



industry news

Quark is planning something...

The rumour mill is a-grinding after Quark staged several big press briefings around Europe in September. At the launch of QuarkXPress 7 back in June, the company promised that further products were on their way, by which everyone understood to mean brand new XTensions. Quark hints it may make an announcement later this month, and the company has booked the first keynote slot at this year's MacExpo on 26 October.

<http://euro.quark.com/en/about/events>

Simply Faster study favours QXP

In separate news, Quark revealed the results of a study that is said to demonstrate the return on investment value of QuarkXPress 7, claiming the program is twice as fast as Adobe InDesign CS2 in a test advertising creation and design workflow. The program also came first place in the magazine workflow test. The full results, complete with speed tests and ratings, can be viewed online at Quark's Web site.

www.quark.com/products/xpress/simplyfaster

Telegraph shifts to hub operation

The *Daily Telegraph* newspaper has introduced a 'hub'-style newsroom format in which the editors sit at a central round table (no jokes please), from which their 11 section teams fan out on bench desks. The job of sub-editor has been renamed 'production journalist', and the same teams work on print and online stories versions of their simultaneously. The changes

also involve an office move back into central London and the loss of 54 editorial jobs, including correspondents in Washington, New York and Paris. The remaining staff is currently balloting for industrial action.

Consortium votes in AdSM 2.0

The AdSM Consortium has officially approved AdSM Framework 2.0 Release 8, following a member-wide ballot. Crucially, it incorporates an XMP AdTicket Schema that allows key advertising metadata that would normally be exchanged by hard copy to be embedded into digital artwork files such as PDFs.

www.adsm.org

Hard drives are 50 years old

Created in September 1956, the IBM 350 Disk Storage Unit was the world's first hard disk drive. With a capacity of 5MB, it was the size of a walk-in freezer and weighed one tonne. By contrast, IBM's latest System Storage DS8000 Turbo, launched in August, holds 320TB (terabytes). Today's smallest hard drive is built by Toshiba—a device the size of a 2€ coin, weighing less than 10kg and holding 4GB.

PDFs can open back-door attacks

A British security researcher says it is possible to write an Adobe PDF that launches code for opening 'back doors' on computers, leaving them vulnerable to hackers, according to an article in *eWeek*. The good news is that it is not due to a security problem within PDFs themselves. The bad news is

that the hack can be as basic as adding URL to a malicious Web site within the PDF and having it launch automatically when the file is opened using Adobe Reader. As with most trust-abusing malware, the risk can be limited, or even eliminated, simply by users not opening files of uncertain origin.

www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,2016606,00.asp

Partners host UNDESIGN at LDF

One of the highlights of the London Design Festival, which ran from 18 to 30 September, was an exhibition called UNDESIGN, an installation demonstrating what the world might look like without any design or branding. It included views of supermarkets in which all the product packaging was entirely blank and unidentifiable. The exhibition was hosted by The Partners in Farringdon.

www.londondesignfestival.com
www.partners.co.uk

Diamond cameras go on auction

Canon is celebrating 10 years of the Digital IXUS camera range by producing 10 diamond-encrusted models and auctioning them off on eBay, with the proceeds going to the Red Cross. One of the blinged-up Digital IXUSes had an estimated value of €40,000, while the other nine "his and hers" cameras were valued at a mere €3,500 each. The auctions will take place over the next three months, culminating with the most expensive model being auctioned during in early December.

www.canon.co.uk
www.ebay.co.uk

Burning battery fear worsens

Following well-publicised incidents of notebook batteries exploding into flame, Dell has now been joined by HP, Toshiba, Apple and several other

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events calendar

Adobe Fully Loaded

10 Oct 2006 – Brighton
19 Oct 2006 – Sheffield

www.adobe.com/uk/special/fullyloaded/landing.html

IfraExpo 2006

9–12 October 2006
RAI Exhibition Centre,
Amsterdam

www.ifra.com/website/ifra.nsf/html/expo.html

Advertising & Digital Media Awards

12 October 2006
Royal Armouries, Leeds
www.newspapersoc.org.uk

Digital Print World 2006

17–19 October 2006
Earl's Court, London
www.digitalprintworld.co.uk

World Digital Publishing Conference & Expo

26–27 October 2006
Hilton Metropole, London
www.wan-press.org/digital2006

MacExpo UK

26–28 October 2006
Olympia, London
www.mac-expo.co.uk

BSME Magazine Editors' Awards

14 November 2006
Hilton, London
www.bsme.com/awards

British Book Awards

15 November 2006
Millennium Mayfair, London
www.britishbookawards2006.com

Magazine Production Conference & Awards

16 November 2006
Millennium Mayfair, London
www.ppa.co.uk

Scottish Magazine Awards

30 November 2006
Radisson Hotel, Glasgow
www.ppa.co.uk

▶ notebook manufacturers in recalling Sony-built batteries. Certain airlines have been spooked by the fuss, too: Virgin Atlantic currently runs serial-number checks on Dell and Apple notebook batteries before allowing them on board, while Korean Air has banned them altogether.

