

GRAPHIC EXCHANGE

DIGITAL CONTENT CREATION FOR PRINT, VIDEO & THE WEB

In Concert

QuarkXPress and OS X Classic
Bitmaps and page layouts
PDF workflow and Quark trapping
Pro SLR cameras and megapixels
Desktop video and broadcast TV

MPEG LA releases MPEG-4 Visual Patent Portfolio License

MPEG LA has just announced the availability of the MPEG-4 Visual Patent Portfolio License, which follows July's proposed licensing guidelines, including a cap of \$1 million per licensee and a threshold that exempts MPEG-4 users with fewer than 50,000 implementations from royalty payments.

The License includes essential patents owned by Canon, Curitel, France Télécom, Fujitsu, GE Technology Development, General Instrument, Hitachi, KDDI, Koninklijke Philips Electronics, Matsushita Electric, Microsoft, Mitsubishi, Oki, Samsung, Sanyo, Sharp, Sony, Telenor Communication, Toshiba and JVC.

Go to www.mpegla.com for full details.

On-line service fixes ads for publishers and advertisers

A new online service has just been launched which specializes in taking ads created in any native application and delivering them to publishers ready for print.

For a modest flat fee, adfixer.com promises to relieve publication production managers of the task of checking and preparing files for publication. The new service, started by ex-production manager Michael Weinglass, offers quick turnaround and expertise in providing either PDF/x or TIFF-IT formats.

For more information, point your browser at www.adfixer.com.

New site offers "spontaneous creative rejuvenation"

A new interactive desktop application for creative and marketing professionals offers idea-generating imagery, inspiration and creativity exercises to enhance the creative process, as well as resources for designers.

The initial launch price on Creative-Juicies is US\$29.95. More information can be found at www.creativejuicies.com.

Creative Source purchased by Canadian graphic arts publishers

Marianne Van de Leygraaf, creative director and publisher of Creative Source, and Diane Boadway, associate publisher of Graphic Exchange magazine, have announced their joint acquisition of Creative Source, an annual source book for art buyers, creative directors and art directors.

Creative Source, published annually in Canada for the past 23 years and formerly owned by Radiant Media Network Inc., showcases the work of photographers, illustrators, artists and emerging talent. Toronto-based Graphic Exchange, published by Brill Communications Inc., is Canada's largest circulation graphics magazine and focuses on digital content creation tools and technologies.

To find out more about this new alliance, go to www.creativesource.ca.

Macromedia Contribute allows any user to update web pages

Macromedia has announced Macromedia Contribute, a new desktop application that enables anyone to update, add, and publish web content to existing websites without requiring technical skills beyond basic word processing. Contribute works with any HTML website, and allows web developers to delegate web content maintenance while protecting the site design, code, and functionality. A history of page changes is also maintained so users can roll back changes and switch between different versions of a page.

Macromedia Contribute allows users to update web content in three simple steps: browse to the web page, edit it, and publish the updated page to the live site. Users can also drag-and-drop Microsoft Word or Excel files onto a page and the content is added with original formatting intact.

Macromedia Contribute for Windows is priced at US\$99 (approx CDN\$155). A Mac OS X version will be out in 2003. See www.macromedia.com/go/contribute to find out more.

Comstock "extreme" ups royalty free scan sizes to 56MB

Comstock Images recently announced that all its future royalty-free images will be offered in a larger size scan. The new size is intended for customers who use images in large media or who want to crop a portion of an image while still maintaining high-level reproduction quality.

Scanned at 300 dpi to a size of 12" x 18", Comstock's new "extreme" 56MB scans are priced at US\$249 (approx. CDN\$390). Go to www.comstock.com to learn more.

Apple releases updates for DVD Studio Pro and Final Cut Pro

Apple has just issued a pair of free maintenance upgrades for its digital video software products.

DVD Studio Pro 1.5.2 addresses issues with setting dual layer break points on DVD-9 projects and flagging of Dolby Digital 5.1 streams (www.apple.com/dvdstudiopro/update).

With Final Cut Pro 3.0.4 (www.apple.com/finalcutpro/download), effects are now represented correctly in exported EDLs, EDLs with clips containing speed changes are now imported correctly, clips from reels with timecode occurring during hour 23 now capture and import correctly, incorrect sync in Exported OMF files are eliminated, and real-time performance on Power Mac G4/Dual 1.25 GHz computers is improved.

New versions of Sorenson Squeeze now available

Sorenson Media has announced three new versions of its video compression software, Sorenson Squeeze.

Sorenson's Squeeze 3 Compression Suite provides a single interface to process and encode video for Web and CD delivery. Squeeze 3 for Macromedia Flash MX and Squeeze 3 for MPEG-4 are upgrades to Sorenson's earlier releases.

See www.sorenson.com for more details.

LiveStage Pro 4 gets interface redesign, with new shortcut tools and OS X compatibility

Vancouver-based Totally Hip has released an upgrade to its QuickTime authoring software, LiveStage Pro. Completely redesigned, version 4.0 is now optimized for OS X, and the interface is dramatically more user-friendly. The Tools Palette, Stage and Timeline make up the project window, providing both a visual and a linear perspective simultaneously. In fact, the new interface bears a resemblance to Adobe After Effects, meaning that Adobe users will now be able to pick up the program more quickly.

