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Nukeygara Reinvents 3D Animation with Akeytsu

Animation and Rigging is Now Fun, Fast and Easy; Official Unveiling at IndieCade 2017

LOS ANGELES, CA, October 7, 2017 – After four years of rigorous development and testing, today at [IndieCade 2017](#) software animation pioneers [Nukeygara](#) announce the official release of [Akeytsu](#), a new tool designed to simplify the animation process and make it as much as 15 times faster, according to its beta users. Offering an artist-friendly UI and a host of industry-first tools, Akeytsu is one of the fastest and easiest-to-use rigging and animation programs available for game development. Early access pricing is available until the official release on October 25, 2017.

“As a lead animator, I was constantly bothered by the heavy and complex 3D tools needed for rigging and animation, and I wasn’t alone,” said Nukeygara co-founder and CEO, Aurélien Charrier. “So we started rethinking and reinventing animation tools to make them simple, intuitive and more productive. We were able to do all that and more with Akeytsu, and this is just the beginning.”

The official release of Akeytsu features several time-saving industry-first tools, including a new IK/FK solver, a first of its kind half rig mirroring process, partial cycling automation, a new way to keyframe and much more.

A few of the new industry-first features in Akeytsu include:

- **Light Rig & Skin** – Skinning and rigging tools have been simplified to accelerate this entire process. Curve manipulators are no longer necessary to handle the character, as

artists can now simply click on the skinned mesh to create their poses. A new duo skin feature provides intuitive duo-steps skinning, saving time without sacrificing high quality results.

- **IK/FK solver** - Doing away with complex manipulators, Akeytsu's simplified process allows animators to handle IK and FK in a single skeleton.
- **Spinner** – Akeytsu introduces a unique 2D manipulator, allowing fast and easy rotation, translation, reverse foot and IK pole vector controls. It has also been designed to avoid the constant and tedious camera view adjustments required by most tools to select thin axis line on screen.
- **Curveboard** – Akeytsu offers a fully integrated F-curve editor directly in the 3D viewpoint, granting users the ability to animate in a single monitor.
- **Cyclemaker** – With Cyclemaker, animators only need to do the first part of a character's motion cycle; Akeytsu will automate the rest. Cyclemaker also makes it so artists can modify motion on just one side, then have the software automatically modify the other.
- **Stacker** – Akeytsu's stacker reworks the X-sheet, from traditional 2D keyframing to fit the 3D workflow, offering a vertical keyframe editor that works in conjunction with the timeline keyframe editor. The stacker takes into account the built-in layering system of the mixer.

Akeytsu is designed for use by small indie teams, larger professional studios or even students looking to experiment with animation software. Using the FBX file format, animators can bring their models into Akeytsu from any 3D package, and then return the modified file to the original program – including game engines – to complete the rendering.

“Akeytsu has an amazing user interface,” said Andre Gauthier, head of Unity's Montreal R&D studio. “It is an extremely well designed character animation tool, and it imports seamlessly in Unity.”

To help develop and polish Akeytsu, Nukeygara put it through a demanding two-year beta process, conducted by over 3,000 animators who used it for gaming, as well animation projects for other mediums. The beta also helped to confirm many of the concerns of Nukeygara's founders, who felt that current animation tools were unnecessarily convoluted. The result is the first 3D program to provide character keyframe animation and rigging features all in one package, simplifying and speeding up the animation process without compromising on quality.

"Akeytsu cuts down on the effort and cost our studio expends to create top-quality animations," said Richard Bisso, co-founder and CTO of Hyperkinetic Studios. "By allowing our artists to switch back and forth between animation and rigging with minimal time loss, we can focus on using the time we save to create more great content for our game Epic Tavern!"

Nukeygara will officially unveil and demonstrate all the new features in Akeytsu at [IndieCade](#) on Saturday, October 7, 2017 at 12 p.m. The presentation, "Akeytsu: 3D Animation. Reinvented." is open to all attendees.

Pricing and Availability

Akeytsu will be available in three versions: Learn (free for students and teachers, \$39 for educational institutions), Indie (\$179) and Pro (\$589). In order to qualify for the Learn version, users need only verify that they are current students and use the program for non-commercial projects. The commercial use of the Indie and Pro versions will be determined by the revenue of the company using the program.

In celebration of IndieCade's 10th Anniversary, Nukeygara will continue to offer its [Early Access](#) pricing throughout the show and until the official Akeytsu launch on October 25, 2017.

Purchasers can download the Akeytsu beta now at the deeply discounted Early Access price, then once the official version is released they will be upgraded at no additional cost. Akeytsu Early Access pricing is: Learn (\$16.99 for educational institutions), Indie (\$79) and Pro (\$279).

About Nukeygara

Nukeygara was founded in Lyon, France in 2014 with a specific purpose: to develop the next generation of 3D animation software. Co-created and headed by Aurélien Charrier, an animator with more than a dozen years of professional experience in the gaming industry, Nukeygara's goal is to completely rethink traditional 3D animation workflows by building software solutions from scratch, with a special focus on optimizing efficiency and ergonomics. In June 2015, Nukeygara released the first Akeytsu beta. Since then, it has continued to develop its core software primarily oriented to the indie games market, but with features that also appeal to other media and entertainment content creators.

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