World newspaper chooses Quark

The "world's largest international newspaper", Metro International, has standardised on QuarkXPress 7 to produce all of its 69 editions in 93 major cities in 21 countries and 19 languages around the world. The program's support for

international language-friendly OpenType fonts was quoted as a major factor in the decision to upgrade to version 7. Metro International is not published in the UK.

www.metro.lu

Epson touts its print technology

Epson has begun actively promoting its Micro Piezo inkjet printing technology with a view to making commercial and industrial deals beyond its current remit of photo labs and textile printing. Exactly where this will lead is uncertain, but Epson, along with manufacturers

such as HP, has in the past demonstrated the capability of inkjets to produce anything from circuit boards to display structures through printing.

www.epson.co.uk

XMPie sets up user group

XMPie, the developer of variable data personalisation plug-ins for Adobe Creative Suite, has set up a Users' Group for its customers. It is intended as a self-help community, although XMPie plans to provide a channel for members to submit feature requests at a future date.

www.xmpieusers.org



hardware

Apple accelerates Mac Mini

Apple has upgraded the processors inside its two Mac Mini ultra-compact computers. The entry-level Mac Mini with Combo DVD-ROM/CD-RW drive (£399), previously containing a 1.5GHz Core Solo processor, now features a 1.66GHz Core Duo. The other model with DVD-RW/CD-RW SuperDrive (£529) has been bumped up from a Core Duo 1.66GHz to 1.83GHz.

www.apple.com/uk/macmini

More G4 upgrades on the way

Sonnet Technologies has announced two dual-processor upgrade options for the Apple PowerMac G4 (mirrored drive door) and Xserve G4. The Encore/MDX G4 Duet, based on PowerPC G4 7447A processors with 512KB SRAM, will be available shortly in 1.6GHz and 1.8GHz models. UK prices have not yet been released, but the US prices are \$500 and \$600 respectively.

www.sonnettech.com

Rock announces 'Xtreme' laptop

Rock Direct has created what it calls the "thinnest gaming notebook on steroids", the

Xtreme CTX Pro, available in models T72 (£1,249), T74 (£1,599) and T76 (£1,749). All models come with an Intel Core 2 Duo processor (the T7200, T7400 and T7600 respectively), a 17-inch WSXGA+ display, a 100GB hard drive, 1GB memory, integrated wireless networking and a three-year warranty. The T76 model is fitted with a NVIDIA GeForce Go 7900 GTX 512MB graphics chipset. Forget games, this is a serious graphics notebook.

www.rockdirect.com

Sony shows 'wide' compact laptop

Sony has announced that it will soon be selling a range of consumer notebooks with a 15.4-inch widescreen display (1280x800 pixels), 80 to 100GB hard drive, integrated wireless networking, gigabit Ethernet, DVD writer, memory card slots, and up to 1GB of memory. The Vaio N10 is available in three models, each with a Core 2 Duo processor, priced between £699 and £799.

www.sony-europe.com

Smallest footprint A2 printer ever

Epson has launched the Stylus Pro 3800, an A2 inkjet printer with a smaller footprint than any

other A2 printer in the world, says the company. It uses Epson's UltraChrome K3 eight-colour pigment ink system, including both matt black and photo black cartridges, allowing you to switch between matt and glossy media in the software driver without having to swap out the cartridges themselves. Print resolution is 1440x2880dpi, and a 100Mbit Ethernet interface is included as standard. £1,169.

www.epson.co.uk

HP breaks the 100-inch barrier

HP has announced its first Designjet inkjet printer to produce 104-inch (2.64-metre) wide output. The HP Designjet 10000s is intended as a signwriter for 'super-wide' banners, billboards, wall murals, and window and vehicle graphics. It offers six-ink printing using piezo printheads with a dot resolution of 720dpi.

www.hp.com/go/thinkgrande

HP reveals photo Designjets

At Photokina, HP announced two wide-format Designjet printers that are capable of producing what the company calls "museum-quality" photo prints on media up to 44 inches wide.

The Designjet Z2100 is an eight-ink device, while the Designjet Z3100 uses 12 inks including HP 70 Gloss Enhancer and HP Quad-Black cartridges. Both printers incorporate an embedded spectrophotometer based on X-Rite Eye-One technology, and HP has chosen Colour Confidence as its technology partner for the Z series.

www.hp.com/uk
www.colourconfidence.com

Ethernet without wires re-emerges

Solwise is breathing new life into the technology of running small Ethernet networks over mains power cables with the launch of a 200Mbit HomePlug Ethernet Adaptor. Freelancers and small offices can set up a 200Mbit network just by connecting each network device to an Adaptor, which in turn plugs into the nearest mains socket. No additional Ethernet cabling is required. The only drawback is that each 200Mbit Adaptor costs a hefty £74.99.

www.solwise.co.uk

Canon looks from a wide angle...

Canon has launched its first compact digital camera to feature a wide-angle lens. The Digital IXUS 850 IS has a wide-angle 28mm lens with 3.8x optical zoom, 7.1 megapixel capture, ISO 1600 and a 2.5-inch LCD viewer. The product also comes with popular Digital IXUS features such as image stabilisation, face recognition and 17 shooting modes. The camera supports SD/MMC memory cards plus the new SDHC format and its capacities of up to 2GB. £369.

www.canon.co.uk

...and tidies up both market ends

Canon announced several other new digital cameras in September. The Digital IXUS 900 Ti (£399) is the new top-of-the-range Digital IXUS, featuring 10 megapixel capture, a 3x optical lens and a titanium casing. At the other end of the range, the Digital IXUS i7 (£249) is the smallest camera of the brand,

being sized 96.1x45.1x23.9mm and available in four colours. It offers 7.1-megapixel capture and a 2.4x optical zoom lens.

