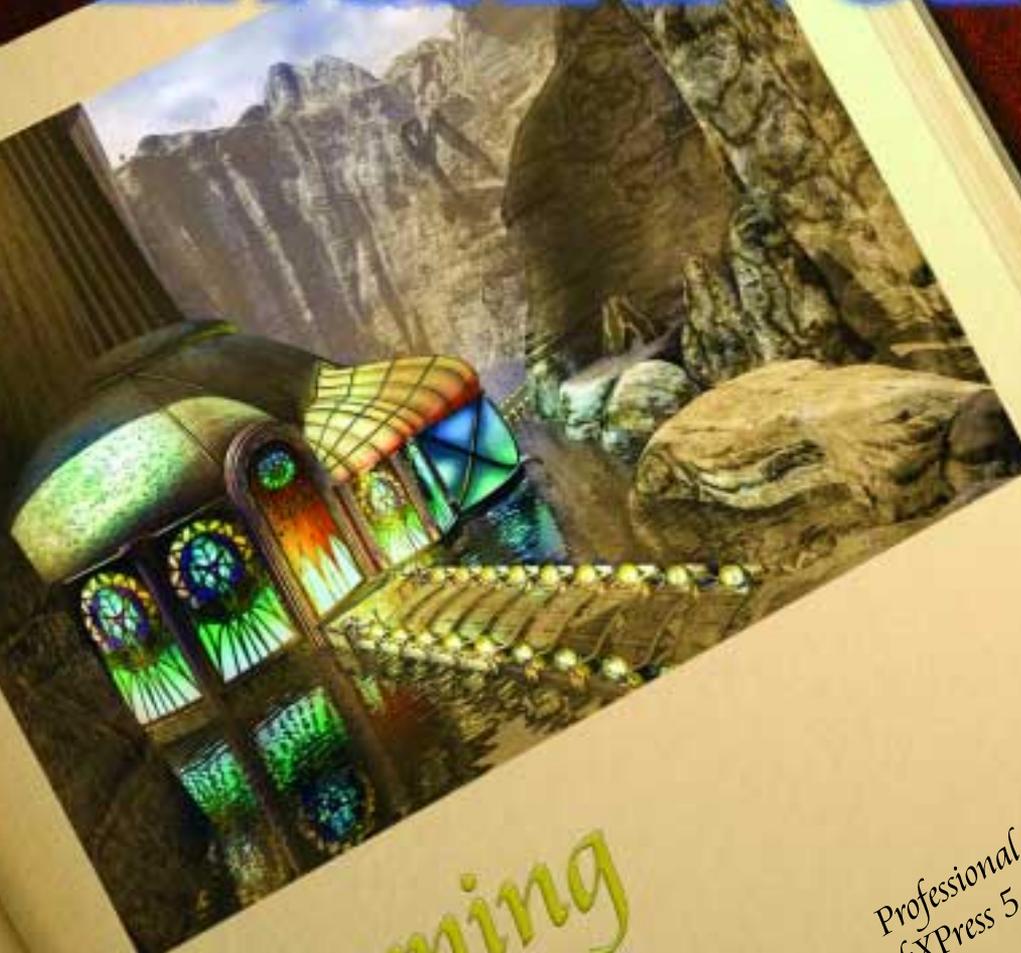


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## Download beta Web image manager ACDS*See* 1.5 for Mac



Victoria, B.C.-based ACD Systems has just announced the beta release of its Web digital image management software for the Macintosh, *ACDS*See* 1.5 for Mac*.

*ACDS*See* 1.5* lets users view full-size, reduced and thumbnail images online at high resolutions, performing manual and auto zoom functions on images and using options like auto-window resize and full-screen mode. And instead of browsing file icons, users can view image thumbnails.

Files can be organized by adding comments to listings such as location, size, type, dimensions and date information; they can be copied and moved easily, using simple drag-and-drop. To designate different image formats, users can use special highlight colors; over 40 image, audio and video formats can be imported. Users can play multimedia files quickly, including MPEGs and MP3s, using QuicktimeT technology. The print manager can print images and contact sheets, save to HTML and save contact sheets to images.

ACD plans to release the completed version of *ACDS*See* 1.5 for Mac* in mid-December 2000. Technical specifications and download information for the beta version are available at [www.acdsystems.com/english/products/acdsee/acdsee-mac.htm](http://www.acdsystems.com/english/products/acdsee/acdsee-mac.htm).

