

Amira 5.2.2 – Release Notes

Release Date: July 2009

Supported Platforms

- **Windows** – Windows® 2000/XP/Vista, 32-bit and 64-bit editions
- **Mac OS** – Mac OS® X 10.5 (Leopard) with Intel CPU
- **Linux** – Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5.2 for x86_64 or compatible; the software can work on other distributions too, but it is not guaranteed and verified.

System Requirements

- CPU supporting SSE2 instruction set. (Intel Pentium 4 and above or compatible)
- At least 512 MB RAM
- Graphics card with OpenGL support and hardware accelerated texture mapping. Some visualization modules require graphics hardware with recent vertex and fragment shader support and a recent driver.

Recommended Hardware

- CPU - Multi-core CPU with 2 GHz; On Mac OS X an Intel CPU is recommended.
- Memory - 2 GB RAM
- Graphics card - A current "gaming" card from one of the main vendors (NVIDIA or ATI) with at least 512 MB video RAM is recommended. If OpenGL stereo support is needed (e.g. stereo projection or AmiraVR), an NVIDIA Quadro FX or an ATI FireGL / FirePro card with the appropriate driver must be installed.

Supported Compilers for Developer Option

In order to add custom extensions to Amira using the Developer Option, a C++ compiler is required. The following C++ compilers are supported:

- **Windows** – Microsoft Visual Studio 2005 (VC++ 8.0).
- **Mac OS X** – GNU gcc 4.0.x with the latest version of XCode provided by Apple
- **Linux** – GNU gcc 4.1.x

Details about the supported compilers and compiler versions can be found in the section *System Requirements* of the Amira Developer's Guide.

Changes since Amira 5.2.1

Enhancements

- **MovieMaker** now supports the output of movies in the MPEG format on Mac OS X.
- **Documentation** has been updated and revised.

Bug fixes

Unless otherwise indicated, the bugs listed below have been fixed such that the behavior described is no longer encountered.

- **Object labels:** Amira 5.2.1 introduced new rules defining which characters are allowed in object labels and which characters are automatically replaced by '-'. In particular, spaces (' ') were allowed and colons (':') were prohibited. However, this introduced problems with saving and reloading networks, especially in connection with DICOM data. Now, the rules have been reverted to the state of version 5.2.0 with the only exception that colons (':') are prohibited in data object labels. This exception is necessary, because saving data objects with colons in their names leads to files that are invisible in the Windows File Explorer.
- **Derived object labels:** In Amira 5.2.1 the composition of names for objects that are the result of a computational module was modified in order to avoid labels with concatenated extensions. Unfortunately this introduced a bug that when the original object name did not contain a period ('.'), a suffix was appended without a separating period. This behaviour has been corrected.
- **MultiChannelField:** A couple of issues with multi-channel objects and network saving have been fixed. Amongst others the following problems were addressed:
 - After exchanging single channels of a multi-channel field and saving/reloading the network, the assignment of channel objects to the channel ports was not correctly restored.
 - During reloading a network with an AmiraMesh multi-channel object that had been saved as Pack&Go errors occurred and the multi-channel objects were not properly restored.
- **MovieMaker:** On machines where OpenGL stereo is not enabled or not supported an error box saying "OpenGL stereo not available" appeared during movie production if 'side by side stereo' had been selected in the 'Type' port. The box typically appeared over the rendering area and spoiled the clip. This happened although OpenGL stereo support is not required for rendering a side-by-side stereo movie.

- **Leica LIF import:** In LIF files larger than 4 GB some series were not read correctly.
- **Olympus OIF/OIB import:** During import of some Olympus-OIF files, the first slice was read multiple times. For OIB and OIF files the voxel size was not read correctly. Loading single-channel OIB/OIF files caused Amira to crash.
- **Surface Editor:** For some surfaces, the function 'Fix Intersections ...' erroneously reported fixed intersections. The next time an intersection test was performed the original number of intersections was reported. Amira now correctly reports when intersections could not be fixed.
- **External Disk Data:** Networks containing an external disk data object (an image loaded with the second option of the Out-of-Core Data dialog) could not be reloaded when the directory path contained spaces.
- **Isosurface:** The isosurface extraction algorithm could not handle data sets with more than approximately 2 billion voxels.

Known issues

- Networks that have been saved with Amira 5.2.1 (or earlier) and that contain multi-channel objects will generate an error when loaded into 5.2.2. The error can safely be ignored. Use the "Save network" entry in the File menu to re-save the network and the next time there will be no error.

Changes since Amira 5.2.0

Enhancements

- **GUI/Layout:** Now the minimal size of the main panel depends on the current sub-application. The size set by the user is remembered throughout an Amira session.
- **Segmentation Editor/Magic Wand Tool:** Due to multiple user requests, the behavior of the Magic Wand tool for disabled masking has been reverted to that of Amira 4.x. Now, the user has two choices:
 1. *Masking is disabled:* The user can click in a 2D viewer and the selection is performed according to the data range slider in the *Display and Masking* area. Changing the slider immediately triggers a selection update. With *all slice'* checked, the update occurs on mouse button release.
 2. *Masking is enabled:* The tool works as introduced with Amira 5. The voxels falling into the range of the data range slider are visually highlighted in the 2D viewers by a blue semi-transparent overlay. By clicking into one of the highlighted areas the

user can set the seed point for the Magic Wand algorithm. When changing the slider widget, the user has to click again to update the selection.

The latter method is advantageous for large data sets where an immediate update takes too much time and therefore hampers interactivity. The mask highlight gives a visual preview of the expected selection. In both cases, a vertical red bar in the data range slider indicates the intensity of the clicked voxel.

- **Segmentation Editor/Lasso tool:** After the unification of 2D Lasso and 3D lasso in Amira 5.0, the keyboard modifier *Ctrl* was no longer inverting the draw action. In the current release, the user interface has been adapted. Now, the default lasso mode is *Add*, i.e. drawing together with the *Ctrl* key pressed removes the selection. In the Tool Box there are two radio buttons that let the user change the *3D mode* from *Inside* (default) to *Outside*, meaning that draw actions (either *add* or *remove*) act on the inside or outside of the contour, respectively. When masking is enabled the default inside mode is *replace* with respect to the mask and the default outside mode is *remove*.
- **Segmentation Editor:** The automatic assignment of material colors sometimes generated very similar colors. Now the algorithm has been improved to guarantee maximally different colors in subsequent materials.
- **Voltex:** Port *Number of slices* slider now accepts a maximal value of 512 to account for the increased performance of average graphics cards. Note that this maximum can be altered at any time by right clicking into the slider and selecting the *Configure* item of the context menu.
- **Multi-Planar Viewer/ Auto Registration tool:** The results of intermediate transformations during the iterative search are now visible in all viewers.
- **CalculusMatlab:** This module is now available on Linux and Mac OS X platforms.
- **Tiff reader:** TIFF images containing 32-bit float data can now be read.
- **Deconvolution:** The deconvolution of short or unsigned short data scales its output to the maximum of the respective data type (32767 or 65535). Microscopy data, however, are typically digitized with 12-bit accuracy corresponding to a maximum of 4095. Thus, the result of a deconvolution is hard to compare with the original data. Now the input data is checked with respect to the absolute data range and the result is divided by 16 if the data falls into the 4096 data range.
- **OrthoSlice:** When *OrthoSlice* was reconnected, it always reset the data window, which hampered the comparison of different data sets. Now, *OrthoSlice* sets a new data window on reconnection only if the data type of the new data object is different.
- **DemoMaker:** The buttons of port *Event List* were reordered to make the most frequently used buttons *Add* and *Replace* stand in the first place.

- **Mesh Option/GridVolume:** The initial display of module *GridVolume* showed only the red wire frame of the tetrahedral grid. This behavior has been made consistent with that of *SurfaceView*. Now *GridVolume* initially shows the shaded geometry.

Bug fixes

Unless otherwise indicated, the bugs listed below have been fixed such that the behavior described is no longer encountered.

Segmentation Editor

- **Magic Wand:** After changing the Image Data, the Magic Wand tool behaved as if the old image data were still active.
- **Panning:** If the panning tool was selected from the viewer tool bar it was not possible to disable it again.
- **Magic Wand:** *Shift* clicking a voxel outside the masking window destroyed a previous selection. The behavior has been corrected and improved:
 1. *Masking is enabled:* Irrespective of the Shift-key state, a pick on a pixel outside the masking data window will not change anything.
 2. *Masking is disabled:* It is possible to set seed voxels outside the masking data window resulting in a void selection. By default, existing selections are replaced. Thus, clicking outside the current range clears the current selection and simultaneously holding down the *Shift* key prevents this.

Amira for Microscopy (ResolveRT)

- **FourierTransform:** This module did not show port *Mode* when attached to a data object loaded as an MRC volume.
- **MRC reader:** The reader for the MRC file format incorrectly initialized the default data window of the resulting data object.
- **Leica LIF reader:** Files larger than 2GB can now be read.
- **Zeiss ZVI reader:** Attempting to load recent files of the ZVI file format crashed Amira. The existing reader can only import ZVI files from earlier versions of the format. The reader has been changed to output an error message when unsupported ZVI files are attempted to be read.
- **Filament Editor:** Rank statistics was not updated after a *Set Root* command had been applied to a different segment.

Quantification+ Option

- **Quantification:** Module *Quantification* could not be used without Administrator privileges.
- **Quantification-Threshold:** The output objects of module *Quantification-Threshold* were not "visible" to some filters of the quantification module so that it was impossible to further process these outputs with *Quantification*.
- **Demos:** The directories `share/demo/mousse` and `share/demo/mousse2` and the scripts they contained were missing.

Skeleton Option

- **Autoskeleton:** Module *Autoskeleton* was crashing Amira when attached to an object with float data. Now Amira issues an error message when such an attachment is attempted.

Developer Option

- **Debug Libraries:** For debugging, a user's module was compiled in debug mode but linked against Amira libraries that had been built in release mode. To start debugging, Amira had to be called with the '-debug' option. This occasionally led to crashes. Now in AmiraDev all debug libraries have been added to the distribution in the directory "`bin/arch-<name_of_architecture>-debug`". To start a debugging session, call `amiramain` from that directory.

Mac OS X

- **FLEXNet:** The FLEXNet binaries were missing.
- **External drives** such as USB sticks and USB hard drives were not listed in the File Browser's list of drives. It was necessary to manually type `/Volumes` to get a listing of external drives.
- **Spin Animation:** The state of the viewer's spin animation feature was not remembered for the next Amira session.

Linux

- **Colormap Options:** The *Options* item of any colormap port did not activate a secondary menu when selected.