Also new is the PowerShot G7 (£449), a 10-megapixel camera with 6x optical zoom and Canon's new DIGIC III image processor. It offers a hot shoe for flash attachments, supports lens options, and is styled in a more classic fashion to suit serious photographers.

www.canon.co.uk

Contone quality in A3 colour laser

Konica Minolta has launched the magicolor 7450, an A3+ colour laser printer with an A4 sheet speed rating of 25ppm in either colour or black and white. The company says its 600dpi print engine can reproduce high quality continuous tone photo images with the benefit of advanced colour matching, an Automatic Image Density Control (eAIDC) system, and Pantone tables. It features a 733MHz processor, 256MB memory, PostScript 3 and gigabit Ethernet interface as standard. £2,814.

www.konicaminoltaprinters.co.uk

Fast colour for small workgroups

Konica Minolta has also revealed three small workgroup A4 colour lasers rated at 5ppm (colour) speed: the magicolor 2500W (£188), 2530DL (£211.50) and 2550 (£470). The entry-level 2500W is a Windows-only device with 32MB of memory and a USB 2.0 interface. The 2530DL is multi-platform compatible, comes with 64MB of memory and is capable of photo printing at 600x2400dpi resolution. The magicolor 2550 is a network printer with 128MB of memory and extra paper feeder and duplex options.

www.konicaminoltaprinters.co.uk

USB-rechargeable batteries invented

Moixa Energy, a specialist in renewable and portable energy, has created the USBCELL, a rechargeable battery that can be charged from a computer's USB port without the need for additional adapters or cables.

You just flip open the cap of the battery and plug it in. AA size is available now, with other battery sizes expected in the future. £12.99 for a pair.

www.usbcell.com



Graphire4 now has Elements 4

Wacom has repackaged its Graphire4 Studio (£99.99) and Graphire4 Studio XL (£179.99) pen tablets to include version 4.0 of Adobe Photoshop Elements.

www.wacom-europe.com/uk

Low-cost maker eyes 22in display

BenQ has announced a 22-inch widescreen LCD monitor. The FP222W supports a resolution of 1680x1050 pixels (WSXGA+) and claims a 5ms response time. Pricing has not yet been set.

www.benq.co.uk

A camera that recognises faces

Fujifilm says it is taking face recognition to the next level with its FinePix F31fd compact digital camera. The 6.3 megapixel camera can lock its 3x zoom autofocus lens on to 10 faces in one frame, making it possible to take shots very quickly without worrying about accidentally focusing on a background object. It also features Natural Light & Flash mode, which takes two shots in rapid succession just in case the first is unflattering. UK pricing has not yet been set.

www.fujifilm.co.uk

S5 Pro aims at new D-SLR user

Fujifilm plans to replace its FinePix S3 Pro digital SLR

what's on at mac expo?

There are six streams to this year's MacExpo in London: Design & Publishing, Digital Photography, Digital Video, Digital Audio, iLife & Entertainment, and Business Solutions.

The Design & Publishing stream features a 'Showcase' intended to display case studies of successful projects from across the design, print and online communities.

The Business Solutions stream includes a FileMaker Business Solutions Village. FileMaker developers, including those working in the field of publishing, will be demonstrating their industry-specific packages.

Theatre events

Plans for a conference during MacExpo have been ditched this year. Also, the main hands-on theatre sessions are mostly focused on generic Mac issues. However, Quark and Adobe, among others, will have their own theatre presentations at their stands. Quark will deliver a major keynote at 10am on the first day of the show.

Nikon, Sony, Canon and HP are all participating in a 'Digital Imagery' zone.

Exhibitors

Roughly 100 exhibitors have booked to attend. These include Adobe, Apple, *Digit*, Eizo, Epson, Extensis, Formac, HP, *iCreate*, iProof Systems, iStockPhoto, Konica Minolta, LaCie, Logitech, *MacFormat*, *MacUser*, *Macworld*, Media Training, Microsoft, Nikon, OnOne Software, Pantone, Parallels, Phase One, Print Devizor, Quark, Sonnet, Sony, Wacom and Xerox.

