

New 1200dpi/35 ppm Phaser 7750 now includes PhaserCal

Xerox Canada has just announced an addition to its family of high resolution color laser printers which boosts output speed to 35 pages per minute. The Phaser 7750 supports a monthly duty cycle of 150,000 pages, and includes new color-calibration software, called PhaserCal, which provides an alternative to PhaserMatch 3.0.

The 7750 runs on a 715 MHz processor that prints the first color page in less than 11 seconds. It offers three print modes, including true 1200 dpi, and supports media sizes ranging from 4" x 6" postcards to 12" x 47.25" banner sheets.

Also announced was the new Xerox Phaser 8400 solid ink printer, which delivers color and black-and-white pages at 24 ppm and offers automatic two-sided printing on three of the four available configurations. It includes a 500MHz processor and accepts up to 512 MB of memory.

For details on pricing and availability, visit www.xerox.com/office.

New Apple Xserve G5 offers single or dual 2GHz processing

At Macworld in January, Apple introduced the new Xserve G5, the company's most powerful Xserve yet, which includes a new system controller with up to 8GB of memory and up to 750GB of storage. The G5 2GHz single processor model, priced at CDN\$3,999, comes with 512MB RAM, 80GB Apple drive expandable to 750GB,

dual gigabit Ethernet on-board, USB 2.0, FireWire 800 and an unlimited OS X Server

client license; the dual 2GHz version, at CDN\$5,399, adds 500MB of RAM. Xserve G5 is available in February.



Enhanced Panasonic AG-DVX100A for 24p or 30p progressive video

Panasonic is now shipping the AG-DVX100A, a second-generation model of the new progressive-scan 3-CCD mini-DV camcorder introduced in the fall of 2003. New features include enhanced 24p and 30p progressive mode functions, improved color reproduction, new cine-like gamma curves and enhanced image adjustments, a slow shutter function for higher sensitivity and dramatic motion effects, smoother zooming and focusing, a new squeeze mode for 16:9 recording, and new auto focus assist and interval recording modes for improved ease and versatility.

A new on-chip lens design delivers more than 500 lines of horizontal resolution, lower flare and smear, and a high F11 sensitivity, allowing the camera to record at 3 lux (at +18dB) for nighttime shots.

The 4-pound AG-DVX100A sells for US\$3,995 (~CDN\$5,200). For more information, visit www.panasonic.com/broadcast.

New Illustrator plug-in offers precise control for paths

California developer CValley has introduced a new plug-in for Adobe Illustrator which allows users to drag anywhere on a path and edit only the exact location selected. Demo versions of Xstream Path, priced at US\$139 (~CDN\$180), for both Windows and Mac are available at www.cvalley.com.

Nikon D70 digital SLR and Zoom-Nikkor lens to ship in spring

Nikon has announced development of the D70, an interchangeable-lens digital SLR camera which will employ the Nikon DX format sensor and Nikon F lens mount. A new DX Zoom-Nikkor lens is being developed to accompany the D70, with both products scheduled for release by spring, 2004. Estimated pricing on the D70 camera body is CDN\$1,400 (~US\$1,000). See www.nikon.ca to learn more.

Director MX 2004 adds support for DVD-Video and JavaScript

Macromedia Director MX 2004, due to ship in February, adds support for JavaScript, Flash MX content, and DVD-Video, as well as the ability to create projector files for both Mac and Windows in one step. Video capabilities in Director MX 2004 will allow developers to stream video in DVD-Video, Windows Media, RealMedia, QuickTime, and Flash.

Director can also launch and edit both Flash and Fireworks, and includes support for Flash MX 2004 components, including user interface components. Flash content can be integrated into Director projects, and Flash performance within Director projects has been dramatically improved. Interactivity within projects can now be scripted directly using JavaScript, Lingo, or a combination of both.



Director MX 2004 works on Mac OS X v10.2.6 or higher and Windows 2000 or Windows XP, and is priced at US\$1,199 (~CDN\$1600) for new users and US\$399 (~CDN\$550) for upgrades from Director 8.5 and Director MX. For more details, see www.macromedia.com/go/dirmx2004.

"Intelligent tools" plus new touchup brush in CorelDraw 12

Corel has announced a February release date for CorelDraw Graphics Suite 12 for Windows (US\$399/~CDN\$540). The package includes CorelDraw, CorelPaint, and Corel R.A.V.E., and will add new "intelligent tools", according to the company.

Highlighted features are a Smart Drawing tool which automatically recognizes standard shapes and smooths out curves, Dynamic Guides that change according to designers' revisions, unicode support, and a new real-time touch-up brush. To find out more, visit www.corel.com.