Various modules

- **AlignSlices** caused a crash when attached to LDA data objects.
- **ApplyTransform** crashed on data where one dimension had voxel size 0.
- **Histogram:** Networks containing a *Histogram* module with an open plot window were incorrectly saved.

- **Histogram:** Checking the option *+cumulative* in module *Histogram* before opening the plot window (via apply) led to a crash.
- **LandmarkSurfaceWarp** crashed when disconnecting the input data.
- **LabelVoxel:** Pressing the “Apply” button of module *LabelVoxel* twice led to an invalid result object, which module *SurfaceGen* refused to process (Error message in the console: “*Illegal data type. Cast to label-field, unsigned char, or unsigned short!*”).
- **LegoSurfaceGen** created triangles with incorrect orientation at borders.
- **Measurement:** Under certain conditions, removal of module *Measurement* crashed Amira.
- **MovieMaker:** On Windows, Amira crashed when module *MovieMaker* was attached and the user had no Administrator privileges. Technically, administrator privileges were never necessary for *MovieMaker*.
- **ProjectionView:** The commands to control ports *Min.slice* and *Max.slice*, which are shown when the *restrict* option is checked, were not working.
- **SurfaceGen** created a material *Exterior2* even when the *add border* option was deselected.
- **Volren** did not correctly handle inverted color map ranges (minimum larger than maximum). The rendering was identical to the uninverted case.

GUI and general components

- **Extra Viewer:** An extra viewer as created by View->Layout->Extra Viewer could not be minimized because the buttons in the window title bar were missing.
- **Colormap Editor:** Clicking onto a color or opacity marker made the marker jump one cell to the left or right.
- **Multi-channel DataWindows:** During saving and reloading a multi-channel object as *AmiraMesh*, user-defined per-channel min/max got lost.
- **3D Viewer:** Switching between orthographic and perspective camera did not properly conserve the camera perspective.
- **User’s Guide:** Some pages of the User’s Guide were not accessible from the Table of Contents.
- **File Names:** When labels of data objects contained colons (':') and were saved, they became hidden files on Windows. Now colons in object names are replaced with underscore ('_') characters.
- **Window Layout:** Changing Amira's overall layout to separate windows for Main Panel, 3D Viewer and/or Console (Edit->Preferences->Layout) automatically maximized the main window.

- **Measurement:** When selecting *Measure* from the *View* menu a *Measurement* module was created but the tool was not yet active in the viewer. The user had to activate the tool by clicking onto the tool icon in the viewer tool bar.
- **Measurement:** When OpenGL stereo was enabled, the labels of measurements in the viewer disappeared and did not return when stereo was switched off.
- **3D TIFF Series Loading:** During loading a series of 3D TIFFs as a time series, the *Image Read Parameters* dialog prompted for every single file when the *All channels* channel conversion was selected.
- **Apply Button:** Removal of a module with enabled *Apply* button did not disable the *Apply* button. Pushing the button in this state caused an error and/or a crash.
- **Saving Surfaces:** In *Pack&Go* networks or with the auto-save feature Amira tried to save surface objects in Matlab m-file format.
- **Networks:** Reloading a network containing a selected colormap object could crash Amira.
- **Time Series:** When a time series was loaded, removed and loaded again, some time steps had wrong channel names, e.g. *_ch3, *_ch4 instead of *_ch1, *_ch2.
- **Tcl Console:** Command *clear* typed in the console brought the next line into a unresponsive state. Backspacing or using arrow keys did no longer work. Anything could be entered without any effect.

Changes since Amira 5.0.1

Amira Standard Edition

Multi Planar Viewer

The new Multi Planar Viewer is a special purpose sub-application for visualizing and exploring up to two data sets simultaneously using three Multi-Planar Reformat (MPR) viewers and one 3D viewer showing the data set(s) as volume rendering(s). The visualized volumes cannot only be explored and compared, but they can also be aligned and registered using integrated tools. This viewer is dedicated explicitly to users in biomedical research who need to visually explore and/or register image data with a few clicks in an easy-to-use and high quality visualization framework. The Multi Planar Viewer is part of the Amira Standard Edition.

New Display Modules

- New *AnnotatedIsoline* display module. Displays isolines with annotations on 3D scalar fields.
- New *BumpSlice* display module. Displays orthogonal slices with embossed mapping on any regular scalar field.
- New *CityPlot* display module. This module displays a scalar data field as a 3D histogram.
- New *DisplayDate* display module. This module displays the date.
- New *ClusterStringLabels* display module. This module visualizes string labels associated with data objects of type Cluster.

Readers

- New SWC reader and writer for neuroscience – The new Duke-Southampton SWC reader and writer for neuronal morphology supports the import and export in SWC format. This format can be used, for example, with the cvapp application allowing the conversion between various neuron morphology formats.
- Added support for 1-bit TIFF images.

New Tridality Module for Autostereoscopic Display

New module *TridalityView* allows the main Amira viewer to be displayed in the following autostereoscopic displays: Tridality Multi-View 19", 27", 42", and 57".

Help and Documentation

- The search algorithm is now faster.

- New fonts are now used to improve the readability.
- The list of the demos has been slightly reorganized, a new *Deconvolution* demo has been added, and the *Multichannel* and *Align* demos have been moved from the *ResolveRT* section *Amira*.
- A help button has been added to all data objects in the **Properties** area. It is now easier to learn about the data type.
- The documentation for the modules *Trajectory* (Amira) and *SpatialGraphStatistics* (Amira) has been added.
- The documentation of several modules has been updated.
- The tutorial “Visualization of Vector Fields” has been adapted to Life Science.: the results of a blood flow simulation are used instead of the “wing” data sets; the tutorial has been also modified according to the new data sets characteristics.

Improved user interface of the measurement tool

The handling of the measurement tool has been reworked so that the *Add* button has become obsolete. The tool is activated by clicking the button in the viewer tool bar. When active, clicking in the viewer creates and modifies measurements or annotations. Therefore, click at a new position in the viewer to add a measurement or annotation and click on one of its ends to edit it. The ESC key toggles between measurement and the currently selected viewer navigation (default: trackball). To terminate measurement mode select *Interact* (arrow) from the viewer toolbar. Thus, the tool can be now used within sub-applications (Segmentation Editor, Filament Editor), but the Properties of *Measurement* are not accessible.

Spin Animation

Spin animation is again ON by default. To enable/disable it, use the viewer context menu, *Preferences->Spin animation*. Unlike in Amira 5.0.1, the state is remembered for the next Amira session.

Trajectory

Module *Trajectory* can be used to steer an *ObliqueSlice* along a LineSet data object. Now the module can be also attached to SpatialGraph objects, which are the result of skeletonization or tracing using the Filament Editor or the tools of the Skeleton Option.

Volren

Added support for a wide range of graphics boards (see System Requirements).

SurfaceView

The 8 radio buttons of port *Colors* have been redesigned to a pull-down menu with 8 entries.

Unicode Support in Annotation module

The *Annotation* module now supports Unicode character strings allowing correct display in any language and character set.

Image Filtering Improvements

- New: *FilteredObliqueSlice* module which applies filters and visualizes data from an arbitrary slice.
- Image filters have been renamed using more explicit names.
- All 3D image filters have now a 2D equivalent filter.

ObliqueSlice

In port *Sampling*: there is a new option to set a user-defined sampling matrix.

DemoMaker

The *DemoMaker* script has been improved for handling complex sequences:

- Search in event list.
- Save and load a file containing the event list, using internal format. In some cases, it can be convenient to export, import or edit this event list file.

Amira for Microscopy (ResolveRT)

Filament Editor

The user interface of the Filament Editor has been improved:

- In order to facilitate the use of the tools, only two tabs are now available in the tool box, the *View Options* and the *Tools* tabs.
- The *Autoskeleton Options* and the graph analysis tools have been reorganized in the *Tools* tab.
- A new icon has been added to the toolbar to activate the tracer, while the tracing options have been moved into the *Tools* tab.
- The *Preview* option toggle has been removed. Instead, there is now a button next to the *Window Level* slider similar to the Segmentation Editor. When the button is pressed, the *Alpha* slider is available below the *Window Level* slider.
- The *Show Thick Slice* toggle has been removed from the tool box. The functionality is now available as a button next to the *Thickness* slider.

File Readers

- New Olympus OIB/OIF readers for images acquired with Olympus confocal microscopes of the FluoView 1000 generation.
- Several problems have been fixed in the Leica LIF and Zeiss LSM readers. Amira now also supports 12-bit encoded LIF data.

Very Large Data Option

New Display Modules

The new interpolation type (“multi-samples”) on LDA ortho and oblique slices provides much higher quality images than linear interpolation.

- *ArithmeticRendering*: arbitrary arithmetic according to a user-defined arithmetic expression of up to three inputs according to a user-defined arithmetic expression.
- *CastLattice*: changes or converts the primitive data type of out-of-core data.

OrthoSlice and ObliqueSlice

The new interpolation type (“multi-samples”) on LDA ortho and oblique slices provides much higher quality images than linear interpolation.

Voltex (LDA)

The *Voltex (LDA)* module has been improved in quality and performance options:

- Edge coloring option – Enables to color edges based on the gradient direction.
- 2D edge detection option – A 2D edge detection algorithm is used to highlight edges of the rendered volume image.
- Boundary opacity option – Increases the opacity of boundaries based on the magnitude of the gradient.
- Illumination quality option – Provides different methods for computing the gradient (normal) used when the rendering is lighted.
- Less ringing artifacts option to decrease slice edge artifacts when few slices are displayed.
- Cubic interpolation option to get a smooth rendering.
- New performance options – Different rendering techniques are available in order to improve the performance.

LDA Conversion

New LDA conversion options on LDA data:

- Data compression means that the files use less disk space and can be loaded faster (fewer bytes to move). Currently *gzip* and *jpeg* compressions are available. *Gzip* is the default.
- Border size option allows you to avoid discontinuity artifacts. With lighted volume rendering or with embossed mapped slices, a border size of 3 should be specified.
- The above options are set via the LDA tab of the Edit->Preferences dialog.

Quantification+ Option

- Graphical User Interface improvement providing better integration within the Amira interface.
- The performance of the binseparate morphologic tool has been improved.