LiveStage Pro now has FastTracks—shortcuts to simplify common tasks and properties for popular types of presentations. Other new features include integration with Flash ActionScripts, MPEG-4 content support, and the ability to add Markers to tracks in the timeline for precise positioning.

For those who create interactive CD-ROMs and are familiar with Macromedia Director, there is a new feature called QuickStart. It operates like an installer application, automatically detecting whether a QuickTime Player is present on the user's computer, which version is running, and whether there are any other third party components necessary to play the CD presentation. QuickStart can install the QuickTime player from the CD and launch presentations automatically. This is a great way to make sure a presentation can be viewed on a wide range of Windows computers that might not have QuickTime.

LiveStage Pro 4.0 is available from www.totallyhip.com for US\$849.95 (approx. CDN\$1,340). Registered owners of LiveStage Pro 3.0 can upgrade to Version 4.0 for US\$249.95.

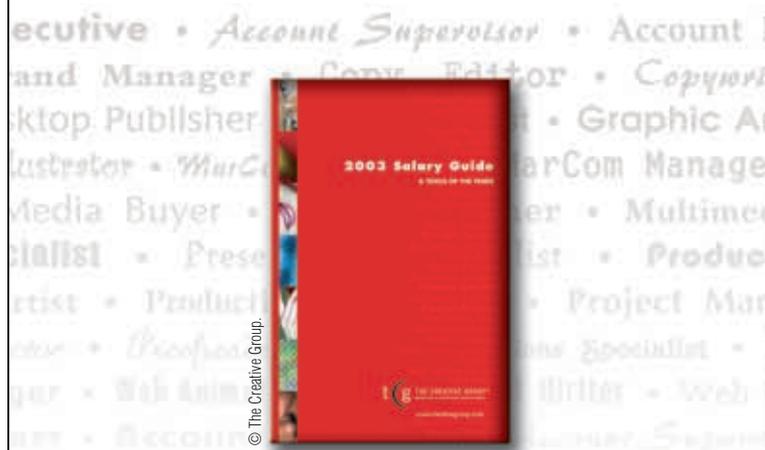
~ by Jason Lee

LaCie aluminium design 500GB FireWire hard drive holds two days of uncompressed digital video

LaCie is set to introduce a new 500GB external FireWire hard drive capable of storing two days of uncompressed digital video. LaCie's "Big Disk" will also be available in a faster 400GB model.

Using the aluminum design which dissipates heat and which was introduced on earlier drives, the new model features a power supply with external AC adapter which keeps the drive cool without the necessity of a noisy fan. In addition, a physical security feature allows the use of Kensington compatible chain locks.

Cost for the LaCie 500GB FireWire 5400RPM drive is \$US999 (approx. CDN\$1,575), while the 400GB FireWire 7200RPM drive sells for US\$899 (approx. CDN\$1,420). Both are compatible with Mac OS X, Mac OS 8.6 and higher, and most Windows environments. Visit www.lacie.com to learn more.



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The Shadow Knows



Even the Graphic Exchange cover did a double take when it eyed this life-like statue at the fabulous October 17th GX Anniversary Bash held at Toronto's Phoenix

Concert Theatre -- hey, wait! He really was alive, as in Etenem Oton of Statues Alive... By next year, Intel says it will be ready to start shipping its new Prescott chips that use the "strained silicon" manufacturing technique which stretches the distance between silicon atoms to boost processor performance by up to 20 per cent... Adobe is back in court, this time defending its use of the Healing Brush in Photoshop 7 which California-based software developer Shell and Slate says it developed... Word is that Olympus has dropped its E-xx series of digital cameras...

Lucent Technologies scientists have just demonstrated new polymers that, although five years off, can carry Internet connections at rates up to 145GHz, compared to today's max of 40GHz... How much energy goes into one microchip? A new study by Eric Williams of the United Nations University in Tokyo reports that 3.7 pounds of fossil fuels and chemicals plus 70.5 pounds of water go into manufacturing a single two-gram chip... Kudos to illustrator Fred Oakley and photographer John Reeves, both recently honoured with Lifetime Achievement Awards by The Canadian Association of Photographers and Illustrators in Communications (CAPIC)... And an added salute to Dick Kouwenhoven of Hemlock Printers, Graphic Monthly's Printer of the Year...

Painter Classic now bundled with Wacom tablets

Corel Corporation and Wacom Technology have announced a bundling agreement whereby for a limited time Wacom's Cintiq, Intuos2 and Graphire2 graphics tablets will include a special OEM version of procreate Painter, Painter Classic. As part of this bundling agreement, Wacom tablet users can upgrade to Painter 7 for US\$149 (approx. CDN\$235).

For more information, visit www.procreate.com.

Macromedia Director MX for OS X set for release

Macromedia Director MX, the first version of Macromedia's multimedia authoring environment for Mac OS X, is due for release before year end. New features include integration with the Flash MX product family, adoption of the Macromedia MX user interface, new workflow efficiencies, and the ability to create accessible content for people with disabilities.

Director MX supports most major video, audio, bitmap, 3D, and vector formats. The new version also lets developers create self-voicing applications that don't require assistive technologies such as screen readers.

Macromedia Director MX is priced at US\$1,199 (approx. CDN\$1,895) for new users, US\$399 for users upgrading from versions 8.0 or 8.5. See www.macromedia.com/go/director for complete details.

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