## Adobe Illustrator 9.01 update posted at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)

Adobe Systems has recently posted an update for *Illustrator 9*. Changes in *Illustrator 9.0.1* include fixes for out-of-memory



warnings when opening files, window shade issues, and a problem with the Sangam2-Mapper plug-in freezing at launch, as well as other performance enhancements and improvements. Download *Illustrator 9.01* for Mac from [www.adobe.com/support/downloads/ilmac.htm](http://www.adobe.com/support/downloads/ilmac.htm); the Windows version is at [www.adobe.com/support/downloads/ilwin.htm](http://www.adobe.com/support/downloads/ilwin.htm).

## Corel Painter 6.1 update preview now posted for downloading

Corel Corporation is now inviting Corel *Painter* users to preview the new and enhanced features in *Painter 6.1* by downloading a beta version of the latest update ([www.corel.com/support/fipsite/pub/painter/6.1Beta/index.htm](http://www.corel.com/support/fipsite/pub/painter/6.1Beta/index.htm)).

Scheduled for final release shortly, the free *Painter 6.1* update will include an interesting palette of new features, enhancements and fixes. Corel says that in addition to the improvements made to the soften, sharpen and highpass features, the new woodcut effect is impressive and will give artists a more comprehensive array of tools.

## New Xerox Phaser 790 features 6ppm color and auto-calibration



Xerox has now introduced the Phaser 790 tabloid color laser printer, a replacement for its Phaser 780.

At an estimated retail price of US\$6,199, the Phaser 790 has a print speed of 6 pages per minute in color and 26 ppm in black-and-white; it also incorporates auto-duplexing.

The printer also has automatic calibration features such as density control, VisualCal for visual calibration adjustments, and an optional external densitometer. In addition, RGB, CMYK and Pantone files can be independently handled when used simultaneously in a single document.

Document set printing allows the unit to process multiple print jobs only once. In addition, it offers optional accessories for additional media handling capabilities with a maximum media capability of 1,400 sheets. It includes memory expandable to 512 MB, a built-in 6 GB hard drive, and a 266 MHz processor, and comes with 10/100 Base-T Ethernet standard on all models, parallel connectivity and Web-based network management tools. Visit [www.xerox.ca](http://www.xerox.ca) to get complete information.

## 110 ppm Canon imageRUNNER 110 now available in Canada

Canon Canada has announced Canadian availability of the imageRUNNER 110, a 110 page-per-minute digital black and white duplicator/printer for Print-On-Demand and Central Reprographic Department environments.

All imageRUNNER 110 devices feature 600 x 600 dpi resolution, finisher supporting single and multi-position stapling, automatic trayless duplexing for two-sided document production, and a touch screen operator control interface. With a monthly duty cycle rating up to 1,000,000 impressions, it can handle up to 110-lb. index stock. Standard support of 4,000 sheets in three drawers can be expanded with an optional, 4,000-sheet three-drawer module, bringing total online capacity to 8,000 sheets.

A standard, 3,000-sheet finisher imposes staples from a wire spool whose length is adjusted for stack thickness, and an optional bookletmaker folds, trims and multi-position staples pages. In processing incoming print jobs, the imageRUNNER



110 has intelligent queuing capability, allowing an operator to manage multiple print queues simultaneously. This technology performs traffic control of jobs, optimizing device engine productivity.

Canadian suggested retail pricing for the imageRUNNER 110 is as follows: Basic Printer Version \$319,335; Basic Duplicator Version \$297,740; Basic Duplicator/Printer \$313,940; Deluxe Duplicator/Printer \$327,430. Check [www.canon.ca](http://www.canon.ca) for additional information.

## Microtek introduces dual lens dual platen high-res scanner

Microtek Lab recently introduced its 2,500 dpi resolution ArtixScan 2500 dual-lens scanner, capable of capturing both transparent and reflective art.

According to the company, the scanner's patented E.D.I.T. (Emulsion Direct Imaging Technology) design allows users to scan transparent original images without glass interference, eliminating both glare and Newton rings (concentric circles appearing in scanned images when film is sandwiched between two panes of glass). The ArtixScan 2500 offers true 36-bit color depth with 48-bit image data throughput and a 3.4Dmax density range. It also includes five different sized film templates, as well as a separate 8" x 10" holder for scanning larger or odd-sized pieces of film.

MSRP for the ArtixScan is US\$4,495. Point your browser at [www.microtek.com](http://www.microtek.com) to get more information.