Bug Fixes

- *LocalAxis*: grid and text were displayed displaced.
- *SurfaceGen* with auto-refresh checked did not recompute triangulation when the label field was changed.
- In module *Resample* the *auto-refresh* function did not work.
- *LabelVoxel Histogram*: Curve color was reset when changing the threshold values with slider.
- Attempting to use *Deconvolution* on unsigned short data led to a crash. *Deconvolution* can now handle unsigned short data.
- *Deconvolution* did not use multiple cores or CPUs if they were present.
- Amira did not start on a Windows 2000 system.
- Whenever image data (uniform scalar fields) have a transformation matrix parameter and an *ApplyTransform* was used, the parameter was not reset, so that when reloading the data set the transformation was set again.
- The *Merge* module was missing a background or padding value to be specified by the user. This value is necessary, for example, when merging CT data where the background level typically is smaller than 0. (already in 5.0)
- The *Adjust range* function of PortColormap did not work with objects of type HxCluster, HxNeuronTree, or HxSpatialGraph. This has been fixed. For multiple data defined on the geometry *Adjust range* adjusts to the currently selected.
- The *Adjust range* function of PortColormap did not work with objects of type HxFEIUniformScalarField.

- AmiraMesh files that contained non-image data and exceeded the Out-of-Core threshold opened the Out-of-Core conversion dialog although the data was not convertible. This has been changed such that no dialog pops up for non-convertible AmiraMesh files.
- In the *Trajectory* module the *Up front* option of port *View* was not working properly.
- *Arithmetic*: if the result of an *Arithmetic* module was changed with respect to voxel size the source data object assumed the same voxel size.
- Segmentation Editor:
 - The data window could not be set numerically.
 - The 3D Lasso did not work correctly with an orthographic camera.
 - The 2D Lasso in fencing mode was not working correctly
 - When a label field was created from within the Segmentation Editor, there was no default material “Inside”.
 - In 4-viewer mode with masking enabled it was possible to make a selection outside the masked region.
 - The parameter *DataWindow* was not considered.
 - Sometimes the “Replace” function for selections did not work.
- Export of MATLAB .mat files crashed Amira.
- *SurfaceGen* always created a material *Exterior2* even if the “Extra material” option was not checked.
- Fields of low dimensionality as input to module *ChannelWorks* caused a crash.
- *CreateSurface* of *SurfaceCut* sometimes crashed.
- Loading a RAW series where the files did not have the file extension .raw triggered the display of the File Format dialog for every slice.
- LineSet Editor: Attempting to connect two endpoints using the *Data dependent* option caused Amira to crash if there was no scalar field in the Pool.
- *CreateImage* of *ObliqueSlice* crashed on multichannel field data.
- Batch processing did not work in Amira 5.
- Volren crashed with RGBA color images.
- The 2D Raw File reader presented the File Type dialog for every slice.
- Transform Editor relative local rotation was incorrect.
- Snapshot command with Volren rendered viewer gadgets with bad background.
- *ObliqueSlice*: With multichannel data it was not possible to switch individual channels on and off.
- AmiraDev – On Windows systems in the Start menu the item *Amira --debug* was missing.
- Crash after deleting all items from the **Pool** at once.

- Removing a VolPro1000 module crashed Amira.
- The state of some editor buttons was not updated correctly.

Known Issues

General

- RadiusHistogram – The documentation is missing in the Online Help.
- *Isosurface (LDA)* on FireGL V7350 does not render correctly.
- *Voltex (LDA)* on FireGL V7350 “Move low resolution” does not work. When checked, Amira freezes.
- *Volren* on FireGL V7350 in mode *Shaded (Diffuse, Specular)*, the shading effect does not work properly.

Windows XP x64

- Using the DV Video Encoder in the MovieMaker module may cause an access violation. This is a bug in Windows that can be fixed with the following hotfix:
<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/943443>. The hotfix requires SP2.

Mac OS X

- Splitter in the GUI – Double clicking on the splitters does not expand the window frames.
- Amira Icon – When Amira is installed, the red icon might not be shown in the Amira installation directory. In this case please start the application by double clicking the script “**start**” in the sub-directory */bin*, which is located in the Amira installation directory.
- Stereo Mode –OpenGL stereo is not available.

Linux

- The fencing mode of the Brush tool in the Segmentation Editor does not work with Alt key by default. In KDE the Alt key is used as the default meta key for window actions; therefore the Alt key has to be disabled as the meta key in the KDE options in order to enable fencing mode in Amira.

Changes since Amira 5.0

Bug fixes:

- Various fixes in Large Data Access / External Disk Data support.
- Fixed "Save Network" for multi-frame TIFF images.
- Fixed deleting the last channel of a MultiChannelField.
- Various fixes for the HxVolren module.
- Fixed some issues with the extra viewer.

Changes since Amira 4.1.2

Improvements and new features for Amira

Sub-applications for improved workflow

Amira 5.0 introduces a new concept to optimize the workflow for particular tasks. Some editors, the Pool, and the new Tree View are now “sub-applications”. Sub-applications substitute the standard Pool/Properties layout of the main panel by a task specific and workflow-optimized user interface. Also, each sub-application defines its own set of viewers that operate independently from the standard Amira 3D viewer. A convenient sub-application task bar below the main menu provides access to different sub-applications at any time by a single mouse click. The following components are currently sub-applications:

- Object Pool
- Tree View
- Segmentation Editor
- Filament Editor

Further changes to the GUI

- The main panel hosting Pool and Properties has been moved to the left of the viewer window. Users who prefer the right-hand main panel may configure this in the Edit->Preferences/Layout tab.
- Amira 5.0 is now based on Trolltech's Qt 4 library for the graphical user interface. Among other improvements, this introduces the use of style sheets for the Amira skin. In the future, Visage Imaging plans to add alternative skins to let the user have a personalized Amira.
- New floating tool bar concept in the viewer with new and re-designed icons.
- Tools in the viewer tool bar have been rearranged in independent groups which can be moved freely to the sides of the viewer.
- Menu item *File->Jobs* has been moved to *Edit->Dialogs*
- Menu item *Edit->Database* has been moved to *Edit->Dialogs*
- The options Duplicate mode and Auto adjust range of colormaps have been added to the Pool menu. If Duplicate mode is activated, the settings for new modules of the same type attached to a particular data object are duplicated. If Auto adjust range of colormaps is checked, the colormap range is automatically adjusted.
- Explorer – Explorer item is displayed if "Tree View" is selected. The Explorer menu is identical to the Pool menu except that the Show, Show All, and Hide items are not available.

- New functionality on right-click context menu of selected objects: Hide, Remove, Duplicate, Rename, Save, Save As
- New functionality on right-click context menu in Pool: Show Hidden Objects, Show All, Remove All Objects, Save Network, Save Network As...
- Tree View: As an alternative to the Object Pool the Tree View offers the possibility to represent data objects and modules in an explorer-like tree widget. Complex networks with many icons can benefit from this representation by sorting modules according to their type into different folders.
- The Tree View is implemented as a sub-application and can be invoked at any time from the sub-application tool bar.

Volren

With Volren Amira 5.0 offers a completely new volume rendering module. The new module features several rendering techniques such as classical emission/absorption volume rendering (VRT) as well as shaded volume rendering (sVRT), maximum intensity projection (MIP), and digitally reconstructed radiograph (DRR). The module supports the interactive rendering of even large data sets by using a low-resolution-on-move rendering strategy. A “smart sampling” technique guarantees rendering results free of slicing artifacts even for steep transfer functions and close-up views. Together with Amira's label field concept, Volren enables the differential rendering of user-defined regions of interest.

Note on hardware compatibility: Volren makes extensive use of the latest features of current GPUs (Graphics Processing Units). Thus, some advanced features of Volren, in particular sVRT, are available for recent graphics boards only. For NVIDIA products we support GPUs starting with the NV40 (corresponds to GeForce 6xxx series and Quadro 35xx models). For ATI's Radeon family of video cards support for advanced volume rendering is expected for all boards of the X series. However we have seen incorrect rendering with some combinations of drivers and video cards. ATI's FireGL V7350 is currently not working with Amira's shaded volume rendering.

Known issues: When two or more Volren modules are used and rendering modes are mixed across modules, rendering artifacts may occur. In the case of multivolume rendering the supported combination of rendering modes are one MIP with one MIP and one VRT with one VRT. Other modes and combinations may lead to incorrect rendering results.

Segmentation Editor

The Segmentation Editor has been reorganized using the sub-application concept. The user interface has been improved:

- Data Selector: two drop-down menus let you select the image and label data to be edited. The drop-down menu lists all compatible data objects in the Pool.
- Material List: there are three new columns to turn on/off the 3D and 2D view for each material and enable volume rendering in the material color.
- Zoom and Data Window: A drop-down menu next to the range sliders lets you select a color map for display in the 2D viewers.
- Selection and Display: The 3D Lasso buttons have been replaced by Grow/Shrink buttons, previously available in the Selection menu only. The 3D Lasso has been integrated with the 2D lasso in the Tool Box.
- Display and Masking: this new group of controls offers buttons to enable 2D crosshairs, 3 orthogonal slice view, and 3D volume rendering.
- A generalized masking concept has been added to most of the tools to specify an applicable data range. The mask can be set through range sliders with histogram plot and is displayed as a blue semi-transparent overlay in the 2D viewers.
- Tool Box: the Propagating Front tool is no longer available; a new Threshold tool has been added.
- Changes in the menu bar:
 - *Segmentation->Data Window* has been removed. The windowing is now directly possible using the range slider widget in the GUI. TissueStatistics has been renamed to MaterialStatistics. Likewise, the corresponding module in *the Pool ->Measure->TissueStatistics* has been renamed to MaterialStatistics. Current Viewer has been added to select the active viewer. Gray image and Gradient image have been removed due to the new Image Data and Label Data selectors in the control panel.
 - *Selection->Draw Style* has been removed. It is now accessible through the context menu in the Material list only. Active Contour has been removed completely. Threshold has been moved from the Selection menu to the Tool Box with the masking option.

Readers/Writers

- Nifti – Short for Neuroimaging Informatics Technology Initiative. File format based on the popular Analyze7.5 format. Amira now reads and writes files in this format.
- HOC – Hoc is a scripting language used by the NEURON simulation environment to describe neurons and neuronal networks. Amira 5.0 features an import and export filter to read and write the geometric and topologic information of spatial graph data objects.
- Vevo 3D – File format used by the Vevo 770 ultrasound scanner. Amira 5.0 supports 3D and 2D Power Doppler as well as 2D and 2D Power Doppler images in this format.

- AmiraMesh – Amira can now read data from the VisageWS™ and VisageCS™ products of Visage Imaging.

