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# Operating Systems Supported by BRO

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This technical publication describes specific Windows operating systems (OS) that are supported by Breault Research Organization (BRO) for its software products.

**Table 1 BRO Support for Operating Systems**

	APEX	ASAP
<b>Operating System</b>	<b>Windows 7 and Vista:</b> Professional, Ultimate, Enterprise 64-bit only	<b>Windows 7 and Vista:</b> Professional, Ultimate, Enterprise 64-bit

See “APEX: Supported graphics card and Sentinel driver” on page 2.

See “ASAP: Achieving Optimal Performance” on page 2.

### **APEX: Supported graphics card and Sentinel driver**

To assure your system has a supported **graphics card** for APEX, review the list for SolidWorks at:

<http://www.solidworks.com/sw/support/videocardtesting.html>

### **ASAP: Achieving Optimal Performance**

When determining your computer requirements, BRO encourages you to select an operating system that supports optimal performance for ASAP, and uses processor resources intensively for its computation, analysis, and graphical output.

In particular, if you are running ASAP on Windows 7 operating systems with 64-bit versions, you can achieve optimal performance from ASAP by adding as much memory as your budget allows. These operating systems automatically cache the virtual.pgs file in RAM up to the available amount of RAM memory. The virtual.pgs file contains the rays used in the simulation. This is the file that ASAP uses to read and write rays during ray tracing, and it accesses this file for other analyses requiring ray data.

As a general rule, each ray of an incoherent extended source uses approximately 64 bytes of memory. If you know the number of rays in your source, you can use this simple relationship to estimate the size of the virtual.pgs file. For example, if you create 70 million rays, ASAP uses approximately 4.5 GB of available memory. If your initial source size exceeds the available memory, ASAP uses the hard disk space, which is considerably slower and consequently affects certain performances. Similarly, some simulations such as deterministic stray light analyses create rays and add to the size of the virtual.pgs file.

For faster speed, you may want to consider using SSD (solid-state drive) disks, regardless of the Windows operating system, instead of traditional magnetic disks such as hard disk drives (HDDs). If ASAP runs out of available system memory, it uses disk storage. Therefore, ASAP performance improves with the speed of the disk drive systems.

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