

# OutStart SoftSim™

## Cost-effectively deliver interactive simulations for more engaging e-learning

Simulations can be a great way to improve the e-learning experience, but creating them can be expensive. Authors often need programming skills, and delivering a simulation for different purposes requires multiple captures, reducing productivity and increasing inconsistency. Too often, development time and costs can outweigh the benefits.

### Simulations Made Easy with OutStart SoftSim

With award-winning OutStart SoftSim, creating engaging simulations is a snap. An intuitive interface lets authors rapidly develop interactive simulations for Web and Windows-based applications, online processes and forms without any programming.

Unlike other simulation packages, OutStart SoftSim offers efficient "once and done" development. Authors create one simulation, and then use that single simulation for multiple delivery modes, such as a show me demo, an interactive procedure or test, and as online documentation.

Authors can fully simulate reality eliminating the need to set up parallel installations just for training. These *reality-based simulations* reflect best practices and accurately mimic tasks to help users quickly become experts.

OutStart SoftSim is the only simulation solution that offers *optional content management* to centrally manage simulations. With content management, teams of authors can work collaboratively, sharing simulations and other materials maintained in the repository.

OutStart SoftSim has enhanced the quality of e-learning and generated real ROI for a wide variety of companies including Gentiva Health Services, Kodak, Steelcase, Time-Warner Cable, Tropicana and Vanguard Car Rental.

To discover how OutStart SoftSim can help your company create engaging simulations, download a free trial today at [www.outstart.com](http://www.outstart.com).

"Gentiva was able to cut a 2-3 month nationwide systems rollout down to 2-4 weeks with OutStart SoftSim."

- VP of Training Manager, Gentiva Health Systems



## OutStart SoftSim Advantages

OutStart SoftSim delivers outstanding ease-of-use combined with complete simulation functionality

- **Bring interactive courses to market faster** Simulating complex tasks is fast and easy as OutStart SoftSim records every action in real time including multi-action steps, branching, mouse actions, radio buttons, check boxes and more. Authors can embed hints, questions and transitions without programming.
- **Increase author collaboration and eliminate redundant effort** Optional content management lets authors share and reuse up-to-date, standardized materials through a central repository for storing, versioning and managing access to simulations, templates, skins, reviews and other training content.
- **Enhance learning effectiveness** Users watch, try and test their way to proficiency with interactive simulations delivered in multiple modes including show me, try me, quiz me, test me and procedure worksheets, as well as the ability to generate Microsoft® Word, Adobe® PDF, CHM and HTML documents. Learners can dynamically choose the methods that work best for them.
- **Expand the e-learning environment without loss of investment** Expand your e-learning development and delivery capabilities with seamless integration to OutStart Trainer™ to incorporate simulations as content and graded assessments in courseware, and OutStart Evolution® LMS for one-step publishing to learners.

[www.outstart.com](http://www.outstart.com)





## Mini-Case Study: Steelcase

**Challenge:** Reduce costs and time needed to train 2,000 employees on newest version of SAP software.

**Solution:** Created simulations using OutStart SoftSim that give learners the experience of being in front of real application screens. Employees practice actual tasks within the context of the course that provides feedback and guidance.

## Results

- Eliminated dedicated SAP system for training, saving \$200,000.
- Eliminated more than \$30,000 spent annually on printed courseware materials.
- Reduced course length by 50%.
- Significantly reduced help desk call volume.

## A Complete Simulation Development Environment

### Capture

- Multiple capture methods (automatic, configurable hot-key hybrid)
- Mouse, keyboard and text interaction capture
- Radio button, checkbox and list box controls
- Emulator-based applications
- Selectable screen size
- Application, desktop and Windows specific capture

### Authoring

- Objectives-based simulations
- Simple, complex and variable-based branching
- 5 note styles
- Non-action steps
- Audio and narration support
- Computer-generated audio from notes and narration scripts
- Auto synchronization with audio
- Audio import/export
- Multi-lingual translation wizards
- Immediate author preview

- Question creation within simulation
- Spell checker
- Media import
- Zoom
- Complete note and text formatting controls
- Default settings
- Hyperlinks to URLs within the simulation
- Review management

### Content Management Option

- Centralized content storage
- Content versioning
- Content locking and security
- Central review management
- Template management
- Look & Feel Skin management

### Generation

- Show Me, Guide Me, Try Me, Quiz Me, Test Me modes
- Printable procedures list
- Quick Start Card Generation
- Microsoft Word document

- HTML document
- PDF document
- Compiled Help File (CHM) generation
- Single capture and generation for all forms of delivery
- Generation wizard
- Apply multiple skins
- Multiple player options
- Resizable playback resolution
- Scalable playback engine

### Delivery

- Flash and Java playback
- Configurable playback engine
- Configurable playback options (audio on/off, remediation on/off, steps pane on/off)
- Scalable playback engine

### Standards Compliance

- SCORM 1.2
- SCORM 2004
- AICC
- ADA 508

### Systems Requirements

#### Authoring

- 586 Microprocessor or better (Pentium II or better)
- 512 MB RAM minimum
- 40 MB free space minimum
- 10Mb/s connectivity to LAN
- Network Card
- Microsoft Windows® 95, 98, NT Workstation, NT Server, 2000 Professional, 2000 Server or XP
- Microsoft Word 97 or 2000 to generate into Word format
- Microsoft Excel 2000 for Import/export language file, batch audio file import
- Adobe Acrobat 4.0 or higher

- Internet Explorer 4.0 I SP2+ or Netscape 4.5+
- WinZip
- Sound card, microphone and speakers (for audio)

#### Learner

- 586 Microprocessor or better (Pentium II or better)
- 128 MB RAM minimum
- Network Card
- 28.8 Kb/s connectivity to server
- Windows 95, 98, NT Workstation, NT Server, 2000 Professional, 2000 Server or XP
- IE 4.1 and later or Netscape 4.5 and later
- WinZip

- Windows Media Player, v.6+
- Flash Player 3.0 plug-in
- Java plug-in. (SoftSim supports JDK 1.1 or higher. Users do not need a plug-in if they are using IE 4.x, 5.x or Netscape 4.x)
- Sound card and speakers to play audio

#### Connect Option

- OutStart Evolution authoring license
- Microsoft Windows 2000 Server or Windows 2003
- Oracle 8i, Oracle 9i or Microsoft SQL Server 2000
- TCP/IP
- See vendor for DB server hardware requirements

The OutStart product portfolio connects knowledge workers and customers with the training, information and know-how they need to perform their roles more efficiently and effectively. Each OutStart product is designed to meet your needs today while offering a clear growth path to a comprehensive, fully integrated learning environment that protects your investments in learning technology. For more information, please visit [www.OutStart.com](http://www.OutStart.com).

- **OutStart Evolution® LCMS** The industry's most complete Learning Content Management System.
- **OutStart Evolution® LMS** Proven cost-effective Learning Management System for training administration.
- **OutStart SoftSim™** Quick, easy development of interactive, browser-based simulations, tutorials and documentation.
- **OutStart Trainer®** The recognized leader in easy, fast authoring for e-learning.
- **OutStart LMS.com™** Cost-effective ASP solution for LMS (Evolution LMS), authoring and assessment.
- **OutStart Participate®** A comprehensive self-help, expertise and community management platform.
- **OutStart Studio™** Collaborative authoring and content management.

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