Miscellaneous

- CalculusMatlab – Now supported on Windows 64. Improved MATLAB engine connection. The CalculusMatlab module now transfers all native Amira data types to MATLAB and back. This improves the memory handling and allows users to work with larger data sets. Note: A change in CalculusMatlab requires now a different order in the dimensional terms of MATLAB data objects.
- ConvertSpatialGraphToLineSet – Converts an HxSpatialGraph object to an object of type HxLineSet.
- ConvertLineSetToSpatialGraph – Converts an HxLineSet object to an HxSpatialGraph data type.
- CornerCut – This module defines a cutting region with the shape of an axis-aligned 3D box originating from a corner of the bounding box.
- Colormap Editor Alpha Curve – The Colormap Editor has been enhanced to allow editing of the colormap alpha values using an alpha curve that you can shape interactively with the mouse. Previously the alpha values could only be edited using "keys". This feature is accessed via the Edit->Show Alpha Curve item of the Colormap Editor dialog. Unlike most attribute settings in Amira, this setting is persistent across Amira sessions.
- CollectiveTCL – This is a new module for executing a Tcl command on objects in the Pool. You can specify that it be applied to all visible objects (i.e., not hidden), all selected objects, or all objects of a specified type.
- ExtractSurface – This module wraps the Draw Style->CreateSurface functionality of all surface-like display modules (SurfaceView, GridVolume, HexaView) to create a separate surface object from all visible triangles. Together with the auto-refresh option the module allows to realize pipeline processing networks in the Pool.
- ProjectionView – In order to restrict the projection to a sub-volume of the image data in Amira 4.x a SelectRoi module could be connected to the data object. ProjectionView then had to be connected to the SelectRoi module. This workflow seemed unnecessarily tedious, so a restrict option has been added to ProjectionView. Also the performance of ProjectionView on MultiChannelField objects has been improved.
- SpatialGraph – A data class to store data organized in three dimensional networks has been added.
- SpatialGraphView – This module visualizes data objects of type SpatialGraph.

- SpatialGraphStatistics – A compute module to calculate and show quantitative information for segments of a SpatialGraph object.
- PlotSpreadSheet – Some modules, such as MaterialStatistics, create a spreadsheet of values. The new PlotSpreadSheet module allows you to display the values as a plot in a separate window. You can select a single column of data to be used for the X axis values, and one or more columns to be plotted on the Y axis.
- ViewerPlot – Some modules, such as Histogram and LineProbe, create a plot in a separate window. The new ViewerPlot module lets you to display the plot within the viewer window. You can control the placement, size, transparency, and other attributes of the plot within the viewer.
- Demo Framework – The Demo Framework is a set of utilities for organizing multiple demos. It incorporates four major parts
 - A directory and file structure containing the Amira scripts to execute the demos, their description, and their data. The directory structure may realize a grouping and can also resemble a project structure of the demos.
 - Several scripts to select demos from the demo collection, utilities to download data from remote servers, helper scripts for demo steering, etc.
 - Demo GUI, an editor for conveniently selecting and changing demo collections.
 - DemoSequence, an Amira script object for driving the selected demos.
- License manager – The license manager dialog has been completely redesigned. It is now possible to edit the current license file in the manager dialog, or to drag text files containing license keys into the dialog directly. Also, license keys are checked for validity on-the-fly and are printed green when they are valid and red when they are invalid.
- By popular demand, spin animation is now OFF by default. To enable/disable it, use the viewer context menu, Preferences->Spin animation.
- A viewer gnomon (compass) is now available. Use Preferences->Layout, Viewer Gadgets to control the display, position, and appearance of the gnomon.
- SurfaceView: Has an expanded set of options in its Color port.
- Surface Editor: The selection tools are now more easily accessible, each one having its own button on the tool bar. Previously they were in a drop-down menu.
- Pool: Now you can display the input ports in the Pool view. This is set via *Preferences->Layout, Pool*.
- The Preferences->LDA tab has been modified slightly. The Out-of-core threshold item was relabeled Conversion. Compression, Tile size, and Border size are new items.

- New Preferences->Rendering tab. Specifically shadow casting can now be enabled. If enabled, shadowing can be controlled on a per-module basis via an icon in its control panel.
- New: direct access to help for data objects. That is, green data objects now have a "?" button in the Properties Area to go directly to the help page for their data type.
- Licensing enhancement: Lack of an AmiraDev license when the Developer Pack is installed no longer prevents basic Amira from running.
- Due to frequent issues with OpenGL drivers the *View->Easy Fade* removed.

Improvements and new features in Amira for Microscopy (ResolveRT)

Filament Editor

The Filament Editor is a completely new sub-application designed to analyze and quantify 3D images of filamentous structures such as neurons and blood vessel networks.

It features automatic and interactive tracing tools and convenient viewing of the image data and extracted graph data in a pair of MPR and 3D viewer. Refer to the User's Guide for more information

Readers/Writers

- Leica LIF reader: Support for Version 2, supports now multichannel time series and save network.
- Zeiss LSM reader: Many LSM files were read without voxel size information. This has been fixed and in addition the reader evaluates the meta information contained in LSM files and writes it into a parameter bundle Zeiss_LSM of the Amira object.

Improvements and new features in Amira DICOM Reader

- DicomSend – New module to send all slices of an HxUniformScalarField3 to a remote DICOM node.

Improvements and new features in Amira Mesh Pack

- GenerateGradients – This module allows one to compute artificial gradient weighted images from DTI tensor fields. A gradient direction is specified and the gradient weighted volume can be created with either floating point resolution or in 16bit.

Improvements and new features in Amira Mol

- MolView – Size of highlighting is now adjustable.
- RankTimeSteps – Added option to compute rmsd based on selected atoms only.

Improvements and new features in Amira Quantification Pack

- Added support for Win64.

Improvements and new features in Amira Skeleton Pack

- All modules now support objects of type HxSpatialGraph

Bug fixes

Unless otherwise indicated, the bugs listed below have been fixed such that the behavior described is no longer encountered.

Amira

- LineProbe crashed when re-connected to another lineset object.
- Regular vector fields could not be saved as AmiraMesh ASCII format.
- Out-of-core threshold setting (Edit->Preferences->LDA) was ignored when loading files via drag-and-drop.
- Endianess (byte order) handling has been fixed for several modules.
- Utility doc2html, used to create custom documentation, has been fixed and improved.
- LineSetView: a message from port Spheres had wrong characters.
- Colormap Editor: several bugs fixed.
- Segmentation Editor:
 - Wrong selection when using Magic Wand tool,
 - The Blow tool sometimes did not highlight correctly with the crosshair enabled.
 - Snake tool up/down was not working properly.
- Fluent file export is now compatible with Fluent 6.1.22.
- DICOM export: Fixed date conversion bug.
- DisplayDate was not working correctly.
- MultiChannelField: Save network has been fixed. Save method of multichannel has been improved.
- SurfaceView draw tool did not consider transformation in selectVisibleOnly mode.
- The image filters compute modules did not preserve the parameter section in the result object.

Amira Molecular Pack

- GROMACS file reader: fixed GROMACS format check.
- HBondView, MolView: fixed crash when no cylinders are displayed, fixed memory leak.
- CompMolInterface: fixed crash on 64-bit systems.

Amira Mesh Pack

- AVS reader: There was an invalid default bounding box when this information was missing in the AVS header file.
- GridToSurface: Documentation has been added.

Amira Skeleton Pack

- Documentation easier to access: link added to home page of help browser.

Amira Very Large Data Pack

- Documentation for CastLattice was missing.

Changes since Amira 4.1

Improvements and new features:

- Preliminary support for the Leica LIF file format has been added. Limitations:
 - No support for time series data within a LIF file. Currently the first image/multichannel image of a series will be loaded.
 - No direct support for the "Save Network" functionality of Amira. Image data must be saved first as, e.g. AmiraMesh, before a network can be saved.
- The FiberTracking module now contains a new setting that allows for a better initialization of the seed points of the fiber tracking.
- For MRC files with extended header information as defined by the FEI company, the reader will display the resolution of the data in nm (nanometers) if the extended header section contains this information. The MRC writer will now export existing extended header information into the exported MRC file.

Bug fixes:

Unless otherwise indicated, the bugs listed below have been fixed such that the behavior described is no longer encountered.

- OrthoSlice was in the right-mouse menu of HxUniformVectorfield3.
- Networks with long paths were not restored.
- Calling the NormalizeImage module caused an error message: Bad type 'HxNormalizeImage'.
- File AMIRA_ROOT/data/registration/MRT-data.am was corrupted.
- In both the Segmentation Editor and StandardView making a snapshot caused a crash when one of the 2D viewers was active.
- Min and max values of colormaps were not correctly saved/restored in networks.
- After saving a new network, the File dialog behaved oddly. Selecting a file name in the browser did not deselect a previous selection.

- With the CurvedSlice module, all visualizations in the viewer disappeared when the user attempted to edit the curve object.
- Transformations of LDA objects were not displayed correctly.
- There was a program crash on the attempt to convert raw data containing double precision floats to LDA.
- In VolumeEdit there was a program crash when clicking "Undo" while working with non-byte image data.
- Converting float fields with Big Endian byte order to LDA failed.
- There was a program crash on the attempt to reconnect an OrthoSlice from an LDA object to a field with double precision floats.
- When OrthoSlice/ObliqueSlice were attached to an LDA object the Data Window was always set to "0 .. 255" independent of the actual data range. Now the data window will be set to the minimum and maximum of the data.
- AlignSlices editor: Translating slices with the arrow keys did not work.
- AlignSlices editor: The parameters for the Least Squares algorithm stored in the *->Align->Options* dialog were not saved correctly.
- When editing image stacks with few slices in the Segmentation Editor the slice slider in the xy viewer could not be moved. Instead, depending on the active tool, a selection was made.
- DisplayTime was not displayed in Viewer 0 when a CameraPath editor was opened. It was only displayed in Viewer 5.
- On SGI PRISM Amira crashed with anti-aliased rendering.
- On Linux the installer failed to launch without root permissions.
- Custom I/O modules were not registered in the resource file.
- The file benzene.hx was not properly displayed in Amira 4.1.
- In the DemoMaker one had to click on the play button twice after the first time.
- Attaching a script file to a Mosaic of the Skeleton pack caused a crash.
- Editing a colormap in multichannel mode caused a crash.
- LDA conversion of AmiraMesh files without the .am extension was not correct.

Changes since Amira 4.0

Changes in Amira standard

- Segmentation editor enhancement adding support for short, int, and float data types.
- Colormap support for multi-channel data. A colormap can be now specified for each channel.