## Imation Travan FireWire 20GB drive delivers 120MB per minute

Imation Corp. has announced the availability of its Travan FireWire 20GB Drive, a data backup and storage tool that provides up to 120MB-per-minute (compressed) transfer rate and is designed exclusively for use with FireWire-enabled Power Mac G4, Power Mac G3, PowerBook and iMac computers.

Designed for digital video professionals, the drive combines the speed of FireWire with the vast storage capacity of Travan technology. It incorporates a sleek "ice" design to complement Macintosh computers, and is bundled with Dantz *Retrospect Desktop Backup*.

The Imation Travan FireWire drive is available at an estimated MSRP of US\$499. It works with Imation's Travan 20GB cartridges, which sell for approximately US\$34 each.

Go to [www.imation.com](http://www.imation.com) to get details.

## Macromedia launches Exchange for Flash website

Macromedia has launched Macromedia Exchange for Flash, a website at [exchange.macromedia.com](http://exchange.macromedia.com) for Flash developers to share Flash 5 extensions such as Smart Clips, ActionScript samples, Macromedia Generator templates, and source files. Free extensions on the Exchange range from new button libraries and Smart Clips for HTML-style user interface widgets (scrolling text windows, tool tips, tabbing between fields) too ActionScript samples and ten new Macromedia Generator objects which enable automated production of menus and data-driven content.

The Macromedia Extension Manager facilitates the sharing and installing of extensions and is available as a free download from the Exchange for Flash site. It is accessible directly from within Flash 5.



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## New Iomega CD-RW features sleek top-loading design

At the Las Vegas Comdex technology trade show in November, Iomega Corporation debuted its new Iomega Predator external CD-RW drive, compatible with both Macintosh and PCs.

The Predator drive's case is finished in a textured cobalt-blue with silver accents; it also replaces the motorized front-loading drive tray of most other external drives with a top-loading design similar to that of portable CD players. Iomega says that the new design is quieter, mechanically simpler and treats CDs more gently than front-loading players, which can pinch an improperly inserted disc. It has a rated performance of 8x4x32x (8X write-once, 4X rewrite, 32X read) and supports popular interfaces by using detachable and interchangeable adapters.

The drive will begin shipping with a USB 1.1 adapter offering 4x4x6x performance; in early 2001 it will be bundled with a FireWire adapter offering 8x4x32x performance.

The Predator CD-RW in USB 1.1 configuration is expected to be available in January, 2001 for US\$269.95; with FireWire support it will be out in the first quarter of 2001 for US\$349.95. Visit [www.iomega-direct.com](http://www.iomega-direct.com) to find out more.

## Canon CLC 3100 outputs 31 pages per minute at 400 dpi resolution

Canon Canada has announced the availability of the new CLC 3100 color laser copier/printer, the direct replacement for the company's CLC 1000. It is a 31-ppm color laser copier/printer utilizing four-drum technology, with a copy/print resolution of 400x400 dpi, with support for up to 5,250 sheets and full bleed output on 12" x 18" sheets. It can handle stock up to 110 lb.

The CLC 3100 is available now at \$97,995 (Cdn) for the 4000 page per deck unit and \$98,995 (Cdn) for the 2000 page per deck unit. Check [www.canon.ca](http://www.canon.ca) for further details.

## Newtek previews first pro-level 3D application for OS X

3D animation and video product developer Newtek has just released a preview version of *LightWave 6.5* for Mac OS X, the first pro-level 3D application available for Apple's new operating system. Newtek reports that *LightWave* is optimized to take advantage of the Power Mac's PowerPC G4 processor with Velocity Engine, Apple's QuickTime technology and Apple's OpenGL implementation.

*LightWave 6.5* adds a set of advanced character animation tools, new rendering capabilities, a next generation modeling paradigm, new and improved architecture, and a refined work environment. The application has been re-engineered from the ground up, with a new streamlined interface and major revisions to the architecture. The demo of *LightWave 6.5* for OS X can be found at [www.newtek.com](http://www.newtek.com).

## Sorenson releases new QuickTime compression codec

Sorenson, the company responsible for the compression technology included in Apple QuickTime, has just released a new version of its codec. Version 2.2 of the tool includes improved performance and tighter compression rates.

Sorenson Video is a QuickTime-compatible video codec for developers which claims to offer superior video quality at lower data rates than other competing compression technologies. The Basic Edition of the encoder and the full decoder of the Sorenson video codec are built into QuickTime, so users require only QuickTime to watch Sorenson Video clips.