MacExpo 2006
National Hall, Olympia,
Kensington, London

Thu 26 Oct: 10am – 6pm

Fri 27 Oct: 10am – 6pm

Sat 28 Oct: 10am – 5pm

Tickets £12 (£6 until 7 Oct)

www.mac-expo.co.uk

► camera with the FinePix S5 Pro. The new model features a Super CCD SR Pro sensor for greater dynamic range, better noise limitation and an ISO range from 100 to 3200. It can capture images at up to 4256x2848 pixels, and supports Compact Flash and Microdrive media. The camera is expected to hit the shelves in February 2007.

www.fujifilm.co.uk

Carry all your photos around

Canon has launched two portable media storage devices, the Media Storage M30 and Media Storage M80. They feature a 30GB or 80GB hard drive respectively, with a 3.7-inch TFT screen, CF and SD card reader, PictBridge functionality, and USB 2.0 and earphone connections. The devices can play back images (including RAW), audio and movies. UK pricing has not yet been set.

www.canon.co.uk

Epson upgrades image storage

Epson has been producing its own range of portable media storage devices for some time, and now it has released the 40GB P-3000 (£349.99) and 80GB P-5000 (£499.99), featuring a 4-inch viewer and Epson Photo Fine Ultra technology for high quality playback. Both support a wide range of image, audio and movie formats, and let you print directly to Epson printers.

www.epson.co.uk

Sony introduces ebook reader

Sony has begun selling its Sony Reader in the US. It is a portable device that looks a bit like an outsize palmtop computer, measuring 17.5x12.5x1.4cm (about the size of a slim paperback book) and weighing 250g. It features a high-resolution 170ppi 6-inch screen with a white background, 64MB internal memory and a slot for removable memory cards. The battery supports up to 7,500 page turns between recharges, and it can also play MP3 audio. Pricing is around \$300 to \$400.

www.sony.com/reader

software

Adobe launches Acrobat Pro 8

Adobe has announced version 8 of the Acrobat range, including Acrobat Professional, Acrobat 3D and the free Adobe Reader. The products can be pre-ordered now and are expected to ship within a few weeks. The Professional edition will be included with a fresh 2.3 release of Adobe Creative Suite Premium. For more details, see the panel opposite.

www.adobe.com/uk/products/acrobatpro

Creative Suite 2.3 gets Dreamweaver

Adobe's imminent 2.3 release of Creative Suite Premium not only includes the new Acrobat 8 Professional but also the leading Web authoring package previously under the Macromedia brand, Dreamweaver 8. Confusingly, the suite still contains GoLive CS2, Adobe's direct competitor to Dreamweaver. All the other programs in the suite—Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Bridge—are unchanged.

Creative Suite 2.3 is priced at £1,083, upgrades £163.

www.adobe.com/uk/creativesuite

Lightroom beta shifts up a gear

Adobe has released a fourth public beta of its Lightroom application software for digital photographers. Announced at Photokina at the end of September, beta 4 brings the Mac and Windows editions level, introduces a white balance selection option and tone curve adjustment feature, and allows you to rename and convert files to DNG (digital negative) format.

<http://labs.adobe.com/technologies/lightroom>

Connect eases Web conferencing

Adobe has rebranded Macromedia's Breeze Web conferencing technology as

'Acrobat Connect'. It allows anyone to run a live, secure, real-time online conference with the minimum of setup, and being Flash-based, participants don't need to install special software. In addition to text and graphic presentations, Acrobat Connect allows you to show your desktop in real time, making it useful for training and remote collaboration. Conferences can be recorded and played back. The Professional edition of Acrobat Connect adds more collaboration tools and integrated IP telephony.

A trial version goes live in November, and the commercial version follows in "early 2007". UK prices have not yet been set.

www.adobe.com/uk/products/acrobatconnect

K4 is joined by 'little brother'

SoftCare has announced a "little brother" to its flagship InDesign/InCopy-based editorial workflow system, K4. Known as K2, the new sibling is aimed at small publishing houses, agencies and companies. It has been pre-configured to make it easy to set up and learn, supports remote collaboration and other core K4 technologies, and can be upgraded to K4 at a later date. K2 is not shrinkwrapped software, though—it still needs to be purchased from and installed by one of SoftCare's approved system integrators.

www.softcare.de

Corel finally personalises PSP

Corel has released Paint Shop Pro Photo XI. This is the second version of Paint Shop Pro since Corel acquired Jasc Software two years ago, but this is the first to feel like an upgrade rather than just a Corel rebranding exercise. The upgrade features a new Photo Organizer, a quick-click Color Changer tool, skin smoothing, and more filter effects. Corel has repositioned the program as a photo utility for use with digital cameras, helping

differentiate it from Corel Photo-Paint, the company's Photoshop-style production-quality raster image editor, and Painter, its real-media effect paint package.

Windows only, £89.99 full, £59.98 upgrade.

www.corel.co.uk

Elements 5.0 focuses on fun

Adobe has announced a version 5.0 upgrade to Photoshop Elements. If there was any dispute about this product's target audience, version 5.0 makes it quite clear—the program is for kids and families playing with compact digital cameras. All the upgrade features concern album layouts, animated galleries, flipbooks and other such 'fun' projects. Windows only, £83.

www.adobe.com/uk

Manage images with 3D icons

FileBrowse is a brand new media browser that makes use of 3D icons and an animated interface to make file browsing intuitive and pleasantly interactive. It also shows big thumbnails instantly, reveals essential metadata automatically, and can preview all common image and movie formats, including Photoshop PSD, Illustrator AI and Word DOC. It can even preview all the pages of a PDF as big, readable thumbnails. \$25, Mac only.

www.filebrowse.com

Office 2007 gets fresh for launch

Microsoft has issued a final "technical refresh" of Beta 2 of Office 2007. This is apparently the last update to the beta programme—apparently offering improved performance, better integration and collaboration tools, and a general tidy-up—before the actual product launch. Although Microsoft Office beta testers must pay to download the betas, this technical refresh is free.

