**Slow Performance Issues?**

*A. The problem with the Mac version of AutoDesk 123D Design*

If you are running AutoDesk 123D Design version 2.1, it is likely to have all sorts of performance issues on OS X Yosemite or higher.

Solution:

1. Use the latest AutoDesk 123D Design version 2.2.14. Running it on Parallels Desktop or Boot Camp reveals no such performance issues.
2. Try AutoDesk 123D Design version 2.2.1 for the Mac (the last official version supported up until January 2017).
3. Go back to OS X Mountain Lion. AutoDesk 123D Design version 2.1 runs at a reasonable performance with only minor jittery behaviour when moving 3D objects in orthographic projection mode.
4. Make sure Preview.app is quit (and perhaps other applications to gain the extra free RAM), and internet access is turned off. The latter aspect is particularly bad in the sense that this app has a habit of wanting to constantly send information back to the developers right in the middle of you doing your important stuff with the app.

*B. The problem with the size of 123D files*

Maximum performance in AutoDesk 123D Design for relatively complex 3D models can be achieved by streamlining the 123D files. Due to the way the 123dx files accumulate information for the benefit of the people at AutoDesk to help them learn how you use the software (and by re-creating in precise details your 3D models), a lot of this information is useless for the user who needs a CAD program to run fast enough. No surprise there.

As far as dealing with this silly problem, there is no permanent “automatic” solution. The software was meant to provide the people at AutoDesk with all the usage statistics they require in order to improve the commercial products and nothing else. Now that the task is complete, there is no further need to support this free software despite a number of users still using the app.

For users who prefer to use this software, the steps described below can help to remove much of the digital rubbish from the 123dx files and so bring back a reasonable sense of good performance to AutoDesk 123D Design.

Solution:

1. Save a copy of the .123dx file and change the file extension to .zip
2. Within the zipped fie, locate the .smt file. Change file extension to .sat
3. Import the .sat file into 123D design
4. Save the file as [filename].123dx
5. Delete the .zip file as it has served its purpose.

As you will notice, these steps will dramatically reduce the file size while still retaining all essential information relating to your 3D models. This can only mean one thing: better performance in AutoDesk 123D Design, and a more sane experience of the software when you are trying to achieve more important things in your life.