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### WorldViz Opens German Training Center

WorldViz has opened a new training center in southern Germany. This facility will be used to demonstrate WorldViz's virtual reality products, services and integrated systems in Europe and host WorldViz seminars. This will give potential customers in Europe the possibility to 'try before buy', and see first hand what they can do with a high-end virtual reality system. One of our HMD partners, nVis, will also be utilizing the training center in conjunction with WorldViz. Remodeling is in progress but demos are already available upon request.



The new training center is located close to Bamberg, directly next to the Stauffenberg Castle which is the family seat of the Stauffenberg family. Claus von Stauffenberg was the mastermind behind an attempted assassination of Adolf Hitler and is portrayed in the current Tom Cruise movie, Valkyrie.

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### Vizard 1st Quarter 2009 Update

WorldViz is pleased to announce the Q1 2009 release of Vizard. This is a free update available to the entire Vizard community. This version of Vizard now supports the following devices:

- Xsens Xbus devices
- Polhemus Liberty LATUS devices
- ASL eye trackers
- nVis MX series of HMDs



For a complete list of enhancements and fixes that are delivered with this update go to [Vizard 1st Quarter 2009 Update](#).

To make sure that you have the current version of Vizard, go to the Help menu on Vizard and select "Check for upgrades". This will take you to the Vizard upgrade web page and you can upgrade to the current version of Vizard.

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### Monthly Tech Tip: Send Text to Speech

By connecting to the Microsoft Speech API (SAPI), you can bring text to speech capability into Python and your Vizard script. This [post to the WorldViz forum](#) describes how to install pywin32, the Python for Windows extensions that you need for COM to work. There is also a sample script included that shows this being used within a Vizard environment.



## New Version of Teacher in a Book

Our just released second version of [Teacher in a Book](#) introduces the basics of creating virtual worlds using Vizard and can be downloaded free. The [demos and examples](#) used throughout are essential to its content and can also be downloaded free.



The book is divided up into four sections.

- Basic Scripting provides a brief introduction to writing scripts with Python (the language used by Vizard).
- Modeling introduces users to the essentials of creating and animating dynamic 3D environments.
- Hardware deals with incorporating input from, and sending output to hardware devices.
- Planning your world section provides suggestions for gathering resources and setting up the sequence of events for large scale programs.

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## Upcoming Conferences

The next conference WorldViz will be attending is [IEEE VR 2009](#) in Lafayette, Louisiana, USA, March 14-18, 2009. We will be teaching a 1/2 day hands-on [Vizard tutorial](#) at the conference session. This tutorial will be aimed at both those new to creating VR applications and more experienced VR users interested in trying out new software.



A current listing of our upcoming conferences is available at [WorldViz 2009 Conferences](#).

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