- The default colors for multi-channel data are now blue/green/red (previously red/green/blue). This change is for consistency with the coloring conventions used by biologists and other scientists.
- New module NormalizeImage allows you to remove non-uniform illumination from image stacks.
- New 3D camera trackball for constrained rotation of the camera around the screen-aligned X, Y, and Z axes. The visibility (on, off, autohide) of the trackball icon is controlled via the Preferences dialog.
- AlignSlices module has been modified:
 - It is now possible to use maximum intensity projections of a number (n) of slices instead of the image data for the reference image and the transformed image. This is particularly helpful when aligning very small (point-like) objects, e.g., cross sections of neurons. The following scripting commands are added:
 setUseMaxIntProjection [0|1], setMaxIntProjectionRefThickness [number_of_slices], and setMaxIntProjectionSliceThickness [number_of_slices].
 - "get" commands have been added for each of the existing "set" commands.
- New colormap context menu item "Adjust range" to automatically adjust the colormap range to the connected data range.
- "Select All" option in open file dialog boxes with the shortcut key .
- "Select All" option in the Edit menu. This applies to objects in the Pool.
- Macrovision FLEXnet support. In addition to the existing licensing module, Macrovision FLEXnet Publisher Licensing Module is used for floating (concurrent) license usage. The files for this support are provided in the share/license/flexnet directory.
- Includes all patches for Amira 4.0 and many more bug fixes.

Changes in Amira Large Data Pack

- Emboss mapping on LDA ortho and oblique slices. This rendering technique (also known as "bump mapping") emphasizes gradient changes in the data on the slice. NOTE: Requires programmable shader support in the graphics hardware.
- Isosurface rendering. With this module, Isosurface LDA, isosurfaces are computed in the GPU, not the CPU. The threshold can be changed interactively and applied to very large data sets. NOTE: Requires programmable shader support in the graphics hardware.
- Interactive lighting on volume rendering (Vortex). Produces high quality visual results.
- NOTE: Requires programmable shader support in the graphics hardware.
- High quality volume rendering (Vortex). This technique is useful because it usually provides much higher image quality for the same number of slices. It is also useful when the

colormap has a lot of fast variations, i.e., the color changes very rapidly. NOTE: Requires programmable shader support in the graphics hardware.

- The three data probing modules -- PointProbe, LineProbe, and SplineProbe -- can be used with LDA (Large Data Access, described below in the 4.0 Release Notes) data to inspect your very large data sets.
- Multi-channel support with LDA data.
- New LDA preferences in order to easily adjust the rendering quality according to the capabilities of your hardware. See the Preferences dialog.
- New LDA expert setting module (LDAExpertSettings) to tune all LDA options.

Changes in Amira Mesh Pack

- A FiberTracking module was added which implements the traceline algorithm (STT and TEND). This is useful for working with tensor fields.
- The documentation of the ComputeTensorOutOfCore module was updated to illustrate its intended use better.
- A ComputeTensor module which works with already loaded volumes was added.
- A new demo is provided to show tensor display capabilities (available from the on-line help file).
- The Meshsize parameter of TetraGen can now be set arbitrarily. Previously it was restricted to a maximum of 3 times or a minimum of 1/3 of the average edge length of the input surface.

Changes in Amira Molecular Pack

- New Module: MolElectrostatics Allows computing the electrostatic or potential field of an atomic or surface charge distribution in a homogeneous dielectric on a surface or a lattice.
- Molecular Editor improved. Allows adding/removing bonds and atoms, changing atomic numbers and bonds orders, with automatic adaption of hydrogens and atom geometry. Adding rings, chains or molecular groups defined by SMILES strings. Assignment of implicit hydrogens, formal charges, adding/removing hydrogens removing crystallographic water, assigning Kekule structures or assigning aromaticity to rings. Local force field minimization of structure.
- New Module: PseudoElectronDensity Computes a scalar density field by accumulating the per-atom electron densities of the molecule, which are approximated by Gaussian blobs. The computed pseudo electron density may be used for superposing an experimentally

given electron density with a molecular structure by superposing it with its pseudo electron density.

Changes in Amira ResolveRT Microscopy Pack

- The application icon name, icon bitmap, and window banner have been changed to say Amira instead of ResolveRT.
- The MRC file format reader now displays a dialog box where the user can specify to either convert the data to VolumeViz LDM, to the ExternalDiskData format, or to read in the data natively.

Changes in Amira Quantification+ Pack

- Several tutorials were added to help you get acquainted with the features and usage of the Quantification+ Pack. Click on the Quantification+ Pack link on the home page of the Amira help browser.

Changes since Amira 3.1.1

New in Amira standard

- The Amira product suite has been reorganized into two product lines to better serve customer needs:
 - Amira 4.0 standard
 - ResolveRT: Amira for microscopy, including support for deconvolution, multi-channel data, slice alignment, and readers for microscopy formats (Leica, Analyze, Bio-Rad, stacked slices).

Amira "packs" are additional sets of modules providing solutions for dedicated application areas. Packs can be added to a standard Amira installation at any time. **For each pack a separate license is required.** The following packs are available:

- Amira Large Data Pack: visualizing and accessing large volume data sets up to 8GB not fitting in memory
- Amira Very Large Data Pack: visualizing and accessing large volume data sets larger than 8GB not fitting in memory and up to hundreds of GB.

- Amira Quantification+ Pack: more features for advanced quantification and analysis
 - Amira Mesh Pack: modules for pre/post-processing of 2D and 3D meshes
 - Amira Molecular Pack: molecular visualization, editing, alignment
 - Amira Developer Pack: toolkit with C++ API for extending and customizing Amira
 - Amira VR Pack: for VR systems, immersion, 3D interaction, multi-pipe, clusters
 - Amira CAD readers: optional imports for CAD geometry formats: CATIA 4, CATIA 5, IGES, STEP
 - Amira CAE readers: optional imports for CAE simulation results: Radioss, MADYMO
 - Amira Dicom reader: advanced parameter editor, pre-view and reader for DICOM file format
 - Amira SEG-Y reader: advanced reader for SEG-Y seismic data format
 - ResolveRT Skeletonization Pack: skeletonization with large data support
- Revamped user interface: A unique window now gathers panels for pool, viewers, help and console, yet layout preferences allow switching back to top-level windows instead of panels. The viewer's buttons have moved to a toolbar. Shortcuts to most frequently used modules appear in a bar above the network pool. Sub-networks can be collapsed/expanded with -/+ button in the module icon. Other enhancements include direct network panning and deleting modules by drag & drop over a trashcan. The former "dolt" button with a red toggle is superseded by an "Apply" button and an "auto-refresh" check box at the bottom of module's properties panel. The segmentation editor, slice aligner, and surface editor have a unified interface (viewer, top menu bar). The segmentation editor panel can be switched with the pool panel via a tab button. Medical or technical naming convention can be chosen for orientations (in layout preferences). Preferences settings are gathered in a single place (menu Edit/Preferences).

- New colormap editor: Simplified settings. The histogram is displayed in background. Grayscale mode. The former colormap editor is available as the "Advanced Color Editor". A new predefined colormap is available (seismic.col).
- Enhanced support for large data sets under 64-bit: Now all places in Amira array indices are computed using 64-bit integers. Therefore data sets with at most 2^{31} elements can be processed. In order to support 8-bit data sets larger than 2 GB or 16-bit data larger than 4 GB, all loops have been revised and 64-bit integers have been used for indexing
- New MATLAB support: New reader and writer for MATLAB .mat file format. New module CalculusMatlab allows you to load, edit, and execute MATLAB scripts directly from Amira, by connecting directly to MATLAB server: input objects are accessible as MATLAB matrices, and results are put in the Amira pool. This module allows using Amira as an advanced MATLAB toolbox for 3D data analysis and visualization.
- New image filter: Gamma-Correction.
- Enhanced OrthoSlice and ObliqueSlice modules: Now support large data with high resolution: subdivision into multiple textures is automatically done if needed to overcome maximum texture size supported on the graphics cards.
- Enhanced ObliqueSlice: A slice can be fitted to a set of points that can be specified by clicking somewhere on visible geometry (slice, surface). For this, the option "fit to points" must be activated. At least 3 points must be specified to position the slice. Giving more points fits the slice into the point set via orthonormal regression. After deactivation of this option, the slice can be positioned along its normal direction using the slider or rotated as usual.
- New module CurvedSlice: the CurvedSlice module lets you display arbitrarily curved slices through a 3D scalar field or along a curve for 2D ones (fence display).
- New module CylinderSlice: Displays the values of a scalar field on a cylinder.
- New module SelectLines: Extracts a subset of lines or line segments from a given line set object. You can select the subset by specifying regions of interest, an arithmetic expression, or a label field.
- Registration module label is renamed AffineRegistration (class name was already HxAffineRegistration).

- Enhanced Segmentation editor: Interpolation is now possible between selections in multiple slices. TissueStatistics can now be obtained directly from the segmentation menu. Easier setting of the data window with histogram.
- Enhanced TissueStatistics module: New option CumulativeSum for cumulative sum of the values of the field in a particular region. New option to get area per slice. New port to specify automatic detection of center of mass with Polar moment of inertia option. Notice that TissueStatistics can now be obtained directly from the segmentation editor.
- Enhanced Histogram module: New ROI input port added for handling Region Of Interest.
- Enhanced SurfaceGen: A hidden menu is available that allows the creation of surfaces per material without the need of changing the labels. Type "SurfaceGen showMaterialList" for displaying the material selection list.
- Enhanced IvToSurface: Diffuse colors in Open Inventor or VRML files can be read into color vector field. Such field can then be used as colorfield input for SurfaceView.
- Enhanced SurfaceDisplay: A new option has been added that allows selection via "draw" acting on visible triangles only. This option can be set or unset with the command "DisplaySurface selectVisibleOnly" 1 or 0.
- Enhanced SurfaceDistance: The surface distance can be computed for a region of interest only. Therefore, define an ROI for an object and connect it to the ROI input port of SurfaceDistance.
- Enhanced DXF write: .dxf files are now saved as version R11 files.
- Enhanced CuttingPlane: Added port for translating the plane explicitly (allows animation).
- Enhanced Measuring tool: 2D tools (line, angle, text) that work anywhere in the viewer window, not just on geometry, are now available. It's now possible to control the font size of the tool. It's also possible to control the display format of numeric values. The GUI has been improved -- icons for controlling visibility, locking, and render-in-front are always visible.
- Enhanced SurfaceEditor: Now contains a number of new tools in the Surface/Edit menu including: a tool for repair of intersections, a tool for fixing small dihedral angles, a tool for fixing tetra quality, and a tool for preparation of tetrahedron generation which combines

three of the other tools (Flip edges, Fix small dihedral angles, and Fix tetra quality). There is also a new closedness test for manifold surfaces available in the Surface/Tests menu.