www.microsoft.com/office/preview

plug-ins

WW upgrades editorial system

WoodWing Software plans to release version 4.2 of its Adobe InDesign/InCopy-based editorial system, Smart Connection Enterprise, next week at IfraExpo 2006. The new version supports 'editioning' for creating and managing multi-edition publications, LDAP integration for network collaboration, a Sticky Notes feature, hierarchical queries and full audit trailing.

www.woodwing.com

Enhance print options in QXP7

Badia Software has released Printools 5.01, a Universal Binary XTension for QuarkXPress 7.01. This XTension expands your printing options with the ability to run preflighting routines, add page slugs, run multiple print jobs in batches, and automate functions such as outputting PostScript files and renaming print jobs. £81 (upgrade £41).

www.badiasoftware.com

Quark distributes Atomik XML

Quark has announced it will distribute the QuarkXPress 7-compatible release of EasyPress Technologies' Atomik XML Publisher, an entry-level XML solution based on XTensions technology. Atomik XML Publisher provides a simplified interface for basic XML import and export, and is now fully compatible with both Windows

and Mac editions of QuarkXPress 7, including the Universal Binary version 7.01 for Intel Macs. £175.

www.easypress.com

Improv your spelling in layouts

Woodwing Software has launched version 4 of its advanced spellchecker plug-in for Adobe InDesign and InCopy CS2, Smart Speller. The upgrade incorporates better TALO Institute spelling modules.

www.woodwing.com

Zevrix Solutions LinkOptimizer 2.0

Zevrix Solutions has launched an upgrade to its LinkOptimizer plug-in for Adobe InDesign. It automatically reduces the size of images in a layout to suit the required crop and effective resolution of the final output. Version 2.0 generates copies of the image files and can apply custom sharpening and colour conversion. Non-rectangular images are now supported, and the links table is fully sortable. \$79.95, Mac only.

www.zevrix.com

FlexoStepX now works for CS2

Wriston Development has updated FlexoStep X, its step/repeat/distortion plug-in for Adobe Illustrator, to version 1.1. The update is now compatible with Illustrator CS2.

<http://flexostep.com>

and fix various other minor problems such as with USB support, digital camera support and OpenType compatibility in Microsoft Word. The update can be installed by choosing *Software Update* from the Apple menu.

www.apple.com/uk

what's new in acrobat 8?

With the launch of version 8, there are now seven products in the Acrobat range:

Acrobat 8 Professional

This is the full-featured package used in professional PDF environments including prepress and publishing. £464 (upgrade £158)

Acrobat 8 Standard

Used for producing and handling PDFs without the advanced editing and processing functions. £287 (upgrade £93)

Acrobat 8 Elements

A simple PDF creator, sold on an enterprise-wide 'per seat' basis.

Acrobat 3D Version 8

Essentially the same as the Professional edition but with 3D viewing capabilities built in. £969 (upgrade £528)

Adobe Reader 8

Inevitably, there will be an upgrade to the free PDF reader to support the new reviewing and form filling functions.

Acrobat Connect

A real-time, online conferencing service for up to 15 participants, not a program. Priced by monthly subscription.

Acrobat Connect Professional

An extended edition of Connect with more collaboration tools and integrated IP telephony. Priced on a scalable enterprise/usage basis.

Acrobat 8 Professional

Since the Professional edition is the one used in the page layout industry, we'll focus on the new features in this program only.

Create from INDD

You can generate a PDF by importing pages from InDesign files, choosing appropriate PDF Settings as you do so.

PDF package

Combine multiple PDFs into a single 'package' file for convenient portability. This allows separate PDFs to maintain their distinct identity within the package, for example if some of the source PDFs contain digital signatures.

Easier shared reviews

Web-based reviews are now as easy to set up as email-based reviews, on both Mac and Windows platforms, and reviewers can see each others' comments as a live RSS feed.

PDF/X in Save As

You can generate PDF/X-compliant documents simply by picking the standard you want from the *File > Save As* menu. PDF/X-1a, PDF/X-3, PDF/X-4 and PDF/X-A are supported.

Preflight corrections

Problems revealed in a preflight check can be corrected automatically using Fixups, and the complete workflow saved as a droplet. The preflight interface has been simplified and now adheres to GWG terminology.

Submission manager

JDF functionality for submitting files has been expanded to incorporate automatic PDF generation from InDesign, preflighting, correction, validation, reporting and submission.

More crop controls

The unintuitive Crop Pages dialogue is still there, but you are given more controls for fine-tuning the placement of content onto a new paper size.

Watermarks

Watermarks can be added into the annotation layer.

Form filling

Forms created in Acrobat 8 Pro can be filled in and saved using Adobe Reader 8.

Distiller performance

Acrobat Distiller runs much faster than before.

Permanent redact

Permanently conceal and remove page content, metadata and hidden layers.

