

Virtus WalkThrough Special Edition for Windows 1.0 SE

Release Notes: September 8, 1994

Thank you for your interest in Virtual Reality and 3-D modeling. We hope that you enjoy your copy of Virtus WalkThrough Special Edition for Windows. This is **NOT** shareware. It is a commercial product available only with this book published by Sams Publishing. Please read this document prior to loading and running the software.

License Agreement

Virtus WalkThrough Special Edition for Windows 1.0 was developed for Sams Publishing by Virtus Corporation. The software is for use by a single user only. You may not copy or distribute any or all of the included files (listed below) without written permission from Virtus Corporation. In short, please do not give, sell, share, trade or reproduce this software without written permission from Virtus Corporation.

To receive technical assistance for Virtus WalkThrough Special Edition for Windows 1.0 you must complete and return the Product Registration Card included with your book. Please do this right away so you won't forget. We hope you'll take advantage of the special offers for Virtus WalkThrough Pro and the Interior Design Library that are listed in the back of the book; they're excellent values.

Files Included with Virtus WalkThrough Special Edition for Windows 1.0 SE

In addition to the Virtus WalkThrough Special Edition application and its related files, you will find MANUAL, MODELS and LIBRARY sub directories within the VIRTUS directory. The MODELS sub-directory contains 12 Virtus WalkThrough Special Edition models that depict a variety of subjects. These include archaeological ruins, entire homes and various rooms (bathrooms, kitchens and living rooms).

The files are organized as follows:

VIRTUS\WALK_SE.EXE	The application file.
VIRTUS\WALKX.FON	The font file that is required by the application.
VIRTUS\WALK.HLP	The Help system file.
VIRTUS\README.WRI	The Read Me file that you're reading now.
VIRTUS\LIBRARY\SAMPLE.WLB	Library of 3-D objects that can be added to your models.
VIRTUS\LIBRARY\BRUTUS.WLB	Library of 3-D human figures that can be added to your models.
VIRTUS\LIBRARY\STAIRS.WLB	Library of 3-D stair cases that can be added to your models.
VIRTUS\LIBRARY\BONLIB1.WLB	Library of 3-D objects that can be added to your models.
VIRTUS\MODELS\ATRHOUSE.WLK	Model of a house with an atrium
VIRTUS\MODELS\BATHRMA.WLK	Model of a bathroom
VIRTUS\MODELS\BATHRMB.WLK	Model of a bathroom
VIRTUS\MODELS\BULLDOG.WLK	Model of an old airplane
VIRTUS\MODELS\CNTRYCLB.WLK	Model of a country club home
VIRTUS\MODELS\COLISEUM.WLK	Model of sports coliseum
VIRTUS\MODELS\DELPHI.WLK	Model of an archaeological ruin
VIRTUS\MODELS\FIREHOUS.WLK	Model of a fire station
VIRTUS\MODELS\FOLKVICT.WLK	Model of a victorian-style home
VIRTUS\MODELS\GARAGEA.WLK	Model of a garage
VIRTUS\MODELS\GLASS.WLK	Model of a glass wall home
VIRTUS\MODELS\MNTNHOME.WLK	Model of a mountain home

VIRTUS\MODELS\SHAKERRM.WLK	Model of a room in a Shaker dwelling
VIRTUS\MODELS\SHUTTLE.WLK	Model of the Space Shuttle
VIRTUS\MODELS\STEALTH.WLK	Model of the Stealth bomber
VIRTUS\MODELS\STONEHNG.WLK	Model of Stonehenge
VIRTUS\MODELS\SWESTERN.WLK	Model of a southwestern style home
VIRTUS\MODELS\TEMPLNP.WLK	Model of a temple palace
VIRTUS\MODELS\THEHOUSE.WLK	Model of a stylish home
VIRTUS\MODELS\TRIHOUSE.WLK	Model of an artistic dwelling
VIRTUS\MODELS\WHITEHS.WLK	Model of the White House

VIRTUS\MANUAL\GLOSSARY.WRI	Glossary file in Microsoft Write format.
VIRTUS\MANUAL\REFPART1.WRI	Reference Manual, Part 1, file in Microsoft Write format.
VIRTUS\MANUAL\REFPART2.WRI	Reference Manual, Part 2, file in Microsoft Write format.
VIRTUS\MANUAL\TUTOR1.WRI	Tutorial, Part 1, file in Microsoft Write format.
VIRTUS\MANUAL\TUTOR2.WRI	Tutorial, Part 2, file in Microsoft Write format.

Installing the Software

You can install Virtus WalkThrough Special Edition from the CD-ROM's menu application, or by double-clicking on the "Install Virtus WalkThrough SE" icon in the book's Program Manager group. This will run the \VIRTUS\INSTALL.EXE program on the disc.