- Enhanced SurfaceField data objects: Added new Tcl command "setEncoding". Data values are averaged if encoding is changed from OnNodes to OnTriangles.
- Enhanced Resample module: Now capable of handling fields with up to six components, like the complex vector type.
- ChannelWorks and Arithmetic modules both support surface fields. Arithmetic supports tensor fields as well.
- Enhanced support for Cluster data objects (point sets): New module ClusterLabel for displaying text labels with point cluster. Reader extended for label support. New module CreateCluster to create an empty cluster.
- Enhanced Delaunay2D module: New faster algorithm for triangulation. New spherical projection mode. New port for changing projection center. The former algorithm can be selected with Tcl command "setTriangulator".
- Improved PointWrap: now considering transformations of the data.
- New Tcl pick callbacks: New Tcl commands on modules and viewers which can be used to register a Tcl procedure to be called whenever some pick event occurs with mouse or VR input device. The triggered callback can retrieve information about picked object coordinates, object, and possibly additional information provided by Amira modules VertexView, ClusterView, SurfaceView, GridVolume, and GridBoundary.
- DemoMaker enhancements: Added support for port ButtonMenu, more viewer commands, waiting screen. New function jump allows the user to jump to an arbitrary breakpoint. Added function writeDescriptionFile to generate description.xml files for Amira demos to start with. Added auxiliary port descriptionFileName which is always hidden.
- Animate module: added support for ports whose owner is an editor. Added Tcl method to set maximum range from chosen port to time port
- New module Sound for playing audio files (in menu Create>Animation/Demo).
- Improved Isosurface performance.

- Many bug fixes and minor improvements, performance optimization including faster memory operations and reduced memory consumption.
- Enhanced module AlignSlices (slice aligner): Now allows for displaying orthogonal views (coronal and sagittal) of the aligned image stack. The automatic least squares alignment method now supports masking. The following scripting commands are added: showCoronalView [0|1], showSagittalView [0|1], orthoViewZoomIn, orthoViewZoomOut, setSagittalViewSliceNumber [value], setCoronalViewSliceNumber [value].

New Amira Large Data Pack

- New Large Data pack: New pack for Amira for LDA format support (Large Data Access) enabling interactive visualization of datasets that can't be loaded fully in memory ("out-of-core"). Based on the VolumeViz LDM technology from Mercury, the multi-resolution LDA format and associated support modules are designed to allow interactive visualization and roaming possibly with extremely large data (hundreds of GB), even on relatively low-end machines. The LDA-aware visualization modules support progressive visualization of multi-resolution volume data, asynchronously loaded from disk.

With Large Data Pack option, when loading volume files larger than a user-defined size in preferences, the data can be converted to LDA multiresolution format, paged from disk or loaded in memory when possible. Conversion to LDA format can be applied to original data using the following formats: AmiraMesh, RawData, and StackedSlices (stacks of SGI, TIFF, GIF, JPEG, BMP, PNG, JPEG2000, PGX, PNM, and RAS raster files) and SEG-Y. The conversion process creates a new file and doesn't delete original data set. The Large Data Pack allows converting or reading data up to 8GB. A Very Large Data option is available for converting or reading data above 8GB.

LDA-aware modules can be directly connected to LDA data. Other modules can be connected through using the new LatticeAccess module in order to extract a region (sub-block), possibly sub-sampled, that can fit in memory.

LDA supersedes the former LDD format (LargeDiskData), still supported through ConvertToLargeDiskData and Access modules.

The Large Data Pack comes with two options, one for data up to 8GB, and one for data over 8GB. For data sets smaller than 1GB, a Large Data Pack license is not necessary.

- New LatticeAccess module: This module can be attached to Amira data objects providing a Lattice interface. The Lattice interface is designed to access large data sets in a block-by-block fashion on different resolution levels. Many Amira modules require data sets to be stored completely in memory. The LatticeAccess modules makes it possible to use such modules by converting a sub-block of a large volume into a memory-resident data object.
- New LDA file format: This is the native VolumeViz LDM file format for storing hierarchical multi-resolution volume data, defined by Mercury. Data can be stored in a standalone file (.lda) or associated with a .dat file. In the latter case the .lda file refers to the .dat file.
- New VolumeData data type for supporting Large Data Access
- New module ObliqueSlice (LDA) for Large Data: visualizes 3D image or scalar data on an arbitrary slice
- New module OrthoSlice (LDA) for Large Data: visualizes 3D image or scalar data on an orthogonal slice
- New module SelectRoi (LDA) for Large Data: defines a 3D region-of-interest
- New module Voltex (LDA) for Large Data: texture-based direct volume rendering of 3D images
- Access module for LargeDiskData (LDD): loads a block from a LargeDiskData object
- ConvertToLargeDiskData module (LDD): converts raw data and stacks of image data to LargeDiskData

Changes in ResolveRT, Amira for microscopy

- New module DataPreprocess: used to apply both a background and a flatfield correction to a raw 3D image stack
- New reader for Interfile file format, used for exchange of nuclear medicine image data. Data sets are separated into header files (.HDR) and data files (.IMG).
- Improved reader for Analyze file format, for robustness with noncompliant files.
- Analyze 7.5 files can now be exported. (Previously, this format was for import only.)

- New reader/writer for MRC file format, used for exchange of electron microscopy data. Recognized file extensions for the reader are .mrc and .rec.

New ResolveRT Skeleton Pack

- New module ApplyMask: This module can be used to segment a LargeDiskData file block by block. It allows you to apply a mask to the LargeDiskData file in order to remove or add parts.
- New module ApplyTemplateToMosaic: Script object to apply compute module or filter to all bricks of a mosaic
- New module ChamferMap: performs a distance-map calculation on a 3D segmented LargeDiskData image.
- New module DisplayMosaic: displays the bricks of a Mosaic.
- New module TraceLines: generates a LineSet from a thinned labelfield.
- New module CheckNetwork: The module detects open ends and branching points with more than 3 branches in an attached Lineset. It sorts these points and moves a SelectRoi object to be centered at one point after another. The point is highlighted by a red semi-transparent sphere.
- New module EvalOnLines: The module takes a LineSet and a LargeDiskData field as input. The field is evaluated at each vertex of the lineset and the result stored in the lineset
- New module Mosaic: A data class used to represent overlapping external data objects
- New module DistanceMap: computes a 3D distance field from a binary image.
- New module Thinner: Skeletonization of LargeDiskData objects by thinning
- New module AlignBlocks: If the bricks of a Mosaic were not perfectly aligned during data acquisition, this module can be used to compute the best adjustment between overlapping bricks.
- New module MosaicToLargeDiskData: This module takes a Mosaic containing bricks of overlapping image data and converts them to one LargeDiskData object stored on disk.

Changes in Amira Molecular Pack (Formerly AmiraMol)

- Enhanced Molecule Selection Browser. Added color management: the current colors used in all visualization modules are displayed for each group; user-defined colors can be set and modified; clicking on a color pops up the color editor allowing the user to change the group color; right-clicking a color further allows the user to change the color of all or only the currently highlighted groups. Introduced sorting of groups: groups can now get sorted according to name, index, type, etc; new icons in the Highlighting section, which allow a much thinner representation of the selection browser.
- Enhanced CompMolInterface (Computation of molecular interfaces): No longer restricted to levels with fewer than 257 groups. A level can now have up to 65536 groups.
- New module ComputeHBonds (Computation of H-bonds): Computes H-bonds and writes them to the molecule's topology, which allows their saving (in ZMF format only).
- Enhanced MoleculeView: The cylinders can now have a cap. Two caps are possible: flat or hemispherical. Hemispherical cap gives a much nicer visualization if only cylinders are displayed.
- New module HBondView (On-the-fly visualization of H-bonds): If no H-bond level is present in the molecule's topology, the H-bonds are computed on-the-fly in the HBondView module.
- New module ComputeSecondaryStructure (Computation of secondary structures): Implementation of the DSSP algorithm by Kabsch and Sander. Secondary structures are saved in the molecule's topology, which allows saving of the secondary structures.
- Enhanced module PrecomputedAlignments: Can now also be written and read. This is interesting for the alignment of trajectories.
- New reader for GROMACS File Format.
- Enhanced MolTrajectory data objects (Molecular Observables): It is now possible to set per-timestep as well as per-trajectory bbservables for a molecular trajectory with the Tcl command "set{Int|Float}Observable <observableName> <value> <timeStep>". If <timeStep> is omitted or set to -1, a constant observable, i.e., a trajectory observable is assumed. New observables can only be saved with the ZMF format.

Changes in Amira Mesh Pack

- New PolyhedralGrid data type for extended grid support: unstructured grid type supporting mixed tetrahedron, hexahedron, pentahedron, and pyramid cells (based on the Open Inventor MeshViz package). When reading finite-element or CFD data using, for instance, the Fluent reader, conversion to tetrahedrons is no longer necessary, therefore allowing much larger meshes to be handled.
- New reader for Tecplot ASCII and Binary files. See documentation for description.
- Enhanced and changed Gradient module. It can now handle rectilinear and curvilinear scalar fields as well. This module now has an "apply" button
- Enhanced AlignSurfaces: New port for choosing transformation type: rigid, rigid+uniform scale, affine. New input port ROI for surface alignment based on region of interest.
- Enhanced Shear module with automatic shear angle extraction from DICOM data.
- New module TensorDisplay: This module displays symmetric second order tensors by tensor glyphs. You can select either a sphere, a cylinder, a cone, or three lines to indicate the tensor shape in a slice through the volume.
- New module TensorField: Generates some standard analytical symmetric second order tensor fields. You can use the Arithmetic module to sample the tensors on a uniform grid.
- New module ComputeTensorOutOfCore: This module computes a symmetric second order (diffusion) tensor from a set of N ($N \geq 7$) diffusion weighted images. The images must be available on disk as AmiraMesh files and will be loaded by this module using Amira's LargeDiskData format, which can handle data sizes above the maximum size of available main memory.
- New module ExtractEigenvalues: Extracts the eigenvalues from a symmetric tensor of second order.
- New module RateOfStrainTensor: This module computes the rate of strain tensor for a given displacement vector field.
- New module ParticlePlot: This module displays a vector field with particle animation similar to the ConePlot module. The seed points for the particle traces can be distributed similar to the distribution modes available in DisplayISL. For thresholding, you can enter a mathematical expression evaluated on the magnitude of the input vector field. A Runge Kutta method (third order) is used for propagating the particles. A sample network is

provided in the share/examples directory.

Note: ParticlePlot is a replacement for the older ConePlot module. Even though the native name is ParticlePlot, it will be displayed as ConePlot in the Pool and in the Display pulldown menu. To create an old-style ConePlot module, use the Tcl command "create HxConePlot" after loading the vector library with "dso open hxvector".