Adobe Digital Media Store launches with 1000s of titles

The Adobe Digital Media Store, a digital repository of PDFs which includes ebooks, magazines, newspapers, reports and other documents, is now open for business. Partners on the new venture include BusinessWeek, Popular Science, The New York Times, U.S. News and World Report, and USA Today.

The site offers users thousands of titles for download, organized by subject and available for purchase at prices starting at under \$3.00 each. Check out this library at www.digitalmediastore.adobe.com.

Latest LaCie dual FireWire drive boasts 88MB/sec transfer rate

LaCie has just announced its new Big Disk Dual FireWire drive, which the company says is the first FireWire 800 hard drive with sustained transfer rates of up to 88MB/sec.

The Big Disk Dual FireWire features 500GB of storage, 7200 rpm and an 8MB buffer. Available for Mac or PC, it has two FireWire 800 ports and one FireWire 400 port, and will be available beginning February, 2004 at a suggested retail price of US\$599 (~CDN\$800). To learn more, visit www.lacie.com.

Quark and Macromedia team up on QuarkXPress-FreeHand bundle

Quark Inc. and Macromedia have announced a special bundle offer, allowing customers to purchase QuarkXPress 6 and Macromedia FreeHand MX together for only US\$999 (~CDN\$1,300).

The package offer is available through participating resellers only and expires March 31, 2004. See www.quark.com and www.macromedia.com/go/quark for a list of resellers.



Adobe® Creative Suite Premium



The Adobe® Creative Suite is an integrated design environment that combines the most complete upgrade in Adobe's history—featuring full, new versions of the tools you rely on most for image editing, illustration, page layout, and cross-media output—with innovative file-management features, a smooth Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) workflow, and comprehensive design resources. Create and publish content for print and the Web faster and more easily than ever before—all at an outstanding value. Adobe integration makes it possible. The Adobe® Creative Suite makes it affordable.

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Quark promises QuarkXPress 6.1 update sometime soon

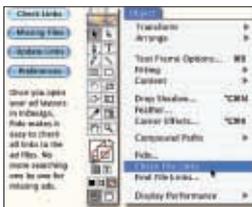
In November, Quark announced the forthcoming release of QuarkXPress 6.1, which will be available to QuarkXPress 6 customers at no charge. According to Quark, the 6.1 update will include many performance enhancements, including support for Mac OS X v10.3 Panther.

QuarkXPress 6.1 will allow users to import an entire spreadsheet or a range of cells, and hyperlink data contained in the spreadsheet will be honoured. The Edit Original XTensions module will give Mac users the ability to select a picture, then open and edit it in the user's preferred image editing application (a popular feature in previous XPress versions).

A new font mapping utility will let users create and manage rules to govern automatic font substitution, allowing them to be imported and exported, so rules can be shared among multiple users. Font mapping rules will also be applicable to QuarkXPress projects and templates as well as legacy documents and templates.

QuarkXPress 6.1 will require Mac OS X v10.2 or later. On the Windows platform, it will require Microsoft Windows 2000 or Windows XP. Quark did not announce a ship date for the 6.1 patch, and it was still unavailable as of mid-January. Check www.quark.com for further news.

Fido plug-in for InDesign locates lost links for ads and graphics



Pennsylvania-based MEI has released Fido, a plug-in for Adobe InDesign that reports on the link status of ads and graphics in an InDesign document and automatically finds the correct file paths. Images are then automatically imported to the pages where they belong.

Fido is available for Mac OS X and works with InDesign 2.0. For more information, visit www.maned.com.

Kodak introduces Digital ROC Professional Photoshop plug-in

Eastman Kodak Company has introduced Digital ROC Professional, a plug-in for Adobe Photoshop and other compatible image editing applications which corrects, restores and balances the color of images from digital cameras, scanners, Picture CDs, and the Internet.

Like Kodak's original Digital ROC plug-in, Digital ROC Professional analyzes color gradients in the image to remove color casts or tints and restore faded



or lost color by generating optimal tonal curves for each color channel. In addition, it provides advanced controls for precise adjustment of both image brightness and image contrast, as well as color tint controls. The professional version adds support for 16-bit color images generated by high end film scanning devices.

The Digital ROC Professional plug-in is available for US\$99.95 (~CDN\$135.00). A free trial version is available for download at www.asf.com.

Jaws PDF Creator 3.4 for OS X now available from Global

Global Graphics has released Jaws PDF Creator 3.4, a new version of its PDF creation software for Mac OS X.