Interface

The toolbars have been reorganised again to make it a bit easier to find the essential functions. Page thumbnails appear as you drag on the scrollbar to move through a long document.

updates & fixes

Apple Mac OS X 10.4.8

Apple has released a 10.4.8 update to Mac OS X to correct security issues, improve Rosetta performance (so that older PowerPC applications run more efficiently on Intel-based Macs),

► Readiris Pro 11

I.R.I.S. has updated the Mac edition of its flagship optical character recognition software, Readiris Pro 11, as a Universal Binary. Apart from running natively on Intel-based Macs, the program features are unchanged since its launch in February.

www.irislink.com

Apple Boot Camp 1.1.1

Apple has updated Boot Camp, its free utility for setting up Intel-based Macs as Windows dual-bootable machines, to version 1.1.1. Still officially a prerelease beta, Boot Camp 1.1.1 supports the newest Core 2 Duo Macs.

www.apple.com/macosx/bootcamp

Adobe Photoshop CS2 9.0.2

Adobe has updated Photoshop CS2 to version 9.0.2. on the Mac platform (it was previously only been available for Windows). It fixes crashing errors with unsupported file types, a banding print issue and a problem with an incorrect colour space warning, and fully supports TIFFs with layer data greater than 2GB.

www.adobe.com/support/downloads

Apple Aperture 1.5

Apple has unveiled a version 1.5 update to its digital photo post-production program, Aperture. The update opens

up the library to let you store images anywhere, including on removable drives, comes with new pre-filled IPTC metadata presets, improves the Loupe with up to 1,600% zooming, and introduces a luminance-based Edge Sharpen filter and a new Color tool. The update is free for registered owners.

www.apple.com/uk/aperture

Extensis Portfolio 8.1/8.1.1

Extensis has updated Portfolio to version 8.1 for Windows and version 8.1.1 for Mac. The update improves Camera RAW support to include the Canon EOS 30D and adds an Adobe InDesign CS2 filter for extracting previews

from layouts. The Mac edition also comes with support for the QX-Drag-and-Drop XTension for QuarkXPress 7.

www.extensis.com/portfolio

SoftPress Freeway Pro/Express 4.3

SoftPress has updated the Pro and Express editions of Freeway, its flagship Web site development package for Mac, to version 4.3. The update includes features to get around problems in Microsoft Internet Explorer 6 for Windows; this can be applied on a page-by-page basis in the Pro edition. Also new is a Styles Inspector.

www.softpress.com/support/updates.php

tips & tricks

Knock out black in InDesign

By default, all text, fills and strokes that have been set to 100% black in Adobe InDesign will overprint other inks when printed. Here are three ways to force black objects to knock out colours behind them instead of overprinting them.

(1) Open the Swatches palette, and drag and drop the {Black} swatch onto the *New Swatch* button. This creates a duplicate colour called *Black copy*. Anything coloured with this will knock out rather than overprint, but will still be part of the black ink separation.

(2) Select the black text or object you want to have knocking out other colours, then change its *Tint* value in the Swatches palette to 99.9%. Although this as a grey tint, it will still appear black. All tints knock out rather than overprint.

(3) To make black knock out everywhere in an InDesign CS2 document, go to *Preferences > Appearance of Black* (for InDesign CS, go to *Preferences > General*), deselect *Overprint [Black] At 100%* and click *OK*. You can also make this the application default (not recommended!) by doing this when no documents are open.

As always, you can check which objects overprint and which knock out by going to *Window > Output > Separations Preview*, then selecting individual ink separations.

Convert RGB to CMYK at output

If you are working with RGB images in your layouts and produce Adobe PDFs for output by exporting pages directly from QuarkXPress or InDesign, the embedded images will still be in RGB format. Printers often ask for images to be prepared as CMYK instead.

In a previous issue of *LAYOUT* we explained how to convert all images in a QuarkXPress 6.x or 7 layout to CMYK in one easy step using Quark Vista. Here's another way, you can try with the added advantage that you can also use it with InDesign. All you have to do is print the layout to a PostScript file, ensuring the colour preferences are set up for CMYK only. Then run Acrobat Distiller on the PostScript file to create the final PDF.

For QuarkXPress 7, for example, go to *File > Print*, choose a PostScript printer from the pop-up at the top, pick the appropriate printer definition

from the *PPD* pop-up, then click on *Colours* in the left-hand pane and choose *Composite CMYK* from the *Setup* pop-up.

For Adobe InDesign CS2, go to *File > Print*, choose *PostScript File* from the *Printer* pop-up and a printer definition from the *PPD* pop-up, then click on *Output* in the left-hand pane and choose *Composite CMYK* from the *Colour* pop-up.

In both cases, when you click on the *Print* button, the program will convert all RGB and spot colour data in the layout to CMYK using the current colour management setup.

Save QXP 7 docs to QXP 6 format

QuarkXPress 6.x lets you save documents/projects to a previous version format by providing a *Version* pop-up selector in the *Save as* dialogue window. This behaviour has changed for QuarkXPress 7: you can still save version 6.x-compatible projects but the command is no longer in the *Save as* dialogue.

Instead, go to *File > Export > Layouts as Project*. Here's where you can find the *Version* pop-up, letting you choose 6.0 rather than 7.0. Also note that this dialogue window additionally allows you to specify which Layout Spaces in your current project should be exported to the version 6.0-compatible file.

workarounds

Still can't delete unused colours

In a previous issue of *LAYOUT* we suggested several ways of getting rid of unused colours from Adobe InDesign's Swatches palette when its *Delete Swatch* button is inexplicably greyed out. However, we have discovered instances where even these solutions don't work.