- TetraGrid data objects: Tcl interface for volume calculation added. Material access via index changed for getVolume.
- The module PlanarLIC now allows you to control the generation of the noise pattern. This is done using a new input field denoted as "seed". A value of 0 means that a different random noise pattern is used for each successive calculation. Any other value allows you to use the same noise pattern each time a computation is started. The latter yields better results for videos where the LIC plane slices through a volume.
- Enhanced TetraGen: New Tcl method "setMaxDiamRatio". The diameter ratio of the circumscribed and inscribed spheres is a quality measure for tetrahedra. By default, the upper bound is set to 25. Setting it to a larger value may increase the probability of success for the advancing front method, but will also lead to more poor quality tetrahedra, and vice versa.
- Enhanced Splats module (volume rendering for tetra grids): Now supports arbitrary colormap, sorting, ROI.
- Enhanced ChannelWorks and Arithmetic modules: Surface fields are now supported as well as well as grid fields.
- New module LatToHex: Converts 3D lattice into hexa grid.
- New module TriangleDistortion: computes various metric distortion measures between surfaces having the same connectivity.

Changes in optional readers

- Enhanced SEG-Y reader for improved robustness and performance. Note also: SEG-Y can be converted to LDA format. A new predefined colormap relevant for seismic data is available (seismic.col). SEG-Y fences can be visualized with the CurvedSlice module.

- Enhanced reader for DICOM file format: Loading DICOM data is divided into two loading steps now. In a first step only the meta information is read and presented within the DICOM load dialog. Thus, loading large image series (e.g via DICOMDIR) leads to a much quicker response for the user. Images can be inspected within the DICOM load dialog via the right mouse button option "preview image". After final selection of images or image stacks, pixel data are directly loaded into a newly allocated 3D scalar field representing an image stack in Amira, thus allowing larger image collections to be read due to more efficient memory handling. See also: Shear module has been enhanced with automatic shear angle extraction from DICOM data.
- New CAD readers: optional readers for CAD geometry formats: CATIA 4, CATIA 5, IGES, STEP.

Changes in Amira VR Pack (Formerly AmiraVR)

- Enhanced cluster support: easier management of slave nodes through automatic services. Robustness has been improved. Restarting Amira on a slave node can be triggered from the master node. Loading a new cluster configuration now automatically removes all visible objects from the pool for convenience.
- Enhanced stereo user interface: New ports are available in AmiraVR module, for left and right eye offset with immersive configurations, or for offset and parallax ports with flat configurations. Access to viewer's stereo settings (Open Inventor) is disabled when using a VR configuration.
- Improved navigation interaction with mouse with flat tiled screen configurations.
- Enhanced interaction in cluster configuration: manipulation and interaction are enabled on master node. Both are disabled on slave nodes.
- Enhanced Transformer and TabBox manipulators for wand interaction.
- Improved wand navigation (an offset was introduced in some cases).
- Extended support for Mouse Mode: it works now also on Windows platforms.
- New port in AmiraVR module to disable wand highlighting. This can increase performance while viewing in some cases, by avoiding on-the-fly picking in complex scenes.

- Improved reader dialogs: Dialog boxes coming with readers for basic image formats, raw data, Fluent and I-DEAS now appear on the master only when using a cluster configuration.
- Improved 3D ports: FloatTextN is now continuously refreshed in VR configurations. Fixed issue with wand grabbing by FloatTextN ports and menu buttons. 3D buttons activation is now connected to the "clicked" signal instead of "pressed". HxPortButtonMenu now has a 3D representation. HxPortGeneric now has a 3D representation
- Editor buttons are currently disabled while in cluster mode. Editors can still be activated through Tcl scripts (e.g. create [create HxlvEditor] attach data).
- Enhanced support for VR configuration files: Configuration files can be picked up from any location, not only AMIRA_ROOT/share/config. AMIRA_VR_CONFIGS_PATH can be used to set a different location. At runtime, a new item in VR menu is available: "Change Configs Path...".
- New node SoVRProperty node in configuration files: New fields to show or hide Amira main window, console or cursor on slaves: showSlaveGUI showSlaveConsole showSlaveCursor. As interaction is disabled on slaves, a "forbidden" cursor is used. By default the cursor is hidden.
- Improved LogoDisplay: Logo Display does not blink anymore and no longer interferes with the viewAll.
- New Tcl command for display toggle per screen: Object command "setScreen" limits display to given list of screens, -1 for all. Useful, for instance, for LogoDisplay, Annotations, legends...
- New Tcl command "app cluster" to check if Amira is running on a master or a slave node. Returns one of "single", "master", or "slave".
- Enhanced VR Pack event handling for custom modules (see changes in Amira Developer Pack)

Changes in Amira Developer Pack (Formerly AmiraDev)

- Extended public API for Amira developers. More headers now distributed and more Amira classes are exposed. Reminder: headers may not be provided for some classes, in order to

prevent potential compatibility issues and constraints with future releases. Such objects can still be created from Amira custom modules by using Tcl calls.

- New classes for managing OpenGL extensions.
- New classes for thread management.
- New mechanism for extensibility based on interfaces.
- New classes for numeric packages.
- HxDataMapper base class for mapping modules: e.g. take input data and present them in a different way but have no internal state beside ports (i.e. cannot be saved). Placing of Data Mapper modules similar to normal data modules
- New Tcl command "getPackage" to get the name of the package this object belongs to. Tcl Command "all" extended. Option "-classesof <package>" returns all classes belonging to the given package.
- Tcl variable TMPDIR introduced.
- Added -ccheck option to module command: -ccheck allows to specify an extern "C" function of signature, "int check (McTypedObject* obj, const char* userDat)". This function will be called by the object popup. If it returns 0, the module will not be available (similar to -check). You may specify a lib different from the module lib by -ccheckpkg. You may specify user data by -ccheckdat.
- Enhanced VR Pack event handling: Custom VR event handlers can now handle valuator information from controller. Default event handler can be overridden by custom event handler using name "pick", for instance for interfacing multiple or specific devices through custom modules.

Changes since Amira 3.0

- New: Support for Linux Itanium 64
- Slice aligner: Also works on LargeDiskData objects, which are not stored completely in main memory, better interpolation when resampling images, new resize option allowing the result to be bigger than the input image, new edge-based alignment algorithm, better

performance and quality of the least-squares alignment algorithm by means of a hierarchical optimization strategy

- Direct volume rendering with the Voltex module: Instead of palette textures a pixel shader program is used now yielding higher quality images for high-frequency colormaps, support of compressed textures if available
- StandardView module: Now also supports RGBA color images, also a second 3D data set can be superimposed by means of blending, add or max intensity operations, or a checkerboard display
- New module for multi-modal image registration. For example, CT and MR data can be aligned easily. Different criteria such as least squares or normalized mutual information are available. This module is explained in a new tutorial.
- New reader for the SEG-Y data format.
- Extended support for the Leica confocal image format (multi-channel images and time-dependent data)
- New image filters: Existing filters have been revised and new filters such as Gauss 2D or Sobel filters have been added. All filters now can not only be applied in an editor but also in a compute module.
- New semi-automatic segmentation tools: The segmentation editor provides active contours that move automatically towards the object boundaries.
- Script objects: more examples for writing Amira script objects, ready-to-use script objects for creating and playing back demos (DemoMaker and DemoSequence). An online documentation for script objects can be created
- Improved movie maker: support for creating stereo movies
- Improved stereo movie player: it can convert a movie consisting of a sequence of separate image files into a compressed-texture format suitable for fast playback.
- New module to generate arbitrary parametric surfaces from analytical expressions.
- New module ConePlot to visualize vector fields by animated cones.

- New system information dialog: version information of all Amira components now can be easily obtained, including a list of installed patches
- Improved JPEG output, added Tcl variable AmiraJPEGQuality (0...100)
- Improved IO of ply files (endianess issues, colors per vertex)
- Support for AVS UCD files with time-dependent data
- InterpolateLabels: improved quality of the interpolated data, can now also be applied to label fields with stacked coordinates
- Extended export of reconstructed 3D models in VRML
- New module SurfaceCut that displays cross-sections through surfaces separating different regions. Each region in the cross-section is filled and displayed with its respective color. Previously, similar cuts could only be computed for volumetric tetrahedral grids.
- Two new items have been added to the File menu, allowing to quickly reload the files and networks which have been accessed most recently (Recent Files, Recent Networks).
- Improved documentation of global Amira-specific Tcl commands. All these commands are now listed in a common reference section in the User's Guide.
- Includes all patches for Amira 3.0 and many more bug fixes

CHANGES IN AmiraDev:

- New: Support for Visual Studio .NET
- A new, fully automatic system that creates GNUmakefiles, Visual Studio 6 project files, and Visual Studio .NET project files.
- AmiraDev is now based on Open Inventor 4.0 and uses new platform-independent SoQt classes instead of SoWin classes on Windows and SoXt classes on Unix
- Strict separation between Hx* classes not depending on Qt and Qx* classes depending on Qt (implies renaming of some previously undocumented Amira classes)
- Headers of more Amira packages are included now: hximproc providing access to the Amira image filters, hxvertexset providing access to the Amira sphere rendering node

- New tool doc2html allows to create an online documentation for custom modules and IO routines. A new section in the programmer's guide explains how to create such documentation.

CHANGES in AmiraVR:

- New AmiraVR cluster extension, allowing to run Amira on a graphics cluster driving a multi-wall display system. This extension allows it to start multiple instances of Amira in a synchronized way. Each instance is responsible for rendering one particular wall or set of walls. It is possible to load standard Amira networks and to interact with the modules via the 3d menus or via the Amira script interface.
- Improved mouse interaction for standard AmiraVR. In both planar and non-planar configurations you can now interact with the 2D mouse without any restrictions (pick slices, move draggers, etc.). Event processing for screens on a remote display is much faster now.
- Improved 3d menus: Possibility to constrain the menus to the screen plane, making interaction more easy. Possibility to customize the top-level menu, and not only the user menu. Possibility to interact with the 2d mouse in a VR config.
- Improved AmiraVR API: An easy way to define geometry in fixed world coordinates in a module, a new class HxVREnvironment allowing to access all parameters of the current VR configuration from a user module.
- More demo modules, illustrating how to interpret Open Inventor tracker events and controller button events, and how use multiple trackers.

Changes since Amira 2.3

- Slice aligner: reduced memory consumption, new option to align images with respect to a fixed slice
- New module HxDisplace for applying displacement vector fields to geometric models
- Support for TeraRecon's VolumePro 1000 volume rendering hardware including combined geometry and volume rendering and volume rendering of large 3D image stacked (images must not reside in main memory).