Qualified owners of Sorenson Video Developer 1.0 can upgrade to Sorenson Video Developer Edition 2.2 for US\$99. Owners of Sorenson Video Developer 2.0 and 2.1 may upgrade to Sorenson Video Developer Edition 2.2 and download the upgrade software from the Sorenson website at no charge.

Visit [www.sorenson.com](http://www.sorenson.com) for information.

## Fuji Graphic Systems Canada moves to 100% direct sales for all products as of March/2001

Fuji Graphic Systems Canada has announced that as of March 1, 2001, the company will supply 100% of its customers from coast to



coast on a direct sales basis. Since 1996, approximately 20% of the Fuji business in Canada was being distributed through Graphic Resources, a division of Roland Inc. Graphic Resources will no longer be carrying the Fuji line after February 28, 2001.

This revision to Fuji's marketing policy applies to its entire line of consumable products and digital equipment solutions. Check [www.fujigraphics.com](http://www.fujigraphics.com) for additional information.

## Dell introduces new P4/1.5GB Precision Workstation 330 and four graphics card add-ons

Dell Computer has announced availability of the Precision Workstation 330, designed for applications such as digital content creation, finite analysis and mechanical computer-aided design.

The new offering features the new Intel Pentium 4 processor at 1.4 and 1.5 GHz and the Intel 850 chipset with a 400 MHz system bus. This is also the first Dell Precision Workstation chassis in the new sporty midnight grey color, and includes coordinating peripherals such as monitors, keyboards and mice. Pricing begins at \$3,159; a sample configuration includes a single 1.40 GHz Pentium 4 processor, mini-tower chassis, 20GB ATA-66/100 IDE (7200 rpm) hard disk drive, 128MB PC800 RDRAM, Matrox Millennium G450 graphics card, 48X-maximum IDE CD-ROM, and Microsoft Windows 2000 Professional for \$3,428.

In addition, Dell also announced the introduction of new graphics cards for Precision Workstations: the 64MB Fire GL2 graphics adapter from FGL Graphics, the 64 MB NVIDIA Quadro2 Pro, and the Matrox Millennium G450 for users looking for a multi-monitor option. Also launched was "Dell Graphics Plus" for workstation customers who need specialized graphics products that are not part of Dell's standard factory offerings. The program will offer additional graphics adapters and related products such as video capture devices.

Dell also plans to offer workstations based on Intel's 64-bit Itanium processor. For prices and configurations for the Precision Workstation 330 or the new graphics cards see [www.dell.ca/precision](http://www.dell.ca/precision).



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Special Report

# SVG: A Web innovation that graphics professionals can sink their teeth into

by Kirby Ferguson

While print designers have enjoyed the benefits of vector graphics since 1985 with the advent of PostScript, Web designers have been stuck with pixel-based formats like GIF, JPEG and PNG. Applications like *Fireworks* and *ImageReady* make handling these images dramatically easier, but working with rasters still means larger files that can be difficult to edit.

Since PostScript (and even its leaner cousin PDF) are too heavy for Internet use, there has been no online standard for resolution-independent graphics. The closest thing has been the proprietary *Flash*, which Macromedia claims nearly 300 million Net users have installed. Unfortunately, *Flash* just isn't a very good Net citizen: it doesn't integrate with other Web technologies and cannot be indexed by search engines. And since it's proprietary, creating SWF files requires a *Flash* authoring program, such as *Flash* itself, Adobe *LiveMotion* or Corel's new *R.A.V.E.*

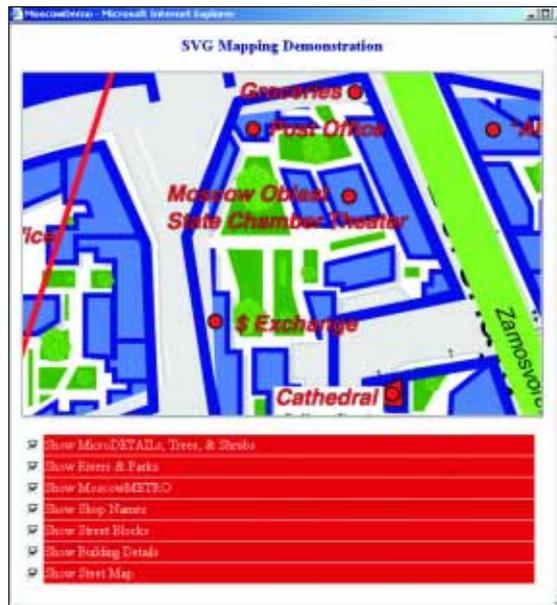
Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG) is the Web community's proposed answer to the Net's reliance on raster images and proprietary formats (check Adobe's tutorial at [www.adobe.com/svg/basics/cssnav.html](http://www.adobe.com/svg/basics/cssnav.html)).