If your document contains colours that simply won't budge from the Swatches palette whatever you do, try this...

Take a note of the names of the unused colours that you can't delete. Go to *File > Export* and export the document to InDesign Interchange format. Close the document. Locate the '.inx' file you just exported

and open it using a plain text editor—the Interchange format is basically an XML file. If you use a script editor to open the file, you will see all the XML tags highlighted in colour.

Search through the document until you find the `<colr ... />` tags. The information between each pair of tags describes a named colour in the document. Look carefully for the name of a colour you couldn't delete in InDesign, select its complete description (from its opening tag `<colr` to its closing tag `>`) and then delete it. Repeat for all the other unused colours you want to get rid of.

Save the file, making sure it is saved in plain text format. Now open the file with InDesign, and check in the Swatches palette that the unwanted colours have at last gone. Save the document.

If the file is unreadable, then you have deleted something you shouldn't have, or you haven't saved the file in plain text format. In this case, just open the original document, export it to Interchange format, and try editing it anew.

Font activation crashes InDesign

There have been a small number of reports of Adobe InDesign CS2 for Mac crashing when trying to open a document that uses recently installed fonts, even though that same document had given no problems with those fonts on earlier occasions, and the fonts appear to work fine in other documents.

The problem turns out not to be with InDesign but with a malfunctioning font activation plug-in that affects a handful of users of Linotype FontExplorer X. If your fonts are scattered all over your computer, FontExplorer X will keep track of them. But if you have not set up the program correctly, or if you have moved fonts around manually, or moved all your data to a different hard disk or to an entirely new Mac, FontExplorer X's font activation plug-in for InDesign seems to get confused when trying to load up newly installed fonts required by an InDesign document. Re-installing FontExplorer X makes no difference.

Here's how to fix it. Restart

your Mac, run FontExplorer X, go to *Tools > Clean System Fonts Folders* and click *Clean*. Then click on the Apple menu and choose *Preferences*, click *Advanced* and specify a *FontExplorer X font folder* location. Click *Move now* or *Copy now*, then close the dialogue window. Try opening the problematic InDesign document anew. It should open correctly.

If the document still crashes in InDesign, there is another less convenient workaround that will at least allow you to open the document.

Restart your Mac, run FontExplorer X and go to *Tools > Plug-in Manager*. Next to *Adobe InDesign CS/CS2* (whichever is appropriate), click the *Remove* button and then click *Close*. This disables automatic font activation. Now just ensure the fonts required by the problematic InDesign document are active before you open it, and it should open fine.

Note that if you have to keep activating the same fonts repeatedly in FontExplorer X (that is, it doesn't remember manually activated fonts between sessions), then you should definitely carry out the full 'clean-up and copy/move' routine explained above.

Fuzzy printouts from Acrobat

Here's the scenario: all your PDF printouts suffer from fuzzy text, as if someone had applied anti-aliasing or your colour printheads are slightly out of alignment. Text that should be black looks greyish. You try outputting the same PDF to the same printer from another computer, and this time it prints perfectly.

The problem may be caused by an erroneous option in Acrobat's advanced print settings. Open a PDF in Acrobat and go to *File > Print*. Click on the *Advanced* button in the Print dialogue window. Make sure the *Print As Image* option at the top is unticked. If it's already unticked, select *Acrobat Default* from the *Settings* pop-up.

Click *OK* and then *Print*. Your printout should be noticeably less fuzzy.

publications

MAGAZINES

Layers

Sep/Oct 2006

Layers appears to be increasingly obsessed by digital cameras, but there is also a feature looking on the typography of letterspacing, and another on placing images in Adobe InDesign. The tutorials section mostly revolves around Web and video work, but there is a walkthrough on InDesign's interactive features. The reviews section covers Nikon Capture NX, the Sony Cyber-shot DSC-15, Canon PowerShot S3 IS, Epson PERfection V750-M Pro, ColorEdge CE240W LCD Monitor, ProScale ID 7 and Linotype FontExplorer X 1.0.1

www.layersmag.com

MacUser

29 September 2006

Apart from a very worthwhile comparative review of databases, the highlight of this issue for *LAYOUT* readers is a short-and-sweet guide to using Job Jackets in QuarkXPress 7.

www.macuser.co.uk

Image Reports

September 2006

This magazine for digital printers includes an article looking at QuarkXPress 7 and its potential to fight back against Adobe InDesign—from a bureau's perspective. There are also some interesting features on vehicle 'wrap' output and Hasbro's approach to printing packaging.

www.imagereports.co.uk

Advanced Photoshop

Issue 21

There's a nice tutorial on retouching photos in this issue, along with masterclasses on ink artwork and Dynamic Brushes. The techniques section looks at Photoshop's Preferences,

working with the HDR function, and creating horrible ("amazing") outer space effects.

www.advancedphotoshop.co.uk

Photoshop Creative

Issue 13

Learn how Camera RAW works and how to merge exposures into HDR mode. The tutorials include items on removing wrinkles and laughter lines, and some art-inspired projects.