- Point probe module: new option for computing an averaged data value inside a sphere
- Line probe module: option for converting a line probe into a line set
- New module for displaying a test pattern for passive stereo projection
- Improved annotation module (multiple lines)
- New scripting guide. Revised Tcl commands for all data objects and modules. Better documentation of the Tcl commands. In order to get the help text for a command or for a port just type in the command in the console window and press the F1 key.
- Better Tcl error messages.
- New DICOM 3.0 export, improved DICOM 3.0 import (image preview)
- New image segmentation editor features, including improved region growing, translation and rotation of selected areas, option for rotated or flipped views, new wrapping tool, new selection replace option in addition to add and subtract, way to create template label fields with predefined materials
- New option tile in the snapshot dialog, which allows generating snapshots with arbitrary high resolution.
- Creation of snapshots with an alpha channel for later image compositing (viewer 0 snapshot -alpha <imagefile>). With this option two snapshots are taken, one with a black and one with a white background. From these images the correct color and alpha values are computed.
- Possibility to write snapshots in DICOM 3.0 format.
- Renamed the GMC module for surface generation to SurfaceGen.
- Improved smoothing of label fields: new algorithm guarantees that no label is changed by the smoothing operation. The new option is available as an option in the SurfaceGen module. This is a major enhancement allowing to reconstruct much better surfaces in many situations. The old smoothing in the image segmentation editor (smooth labels 3D) is still available.
- New features for dealing with large disk data (LDD concept). Very large regular 3D data stored on disk can be quickly accessed in parts or in low resolution. For fastest access a

new distributed disk data file format is provided. Big raw data file, AmiraMesh files, and stacks of 2D images can be accessed via the LDD interface too.

- New Region-of-interest concept. ROI's can be defined either using the new SelectROI module or implicitly using an LDD-Access module. Standard modules such as LineSetView or all module derived from HxViewBase (Isosurface, SurfaceView, GridVolume, HexaView, ...), can be connected to a ROI provider. Then the view will be automatically restricted to the ROI.
- New module for displaying boundary faces in a hexahedral grid.
- Support for the the Leica TIFF image format.
- New -proc option for the module or dataClass Tcl commands used to register objects in Amira .rc-files. With this option a Tcl procedure can be defined which is called right after the object is created. This allows e.g. to modify the default settings of an existing module. It also allows to create popup menu entries for virtual objects (just omit the -class statement). When selecting such an entry no object is created but just the Tcl procedure will be executed. With the same mechanism ScriptObjects can be added to the popup menu.
- New module for creating MPEG files directly from Amira (MovieMaker).
- New CameraRotate object for producing simple animations. The MovieMaker module can be directly connected to this object.
- New module VolumeEdit for modifying a 3D image with 3D drawing tools. Useful for 3D image segmentation and background/noise removal.
- Improved TissueStatistics module. New options area per slice and volume per VOI.
- New Grouping module allowing to define arbitrary groups of elements in all modules derived from HxViewBase (SurfaceView, GridVolume, HexaView, etc.). The grouping module is connected to one or more of these display modules. It allows to define and select groups. The groups can be stored in AmiraMesh files or in network scripts.
- Improved time series control module. The module now optionally allows to interpolate between different time steps (surfaces and surface fields, tetrahedral and hexahedral grids and associated data fields, any other data type derived from HxVertexSet).

- New module CuttingPlane. The module defines cutting plane (via an Inventor dragger). It then cuts all geometry in the scene with this plane and produces a line set. Connected line segments are identified.
- New module SurfDistance. Computes the Hausdorff distance between two arbitrary surface.
- New module AlignSurfaces. Aligns two arbitrary surfaces so that the Hausdorff distance is minimized. The surfaces need not to have corresponding points.
- New module AlignPrincipalAxes. Aligns two arbitrary data objects derived from HxVertexSet (e.g. surfaces, grids, or point clusters) so that the center and the principal axes of both inputs match.
- New module SurfaceNormals for visualizing the normals of a surface.
- VertexMorph module replaced by new Interpolate module. The new module optionally also interpolates data fields connected to a grid or to a surface, or it optionally interpolates the grid or surface if connected to a field defined on such objects.
- New module TetraVectors. Visualizes the vectors of a vector field defined on a tetrahedral grid. Can be connected to GridVolume or GridBoundary. Vectors are displayed on the elements selected by these modules.
- New module StreamRibbons. Computes ribbons in a vector field.
- New module Animate. Allows to animate standard Amira ports (sliders and numerical text fields) using a single Time object.
- Significantly improved Arithmetic module. Now operates on all fields on regular, tetrahedral, and hexahedral grids, as well as on surface fields. Can compute n-component result instead of only a scalar one.
- New module Merge. Combines an arbitrary number of possibly transformed 3D images into one big resampled image using distance based interpolation. Useful for reconstructing 3D models from objects which are scanned in in different parts.
- Colormap icons are shown in the popup menu of PortColormap. Colormaps can be loaded and edited directly from the popup menu. Better representation of transparent colormap in the user interface.

- Improved colormap editor. New menu 'Extras' allowing to set predefined colormaps. Smaller brush for interactive editing of a channel function.
- New local range feature for PortColormap. Previously the colormap range was always taken from the colormap object itself. Now it is possible to define a module-specific range in PortColormap.
- Before quitting Amira now it is checked if any data object or the current network need to be saved. These checks can be disabled or enabled in the preferences dialog.
- Transformed data sets are shown in Italics in the object pool. Modified data sets are marked with an asterisk.
- Significantly improved transform editor. The editor now provides an optional dialog allowing to define absolute or relative transformations exactly using text input field. For vertex set objects the editor now also provides an 'Apply Transform' button. Transformations can be copied into and pasted from an internal buffer. This makes it possible to copy a transformation from one data object to another very easily.
- Improved Curvature module. Now allows to compute the mean curvature, the Gaussian curvature, the maximum curvature, or both main curvature values or their inverse values.
- New module LegoSurface. This module reconstructs a surface from a label field like SurfaceGen, but the surface exactly matches the voxel boundaries.
- Improved online help. Module and editor indices contain short explanation now.
- Better support for color fields with stacked coordinates. In particular, the modules CastField, OrthoSlice, and ObliqueSlice now support such input.
- Many bug fixes and minor improvements.

Changes since Amira 2.2

- Slice aligner: new tool for manual and automatic alignment of 2D slices in a 3D image stack (facilitates reconstruction of geometric models from mechanical/histological cross sections, tutorial and demo included).

- New features for interactive image segmentation, e.g., a wrapper tool, allowing to interpolate 3D shapes from just a few segmented slices, or smoothing by means of morphological operations
- Option to view the current selection and segmented regions in the image segmentation editor in 3D. The selection can also be edited, e.g., cropped away, in 3D.
- New interactive tool for surface editing (move points, flip edges, collapse edges, refines triangles, delete triangles, define new triangles, specify boundary condition IDs and more)
- Better support for multi-channel images (individual channels can be grouped into one object, editors and modules can work directly on the multi-channel object, this includes OrthoSlice, ObliqueSlice, ProjectionView, Resample, CropEditor, and Voltex).
- Better support for time-dependent data using a time step controller (caches and replaces individual time steps on request, can be invoked via "Load Time Series..." option of the file menu)
- Improvements and new tools for measurement (lengths and angles)
- New options for resampling: specify voxel size of output data set, take dimensions and/or resolution of output from reference object
- New module ApplyTransform (resamples transformed 3D image onto new grid with identity transformation, resamples 3D image onto a new grid oriented as defined by a slicing module)
- Improved quality of reconstructed surfaces (compactify option and option for edge contraction in the GMC module)
- "Virtual slider" in text fields (shift-click into a text field displaying a numeric value and move the mouse while keeping the mouse button pressed in order to change the value, mouse wheel works as well)
- Volume rendering: support for palette textures and SGI/HP color table extension (less memory consumption, improved performance), real-time selection of subvolumes via a tabbox dragger (can be activated using the command "Voltex showBox 1"), much less flicker when rotating objects in 2D texture mode

- New file formats: BioRad confocal images, Metamorph STK format, Fidap neutral file format, I-DEAS file format, Analyze 3D images
- Improvements for many existing file formats: ZEISS LSM (16-bit, multi-channel), Leica 3D (memory handling), Fluent (boundary ids)
- Instead of the bounding box now on default the voxel size can be entered in the crop editor, the read raw dialog, and the channel conversion dialog. The bounding box option is still available, too.
- Improved console behavior (TAB auto completion, less flicker)
- Redesigned DICOM import dialog: DICOM files are listed in a table and can be sorted according to different criteria such as series id, file name, z position, date.
- ProjectionView: new option for combined pseudo-color display of both the projected values and the depth information (max + depth), support for projection of subvolumes (restrict option)
- New module ProjectionViewCursor (can be attached to a ProjectionView, shows location of the voxel containing the maximum value).
- New module VertexMorph for interpolating between two vertex set objects (e.g. surfaces) with the same number of vertices
- New module Histogram for computing histograms for any scalar field regardless of the coordinate type.
- New module CorrelationPlot for plotting the correlation matrix of two regular 3D input images of the same dimension. Possibility to segment the images by manually drawing contours into the correlation matrix.
- New module SurfaceArea to compute the surface and/or the volume of the different patches or regions of a surface.
- Enhanced version of the DistanceMap module.
- New option "pack & go" option for exporting network scripts. New preference dialog for further customizing the save network behavior.

- Viewer toggles are shown on the icons in the object pool (objects don't need to be selected any more in order to change the viewer mask).
- New modules selected from a parent's popup menu are automatically selected now (behavior can be turned off in the preferences dialog).
- Performance improvements for illuminated field lines (DisplayISL module) on several platforms like Windows/NVidia
- Better support for transparencies in slicing modules such as OrthoSlice and ObliqueSlice by use of OpenGL's alpha test function
- Surfaces may now have more than 32767 patches.
- Snapshots are always written as 3 channel RGB images, not RGBA. Improved compatibility of exported TIFF files with Windows applications.
- Support for a user-defined material database.
- Specification of colors in the parameter dialog via a color chooser.
- Data in plot window can be saved in Excel csv format.
- Amira 2.3 is based on the newest releases of Open Inventor (version 2.6.2), Qt (version 2.3.1), and Tcl (version 8.3.2)
- All patches released since Amira 2.2 are incorporated in the new version for all platforms. This includes bug fixes as well as functionality enhancements.
- Starting with Amira 2.3 a separate option called AmiraMol is available for the visualization of molecules (see ReleaseNotes for AmiraMol).
- Starting in Q3/2001 a separate option for resolution enhancement by computational deconvolution will be available (AmiraDeconv)

Changes specific to AmiraDev 2.3

- New data type HxTime and associated port/interface HxPortTime
- New API for defining time-out methods/functions for animation tasks

- Two new example modules in the demo package illustrating the new concepts (MyDynamicColormap, MyAnimateColormap).
- Support for multiple result objects in compute modules (HxCompModule).
- Parent objects are now being notified if down-stream modules connect or disconnect (HxObject).
- New evaluator interface allowing the user to define higher-order interpolation methods for 3D data fields