Backed by some of the industry's biggest names, SVG certainly won't fail because of a lack of corporate support. The format is even backed by Macromedia, whose *Flash* technology could be SVG's first victim (though I'm sure the company is looking to ensure that SVG and *Flash* get along).

On paper, SVG is a Web designer's dream come true. In addition to offering the obvious benefits inherent in resolu-

tion-independent graphics, SVG sports a wish list of features like transparency, high resolution printing, clipping paths and ICC support. Written in XML, SVG is text-based and interlocks with existing technologies like Cascading Style Sheets, which can be used for styles and position-

ing, and JavaScript, which can be used for animation. Text is recognizable as such, and can be indexed by search engines or searched by the client. Font inclusion is supported via CSS2 and SVG elements can interact with the rest of your code. Besides allowing you to place JPEGs and PNGs, you will even be able to apply *Photoshop*-like filters, which get rendered on the client end. And for those Web browsers that can't read SVG, you can swap in raster images using SVG's equivalent of the ALT tag.



(above) **TRAJECTORY PRO.** A preview version of Jasc's *Trajectory Pro*, an upcoming SVG creation program, is available for download at [www.jasc.com](http://www.jasc.com). SVG files can also be created using traditional illustration programs like *CorelDRAW* and *Adobe Illustrator*.

(left) This map of Moscow, found at the Adobe site, allows you to **ZOOM IN** and **SHOW AND HIDE LAYERS**.

ing, and JavaScript, which can be used for animation. Text is recognizable as such, and can be indexed by search engines or searched by the client. Font inclusion is supported via CSS2 and SVG elements can interact with the rest of your code. Be-

But SVG could be more than just a graphics format. Since it can also be read as a standalone document type — just as HTML is now — SVG files could potentially replace the graphically challenged HTML, which has become a finicky tan-

gle of technologies intended to make HTML more graphically flexible. Using SVG could eliminate many of the design constraints—and the compatibility headaches—of HTML.

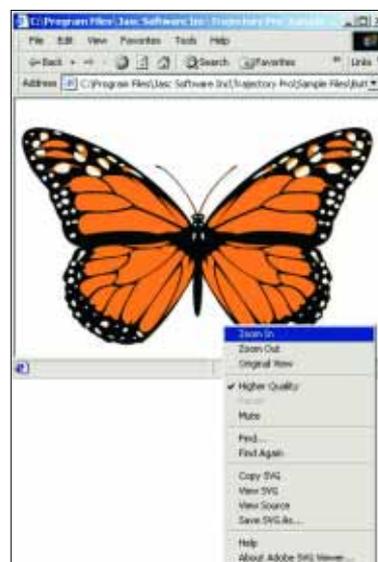
Unfortunately, SVG is still far off on the horizon. Since it has yet to be officially approved by the World Wide Web Consortium—its current state could be described as a beta—SVG is not yet supported by any browser, including the recently released *Netscape 6*. Even though Web technologies can emerge very quickly, they don't become ubiquitous for years; *Flash* has only arrived there of late. Until then, it appears that SVG will be a peripheral Web technology.

Despite still not existing in a finalized form, SVG files can now be exported from the likes of Adobe *Illustrator* and *Corel-Draw*. Jasc's *Trajectory Pro*, a new SVG authoring program, is under development and can be downloaded from the compa-

ny's website ([www.jasc.com/trj.asp?](http://www.jasc.com/trj.asp?)). Adobe has also released an SVG browser plug-in for Mac and Windows.

While all this software is for early adopters only, they offer an early glimpse of SVG's enormous potential. The benefits of many extravagant Web technologies are hard for graphic artists to comprehend, but SVG is something we can all appreciate: faster downloads, more creative freedom, less production headaches. Of course, SVG's real value remains to be seen, but unless horribly implemented, it will work its way into your life—there are simply too many powerhouses behind it to utterly fail. The format will face much indifference and ignorance from developers who either don't see the benefits of vectors or feel their needs can be met by *Flash*, which has all the market share. Nor will developers rush to recreate their sites in SVG, or adopt a risky new SVG-based workflow.

