

Coreform IGA for Abaqus 2026.9

Table of contents

1	Abaqus integration and automation	2
1.1	Redesigned Python interface	2
1.2	Rebuilt Abaqus/CAE application	2
1.3	Persistent Coreform model data	2
2	Meshing and geometry	2
2.1	Local refinement	2
2.2	More robust CAD trimming and boundary tessellation	3
2.3	Faster preprocessing	3
3	Analysis and Abaqus interoperability	3
3.1	Improved implicit direct-integration dynamics	3
3.2	Contact	3
3.3	Nearly incompressible analysis	3
3.4	Improved ODB output	3
3.5	Abaqus translation and results	3
4	Installation and compatibility	4
4.1	Simplified Abaqus Python setup	4
4.2	Supported application	4
4.3	Compatibility changes	4

Coreform IGA for Abaqus 2026.9 introduces a redesigned Python interface and Abaqus/CAE application, experimental local refinement, more robust CAD trimming and boundary processing, and faster Coreform IGA Mesh and Coreform IGA Interop workflows. This release also improves implicit-dynamics and nearly incompressible analysis workflows, simplifies installation, and expands job automation.

i Note

Capabilities marked **Production**, **Beta**, or **Alpha** below use the support levels defined in [Current capabilities and limitations](#).

The [Capabilities matrix](#) provides the detailed scope, applicable versions, limitations, and verification evidence for each capability.

1 Abaqus integration and automation

1.1 Redesigned Python interface

The Coreform IGA scripting interface has been redesigned to be more consistent with other Abaqus scripting interfaces. This is now available in the `coreform` and `coreform.abaqus` Python packages. Portable specifications provide a consistent way to describe probes, IGA meshes, jobs, and their execution settings, while Abaqus-aware records connect those definitions to models, parts, and assembly instances.

The new interface supports creating, editing, copying, renaming, and deleting Coreform definitions. Job automation now covers IGA mesh generation, Abaqus input-file creation, submission, status monitoring, termination, and opening completed results.

1.2 Rebuilt Abaqus/CAE application

The Coreform IGA for Abaqus user interface has been rebuilt on the same model records used by the Python interface. Probe, mesh, and job managers remain synchronized with their saved model data, including changes to instance dependency, suppression, and ownership. Mesh-manager refreshes are also more responsive and no longer become progressively slower as a session is used.

Coreform IGA definitions are recorded alongside native Abaqus operations in recovery and journal files. Replaying a journal reproduces Coreform creations, edits, and deletions, providing a reliable starting point for repeatable model-authoring workflows.

1.3 Persistent Coreform model data

Probe, mesh, and job definitions created with this release are stored with the Abaqus model database. Opening and saving that model database in plain Abaqus/CAE preserves the Coreform records so they are available when the database is reopened in Coreform IGA for Abaqus.

2 Meshing and geometry

2.1 Local refinement

Coreform IGA Mesh introduces **alpha capabilities** for local refinement of immersed rectilinear meshes. A refinement names a region and the level to which intersecting background cells are refined. Regions can be either CAD entities in named geometry sets or geometric primitives. Refinements are defined on the mesh through the scripting interface; a graphical workflow is planned for a future release.

See [Local refinement toward a feature](#) for the authoring API and a complete workflow.

2.2 More robust CAD trimming and boundary tessellation

Trimming now includes better support for parts containing through-holes or disconnected regions. The trimming pipeline is also more robust across a wider range of CAD geometries.

2.3 Faster preprocessing

Boundary mapping, inverse mapping, and repeated boundary evaluations have been reorganized to reduce preprocessing time and memory use, particularly for larger models with many boundary facets. Coreform IGA Interop also reuses boundary information more efficiently as it translates the model and creates Abaqus boundary elements.

3 Analysis and Abaqus interoperability

3.1 Improved implicit direct-integration dynamics

Alpha capabilities for the implicit direct-integration dynamics workflow now handle initial acceleration, preload histories, restarts, and half-increment residual calculations more consistently. The implementation also improves Hilber—Hughes—Taylor time integration for both linear and nonlinear response.

3.2 Contact

Improved the robustness of surface-to-surface contact interactions.

3.3 Nearly incompressible analysis

The **alpha capabilities** locking-resistant formulation for nearly incompressible material response has been substantially revised. The new formulation uses a condensed, degree-reduced pressure field and supports small- and finite-strain workflows, including mixed step kinematics. This remains an **alpha** capability; see [Nearly incompressible elasticity — Cook's membrane](#) for its activation workflow and limitations.

3.4 Improved ODB output

The output mesh in `<job-name>_iga.odb` now guarantees continuous fields throughout the interior without holes, and field results are exact at output-node locations. This provides cleaner, more reliable contour plots in Abaqus/CAE without changing the underlying analysis. Output file sizes have also been significantly reduced and are typically one-fifth to one-tenth their previous size for the same problem.

3.5 Abaqus translation and results

This release includes several interoperability improvements:

- Abaqus names and labels containing spaces are quoted correctly in translated input files.

- Unsupported IGA output variables are reported and skipped without preventing supported output from being generated.
- IGA output databases honor the requested field-output time interval.
- Generated IGA boundary sets remain isolated from native finite-element sets in mixed models.

4 Installation and compatibility

4.1 Simplified Abaqus Python setup

Coreform IGA for Abaqus no longer requires a separate `h5py` installation in the Abaqus Python environment. The product now includes the HDF5 support needed to write Coreform model files, eliminating that installation and configuration step.

4.2 Supported application

Coreform IGA for Abaqus is accessible through the custom application installed with the product: launch it with `coreform_iga` on Linux or `coreform_iga.bat` on Windows. Plain `abaqus cae` does not load the Coreform IGA interface or data classes. Importing the installed `coreform` modules into a plain Abaqus/CAE session is possible but unsupported.

4.3 Compatibility changes

- The redesigned Python interface and GUI do not provide backward compatibility with earlier Coreform IGA journals or with Coreform-specific data saved in model databases by earlier releases. Recreate earlier models and scripts with the new interface; the [User Guide](#) and [Example Problems](#) show the current workflows. The former `coreform` name now belongs to the Coreform IGA for Abaqus Python package.
- The legacy `incompressibility` setting has been removed and has no replacement field. Remove it from carried-over scripts or saved settings. Maintained workflows are available in the [Example Problems](#) section of this documentation.