The install program will:

- Copy the software to the C:\VIRTUS directory of your hard drive, unless you change the drive and directory during the installation.
- Create a "Virtus" group with icons for the program and the online manual.
- Create associations for WLK and WLB files, so they can be opened by double-clicking on them in File Manager.

Getting Started

Help

Virtus WalkThrough Special Edition uses the Windows Help system.

The Help menu allows you to search an on-line text file for help with Virtus WalkThrough Special Edition. The Help menu is a standard Windows menu. See your Windows documentation for more about the Help menu.

The content for the Help file is the same as that for the original Virtus WalkThrough. Because of this, references to Import, Export, Place, several Snapshot options, the Lighting Editor and Layers are included although these features are not available in Virtus WalkThrough Special Edition.

To identify the tools provided with Virtus WalkThrough Special Edition, choose Help Contents, then Reference, then Tools. You may wish to print this for handy reference prior to beginning the Tutorial.

Tutorial

The Tutorial includes two parts. We suggest that you print (use Microsoft Write) these and work through them completely. The reference will help answer ideas and techniques not covered in the tutorial.

Reference

The Reference includes two parts. If you like the program, you'll want to print these as well. The Glossary quickly helps identify terms that you might not be familiar with.

Technical Notes

- Virtus WalkThrough Special Edition will work best in the 640x480, 256-colors mode. Keep in mind that selecting thousands of colors for your display or choosing a larger resolution (1280x1024, for example) will require more dynamic memory; these choices will slow your walk speed.
- When "Snapshot" in the File Menu is selected, some users may get the screen message: "Can't interrogate driver." This means that the display card being used doesn't support the standard Windows call being made to create the snapshot. Short of upgrading to a card that supports all standard Windows calls, you could use the "Snapshot" command by going to Windows Setup and choosing another video driver -- the Windows 3.11 (latest version) SVGA drivers work well.
- If you have an ATI Graphics Ultra Pro display card, you'll need to make an adjustment to its mach32 driver. In the "win.ini" file located in your Windows directory (open this file with Windows Notepad), find the section called "mach32" or "mach." Now find the line "devicebitmap=on" and change it to "devicebitmap=off". Save the file and restart Windows; Virtus WalkThrough Special Edition will run properly.
- Only one Virtus WalkThrough Special Edition model and library may be open at any time. When a library is open, the "Library" command under the File menu will be grayed out (unavailable).

New Products

Virtus WalkThrough Pro for Windows will be available in October 1994. Virtus WalkThrough Pro will enable users to apply nearly photo-realistic textures to models and still walk through them quickly. The program will ship with more than 100 textures (brick, tile, wood, carpet, fabric and more) and will enable users to add their own custom textures or textures purchased from third-party sources. Current Virtus WalkThrough Special Edition users will be able to upgrade to Virtus WalkThrough Pro at an attractive price.

Virtus Player for Windows will also be available in October 1994. Virtus Player is a free utility that will allow a user to distribute Virtus models to be viewed (but not changed). For example, an architect could send the Virtus Player and a Virtus WalkThrough Pro model of a proposed project to a client. Then the client could walk around in the model in real time, using Virtus Player to examine the design. It would not be necessary for the client to have Virtus WalkThrough Pro. When released, Virtus Player will be available in the Virtus forums on CompuServe and America Online. We encourage you to share it with anyone and everyone. Once officially released, the Virtus Player will be shipped with Virtus products.

Customer Support

If you have questions or comments (registered users only), please contact our Customer Service department. Here's how:

a) Online Services

America Online: VirtusTech
AppleLink: VIRTUS
CompuServe: 75300,3251
eWorld: Virtus Corp.
Internet: virtustech@aol.com

Also, be sure to visit our support areas on America Online and CompuServe. You can leave us messages, talk with other Virtus software users, get tips on using our programs, download new models and much more:

America Online: Select Keyword under the Go To menu and then enter "VIRTUS" (Command-K, type "VIRTUS")

CompuServe: Enter "GO VIRTUS" at any prompt (Command-G, type "VIRTUS")

b) Telephone Support

If you wish to call Virtus Customer Support, we recommend that you first check your Virtus WalkThrough Special Edition documentation and tutorial. If you still can't find the answer to your question, we can help you best if you call us while sitting at your computer with Virtus WalkThrough Special Edition running. Also, please have your serial number ready to give to us. You'll find it in the Virtus WalkThrough Special Edition splash screen by selecting "About Virtus WalkThrough Special Edition..." from the Help menu.

Telephone: 919/467-9700 (9 a.m.-6 p.m. Eastern, Monday-Friday)

Feedback and Ideas

We would love to know what you think of Virtus WalkThrough Special Edition. We would also like to know what suggestions you have for future Virtus library subjects. Please send us electronic mail at any of the above addresses or write to us at:

Virtus Corp.
Virtus WalkThrough Special Edition Feedback
118 MacKenan Drive, Suite 250
Cary, NC 27511