system prerequisites, installing and licensing the software, other configuration issues and procedures, and sections with more detailed licensing information and on hardware and software renderers.

Using AVS/Express

Using AVS/Express was also published with the release of AVS/Express release 4.0. This manual is a detailed guide to using AVS/Express for visualization and application development. It includes information on the creation and modification of parameters, methods, objects, modules, macros and more sophisticated visual networks. It also includes information about how to use the various viewers and editors available in AVS/Express.

Visualization Techniques

Visualization Techniques was also published with the release of AVS/Express release 4.0. This manual describes how to use AVS/Express to process data so it can be rendered and viewed. The book starts with a brief introduction to visualization techniques. Later chapters in the book provide greater detail as they explain how to import and manipulate data, how to apply visualization functions to render the data and produce useful images.

Getting Started

Getting Started was also published with the release of AVS/Express release 4.0. This manual provides a product overview and a series of tutorials that guide you through the basic capabilities of both editions of AVS/Express.

AVS/Express Toolkits

AVS/Express Toolkits was also published with the release of AVS/Express release 4.0. This manual describes how to use some of the specialized AVS/Express objects. The procedures and techniques that are introduced in this book explain how to use AVS/Express with databases, how to create a user interface for your application, and how to use the specialized graphing and annotating objects.

Spatial Data Interface Product Documentation

Release Notes

The *SDI Installation Guide* was last updated with the release SDI release 1.1, in July 1998. This manual describes the known limitations of SDI, the known limitations of the SDI documentation, and known limitations of AVS/Express that may affect the Spatial Data Interface.

Installation Guide

The *SDI Installation Guide* was last updated with the release SDI release 1.1, in July 1998. This manual outlines how to install Oracle's Spatial Data Option and ESRI's Spatial Data Engine for use with AVS/Express and SDI, plus detailed instructions on installing the SDI product.

Spatial Data Interface

The *Spatial Data Interface* manual was published with SDI release 1.0, in May, 1998. This manual describes in detail the utilization of SDI to access data for visualization in the AVS/Express environment, including instructions on developing SDI applications. Sample applications are also provided.

Additional Information

Read_Field and Read_ucd Module Information

The information in this PDF file appears in the *AVS5 Module Reference* manual for the AVS5 product. It is provided for use with AVS/Express because the documentation is accurate for these modules in both the AVS5 and AVS/Express products. For further information, please contact Technical Support; contact information is included at the end of this document.

Contacting Advanced Visual Systems

The best source of technical support information about our products is at the Advanced Visual Systems Technical Support web site (<http://help.avs.com>). The general web site (<http://www.avs.com>) also has information you may find of help. Both sites are frequently updated with content on the company, our products, support services, FAQs, technical papers, and a variety of other information of interest. You can also contact any Advanced Visual Systems office or distributor for assistance; the listing below is also available on the web site. You can request a license through the web site, or through any of the Advanced Visual Systems offices listed below.

Advanced Visual Systems International Offices

USA

300 Fifth Avenue
Waltham, MA 02451
800-428-7001 TEL
781-890-8287 FAX
E-mail: sales@avs.com
Support: support@avs.com

Denmark

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2840 Holte, Denmark
45-45-474400 TEL
45-45-474495 FAX
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Support: support@avs.dk

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92587 CLICHY, France
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44-1932-581601 FAX
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Support: support@avsuk.com

Newsgroup

The USENET newsgroup, **comp.graphics.apps.avs**, provides a means for communicating with other users of Advanced Visual Systems products.

International AVS Centre (IAC)

The AVS Users Group is hosted at the IAC. The IAC provides many services for users of the AVS and AVS/Express products from Advanced Visual Systems, including user-contributed modules available free using the *ftp* utility. To contact the IAC:

International AVS Centre
Manchester Visualization
Manchester Computing
The University, Oxford Road
Manchester M13 9PL
United Kingdom

Email: avs@iavsc.org
Web Site: <http://www.iavsc.org>
FTP: <ftp://iavsc.org>
Phone: +44 161 275 6095
Fax: +44 161 275 6040

Advanced Visual Systems Product Distributors

This list of distributors may be able to assist you with limited support, or direct you to the best source of technical support from an AVS office.

Barcelona, Spain

ADDLINK Software Cientifico S.L.

c/ Roselló 205

08008 Barcelona, España

E-mail: Juan Manuel SolTheta

(jmsole@addlink.es)

34-93-4154904 TEL

34-93-4157268 FAX

ADDLINK covers Spain and Portugal

Valencia, Spain

Decom Valencia S.L.

Avenida del Saler, n. 10

Entresuelos L1-L2 (Torre 3)

34-96-3348274 TEL

34-96-3341409 FAX

E-mail : Andres Alcolea (aalcolea@decom.es)

Switzerland

Visual Solutions GmbH

Vorder Braech

CH-8494 Bauma/Zürich

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Australia

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61-2-9413-1477 TEL

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