

XSIEnvelope – Mike Malinowski

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Overview

XSIEnvelope is a small set of tools which aid in the skinning of meshes. This tool is made up of the following features :

- **Select Affecting**
Start by selecting a deformer, then pressing this button will select all the points which are being influenced by that specific deformer.
- **Select Unused**
Select a deformer, then pressing this will select all the deformers that are not influencing the envelope.
- **Switch Deformer**
Selecting the mesh, then activating this tool will open a pick session where you are prompted to select two deformers. The weights for these deformers will then be switched.
- **Replace Deformer**
Selecting the mesh, then activating this tool will open a pick session where you should select two deformers. The first deformer is the deformer whose weights you wish to be removed, the second deformer is the deformer you want to replace the weights with.
- **Store Point Weight**
Select a single point and clicking this option will store the weight values for that point
- **Apply Point Weight**
Select a single point and clicking this will apply the weight values you have previously stored
- **Cull By Distance**
This allows you to remove all the deformers influence on points which are outside of a specified distance. Selecting a deformer, and clicking this button will pop-up a property page which allow you to adjust a distance slider. To make it a little easier to use a sphere is drawn around the deformer which represents the distance slider. Anything outside of that sphere when you click 'Apply' will no longer be weighted to the selected deformer.
- **Trim Weights**
Select a sub-set of points. Clicking this will prompt you to give a 'minimum allowed weight value'. Any weights below this value will be culled.

Installation & Setup

The plugin is available in both 32 and 64 bit versions, please be sure to download the correct version for your application.

To install the plugin, drag the .xsiaddon file into the Softimage viewport, this will by default install the addon into the User Addons directory. You should then restart Softimage in order to access the preferences.

The Cull By Distance tool requires that you activate the 'Visual Enveloping' mode. By default this is turned off as its an extra resource being used when you're not enveloping. To enable this mode go to File/Preferences/Custom/XSIEnvelope and toggle the 'Enable Visual Enveloping' option.