Jaw PDF Creator 3.4 supports the PDF 1.4 specification and 128-bit encryption. The software lets users create PDF files by either printing to PDF from within any application, or by drag-and-drop to the PDF Creator icon on the desktop. It supports CIE-based color spaces such as CalGray, CalRGB, -Lab or ICC profiles.

Jaws PDF Creator 3.4 runs on Mac OS 9.1 or higher, as well as with Windows 98, Me, NT, 2000 and XP. Pricing for the latest version is US\$79 (~CDN\$105). Go to www.jawspdf.com to find out more.

Discreet combustion 3 for Mac first with integrated editing

Montreal-based Discreet, a division of Autodesk, has introduced combustion 3 for Macintosh. Enhancements to the latest version of Discreet's visual effects and 3D compositing desktop software include customizable brushes, savable presets, timeline markers, and DV capture and output.

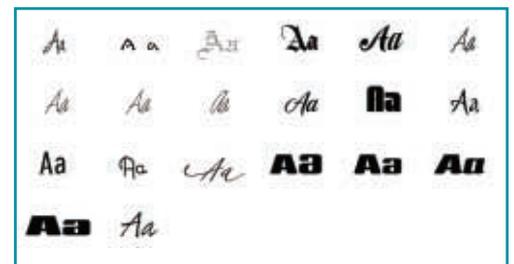
According to Discreet, combustion 3 is the first visual effects application with integrated editing, removing the need for users to master non-linear editing software for simple editing tasks. JavaScript-based expressions allow the creation of complex animations. Artists can also use combustion 3's vector paint and animation interface tools to create and output Flash animations.



Discreet's combustion 3 for Mac is priced at US\$995 (~CDN\$1,300). For more information, visit www.discreet.com.

Veer features independents in new Umbrella type collection

Veer has introduced Umbrella, a new compilation of typefaces from small foundries and independent designers around the



world. Umbrella includes 46 selections by designers such as Michael Doret, Miles Newlyn, Corey Holms, and Argentina's Alejandro Paul and Angel Koziupa.

Type families in the Umbrella collection (for both Macintosh and Windows) are priced starting at US\$35 and are available for viewing and download from www.veer.com/umbrella.

U.S. judge upholds Eolas patent judgment against Microsoft

A Chicago judge has upheld a jury's decision requiring Microsoft Corporation to pay a judgment of US\$520 million for infringing on the University of California's now-infamous '906 patent. U.S. District Judge James Zagel also ordered the software giant to pay more than US\$45 million in interest.

The lawsuit was filed in 1998 by the university and Eolas Technologies, which holds exclusive rights to the technology. In August 2003, following a five-week trial, the jury found that Microsoft's Internet Explorer had infringed on the patent, which covers Web delivery of interactive applications. Microsoft says it is appealing the decision.

Although Judge Zagel rejected Microsoft's attempt to have the verdict reversed on the grounds that it was "unsupported by the facts" as well as the company's demand for a new trial, he stayed an injunction which would have barred Microsoft from infringing on the patent until after the appeal is resolved.

In the meantime, the patent is under review by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, following a presentation by the World Wide Web Consortium, headed by Internet founder Tim Berners-Lee. Patent Office officials said reconsideration of the patent would take at least a year.

Eastman Kodak completes asset buyout of Scitex Digital Printing

In a January news release, Eastman Kodak announced its acquisition of the assets of Ohio-based Scitex Digital Printing from Scitex Corporation for a cash price of US\$237 million (net including SDP's \$13 million cash balance at closing). Scitex Digital Printing will now operate as a wholly owned subsidiary of Kodak under the name Kodak Versamark, Inc.

Kodak says this purchase is part of its strategy to acquire companies and technologies that complement the company's existing businesses, capabilities and assets.

Studio Artist 3 offers interactive paint tools and live video paint

Synthetic Software has announced the release of Studio Artist 3.0, the world's first graphics synthesizer. New features include the new Vectorizer raster to vector synthesizer with EPS output capabilities, MSG (modular synthesized graphics) plug-in architecture, live video processing, enhanced animation capabilities, and expanded image processing and Paint Synthesizer functionality.

According to Synthetic, Studio Artist uses human visual modeling to construct an internal representation from a source image that is used to direct smart assisted painting and drawing, including both still images and auto-rotoscoped video sequences.

Studio Artist, optimized for both Mac OS-X and OS 9, is priced at US\$379 (~CDN\$500). Get more information from www.synthetic.com.