www.pshopcreative.co.uk

Digit

October 2006

This issue includes a feature on preparing commercial print work and a masterclass on creating metallic effects in Photoshop. The reviews section covers the Apple Mac Pro, HP Photosmart R927, OnOne PhotoGamer Pro 3 and Rock Xtreme SL 2500M.

www.digitmag.co.uk

Computer Arts

October 2006

Curiously, *Computer Arts* also has a masterclass on metallic effects, plus a tutorial on text formatting in Adobe InDesign. The cover CD contains a Lynda.com tutorial on preparing work for commercial printing, a demo of CMYK Production Plus 2, and an 'InDesign toolkit'.

www.computerarts.co.uk

E-ZINES

AUC News

September 2006

The September edition of the Adobe Acrobat User Community newsletter gives a generous introduction to the Acrobat 8 release. There's a 'first look' at the new features, along with an interview with the head of Adobe's Acrobat team.

www.acrobatusers.com/news/aucnews/2006/09

product review: pen tablet

Wacom Intuos3 A6 Wide

£187.99, www.wacom-europe.com/uk

Widescreen displays are increasingly becoming the norm in computing, just as they are in domestic television. Wacom saw this fad coming and quickly produced widescreen editions of its Intuos3 A5 and A3 tablets (an square A4 'oversize' model already existed). Now the company has released a wide version of its smallest pro-class tablet, the Intuos3 A6.

Who is it for? After all, these top-end pen tablets are supposed to be used by designers, illustrators and artists. If we assume an A6 tablet is intended for people using smaller screens, or for freelance designers who can't afford the larger models, why bother to bring out a widescreen version?

Pen for all

According to Wacom, the Intuos3 A6 Wide is targeted at "mobile professionals" or indeed anyone who uses a widescreen notebook. And if you bought a new notebook any time over the past year, it almost certainly has a widescreen native resolution—that is, one with a 16:10 width-to-height ratio.

As ever, Wacom is just being coy about the capability of its A6 tablets. There is an argument for large pen tablets when used by fine artists with their sweeping hand motions, and for various types of production design and precision 3D work. But for layout work, the smaller the better. An A6 tablet lets you whizz around the screen, drawing and dragging intuitively, while letting you switch over to Photoshop to Extract a cut-out or retouch a photo using the most ideal of tools—a pen.

We know a great many art editors and graphic designers who have always preferred A6 tablets regardless of budget; in fact, they would only give



up their A6 tablets if it meant a swap with a Cintiq. The editor of LAYOUT has used an A6 pen tablet for subbing and layout work for years. It's faster and ensures he never suffers from carpal tunnel syndrome.

Why wide?

So while Wacom reckons the Intuos3 A6 Wide is only good enough for serious notebook users, we strongly disagree. From a layout point of view, especially with large-screen displays being the first to go widescreen, the widening of the A6 model is good news.

This much was confirmed when we tested a unit with a 20-inch Apple iMac (1680x1050 pixels) as well as a more conventional 1600x1200-pixel resolution on a Windows machine last week. Although the active area of the tablet seems only slightly bigger than its predecessor—4x6 inches instead of 4x5 inches—it does feel more natural to use in a widescreen environment.

Better still, the new Wacom driver allows you to rotate the orientation of the tablet's mapping to the screen. For example, if you're using a pivot monitor in portrait mode, you can switch the tablet itself to portrait mapping to match. You'd then just turn the tablet around 90° and carry on working.

Dual-screen mode

We were even more impressed to discover several dual-screen options once we plugged two displays into the same computer. You can customise the mapping and orientation of each display independently, for example, or lock the mapping (and therefore the stylus too) to one display and

not the other. You could use this when working in portrait mode on a pivot monitor attached to an iMac, perhaps, with your mouse still able to move conventionally between both displays even if the tablet and stylus is locked in a particular rotation to just one of them.

Even with the tablet mapped to both displays together side by side, the extra width makes a huge difference compared to the previous Intuos3 A6. If you have tried using a single tablet over two screens, you will immediately appreciate the extra inch of the Intuos3 A6 Wide.

Buttons and scroller

In other respects, this is still the same Intuos3 with its four programmable buttons and special scrolling feature involving dragging your finger (or the stylus) down a Touch Strip. This Touch Strip is fully scroll-mouse compatible, which means you can use it with keyboard modifiers in programs such as Adobe InDesign for horizontal scrolling and zooming.

The stylus supplied is Wacom's latest Grip Pen, which has a programmable two-position click switch on the side and a Photoshop-compatible 'eraser' on the reverse tip. Unlike the original Intuos3 A6 (which this Wide model replaces in the Wacom range), no mouse/puck is included. That's fine by us: trying to keep a mouse within a strict 4x6-inch active area is very difficult and extremely annoying.

Worth the money?

Although LAYOUT is happy to give the Wacom Intuos3 A6 Wide the thumbs up, it is still quite expensive for a non-essential peripheral. You could buy an Apple Wireless Mighty Mouse for less than £50, for example, or Wacom's own Graphire4 Studio tablet for £109.

So is it worth the money?

For those "pro notebook" users that Wacom is targeting, hmm... maybe. For dual-monitor users and anyone with a high-resolution widescreen display, yes definitely.

Ah, but is it worth buying if you already own an Intuos3 A6?

Good question. You could always sell the old one on eBay.

LAYOUT

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