Despite the numerous hurdles SVG



Using the **ADOBE SVG VIEWER PLUG-IN**, I previewed this sample image from Jasc's *Trajectory Pro*.

will face, though, this is one Web acronym graphic designers might want to get acquainted with. ■

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# The Shadow Knows



Forget Silicon Valley -- the next boom could be coming from Plastic Valley, once Plastic Logic releases its first ultra-cheap plastic microchips next summer... Apple should merge with 3Com, says ex-Apple CEO John Sculley -- yeah, right, this coming from the guy who gave away Apple's GUI to Bill Gates... Corbis Images claims to have edged ahead of PhotoDisc in the battle for most royalty-free CDs -- score as of November 238-237... Now that AlphaTrust Corporation of Dallas, Texas ([www.alphatrust.com](http://www.alphatrust.com)) has announced its Guaranteed Electronic Signature Service for putting your legally binding digital e-signature on PDFs, JPEGs, Word docs or even Photoshop files, does this mean we'll all eventually be signing off our press checks remotely, using digital cameras? (In which case, who's going to provide color management for the cameras?)... Steve Jobs obviously isn't depending on his Apple stock investments to get by, judging from the US\$100 million he just dropped on a new palace for Pixar... For Sale: One slightly used (and underused) technology research facility -- poor old Xerox has fallen on tough times and can't afford the upkeep on Xerox PARC, the place where the desktop computer was invented (gee, if only they'd thought of patenting a few of those inventions they developed there -- like Ethernet, the laser printer, the graphical user interface, the desktop computer...)... And what do you make of Xerox quoting a recent Cap Ventures study that says "17% of print is currently procured via processes that are Internet-enabled"? A little sleuthing uncovered the fact that "Internet-enabled" included sending an e-mail message... Meanwhile, a recent TrendWatch survey said that "no print procurement dot.com company had more than 4% of respondents actually using their services"...

## CorelDraw 10 Graphics Suite with R.A.V.E. Web animation application now shipping

Corel Corporation has announced that *CorelDraw 10 Graphics Suite* (for Windows) is now available. The suite carries a suggested retail price of US\$249.99 for the upgrade version or US\$569.99 for the full version.

According to Corel, *CorelDraw 10* has been re-engineered for faster performance, improved color management and enhanced compatibility. *Draw 10* feature set upgrades include RealTime Preview, creative Web tools for graphics, multilingual spell-checking and the Corel Web Image Optimizer for GIF, JPEG and PNG. *Corel Photo-Paint 10* enhancements include a smoother and faster display, enriched text capabilities, Smart Blur Filters and a customizable user interface.

*CorelDraw 10* now includes R.A.V.E. (Real Animated Vector Effects), a new application for creating *Flash* Web animations. R.A.V.E. allows users to tween live effects over time, generate a timeline of edited work and create animated rollover graphics.

*CorelDraw 10 for Macintosh* will not be available until the first half of next year. Visit [www.corel.com](http://www.corel.com) to get more details.

## DiamondSoft's Font Reserve Server enables centralized control of font database

DiamondSoft Inc. is now shipping version 1.0 of *Font Reserve Server*, a true client-server font management system which gives multiple users access to fonts from a single source, with administrative controls to ensure appropriate use of fonts from a design, production, and legal standpoint.

*Font Reserve Server* consolidates all fonts into a database, providing access via the local network or the Internet. The database runs on Windows NT and communicates with Macintosh-based clients over TCP/IP. To control font access, an administrator divides fonts into workgroups for specific positions or projects, then assigns users to the workgroups. Workgroup permissions control whether users can add, delete or activate fonts. All changes to workgroups, including font additions, occur in real time.

Users connect to the server and access fonts in their workgroups through the *Font Reserve Server Browser*. As a front-end to the database, the *Browser* lets users activate, sort, preview, and create sets of fonts as necessary. Depending on permissions, users can also search for subsets of fonts, share sets with their workgroup, and modify the class, foundry, keyword, and licensing information assigned to fonts.

Introductory pricing for *Font Reserve Server* is US\$1200 (server connections: \$104.00 per seat). DiamondSoft is also offering special upgrade pricing for existing *Font Reserve* single user sites. Surf to [www.fontreserve.com](http://www.fontreserve.com) to get all the details.