PageMaker users get special version of Adobe InDesign

Adobe has announced InDesign CS PageMaker Edition, an extension to InDesign CS geared for PageMaker users making the transition to InDesign. The Adobe PageMaker Plug-in Pack now extends conversion support to include PageMaker 6.0 documents, as well as 6.5-7.x and QuarkXPress 3.3-4x files.

InDesign CS PageMaker Edition includes a full version of Adobe InDesign as well as popular PageMaker tools for easing the transition to InDesign. This version will be available in the first quarter of 2004. See www.adobe.com/products/in-design/pm_ind.html for further information.



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The Shadow Knows



Eastman Kodak has announced that it will stop selling traditional film cameras in the U.S., Canada and Western Europe by the end of this year...AOL blocked 500 billion(!) spam e-mails in 2003 -- and the number one subject? "Viagra"...On December 30, 2003, a California patent lawyer named Frank Weyer succeeded in getting approval for a patent on domain naming conventions, and is now suing registry giants Network Solutions and Register.com for violating US patent 6,671,714, which covers a "method, apparatus and business system for online communications with online and offline recipients" -- believe it or not...For the iPod user who has everything -- how about an iTalk, a recorder that plugs into an iPod and can pick up sounds up to 100 feet away? Coming in April from Griffin Technology (www.griffintech.com)...Fortune magazine rated the Power Mac G5 one of the top five technology products of 2003...Does the fact that the URL "men.com" just sold for US\$1.3 million mean that the technology market is finally rebounding?...Add RealNetworks to the list of companies filing lawsuits against Microsoft...Nielsen Net Ratings, Goldman Sachs, and Harris Interactive report that American shoppers spent US\$18.5 billion online during the 2003 holiday season -- excluding travel -- 35% more than 2002...What's nex' for NexPress customers, now that Heidelberg prepares to hand its digital printing business back to Kodak?...December 17, 2003 marked the 50th anniversary of the first NTSC broadcast, by NBC...TeleFilm Canada has just revamped itself to create separate English and French operating divisions...And word comes from the University of Alberta: its new Sparbot software can play poker with the best of them...



Apple beefs up v2 of Final Cut Express with RT Extreme, spiffier user interface, multitrack audio

Apple has just introduced Final Cut Express 2, an upgrade to its mid-level digital video editing software that is based on its high end package, Final Cut Pro. Final Cut Express 2 features RT Extreme for real-time compositing and effects, an enhanced user interface, real-time color correction tools and enhanced audio editing capabilities and includes some of the most popular features of Final Cut Pro 4 within a simplified user interface.

A more elegant user interface features customizable buttons, dynamic window resizing, user-defined window layouts and a new timeline with adjustable track heights. Real-time color correction tools let users interactively adjust and correct color balance between shots and create unique color effects. Enhanced audio tools provide multitrack audio support as well as real-time volume and audio filter adjustment, and solo and mute controls in the timeline for auditioning individual tracks.

Final Cut Express 2 projects can be exported for use in Soundtrack, iDVD and DVD Studio Pro 2, saved back to tape or exported to any QuickTime format, including MPEG-4. Suggested retail pricing is CDN\$379 (US\$299); system requirements are OS X v10.2.5, G4 350 MHz processor (with AGP), built-in FireWire, 384MB of RAM (512MB required for RT Extreme), 40MB of available disk space for installation and QuickTime 6.4 or later.

Markzware's MarkzTools 5.5 converts Quark 6 docs to v4 or 5, verifies file integrity, salvages text

Markzware has announced the release of MarkzTools v5.5, which converts QuarkXPress v6 documents into QuarkXPress v4.11 or 5.x files in Mac OS 9. A content integrity XTension for QuarkXPress 4.11 and 5.x also guards file content integrity and corruption (e.g. "bad file format [70], [39], and [108].").

Other enhancements include "verify saved document", which immediately verifies the integrity of a file, and "save a temporary copy of document", so that if something goes wrong during the 'save' process, users still have the temporary file available for recovery. In the case of badly corrupted files where the layout cannot be salvaged, "scavenge text" can often extract text stories from a document file. MarkzTools v5.5 alerts the user whenever they are about to save a lower version document to a higher version. It also makes QuarkXPress backwards compatible, allowing the user to open higher version documents. A 'gray previews' feature allows full color picture previews to be converted into gray pictures.

Markzware has also released a v5.0.4 update to its FlightCheck Professional preflighting suite, as well as renaming its creative version. FlightCheck Collect! is now FlightCheck Designer 5.0.4. Both are available for Mac OS 9 and OS X.

MarkzTools 5.5 is priced at US\$199 (~CDN\$260). Check www.markzware.com to get more information.