

The Long, Slow Death of ATM

Adobe is recommending that customers evaluate DiamondSoft Font Reserve and Extensis Suitcase products.



Yes, Adobe is really giving the heave-ho to long time users

of its font management software, ATM Deluxe. The company has stated on a special web page that Adobe Type Manager Deluxe will not be developed for Mac OS X. (<http://www.adobe.com/products/atm/atmOSX.html>)

Don't be fooled however. This was not a sudden end.

desktop laser printers and could be printed at any size. The screen versions of these "Type 1" PostScript fonts were still bit-map only and still usually 10-24 point. There was still the problem viewing 13 point Helvetica on screen but it printed out great!

The Dawn of ATM

Adobe solved the QuickDraw font display problem by

Adobe's font management application, is not compatible with Mac OS X, in either native or Classic mode.

Rather, the web announcement is just the final coup de grace in a long slow decline. In this article we will examine just what ATM/ATM Deluxe do and we'll find out under what circumstances you need them —if at all!

In the beginning

At the dawn of desktop publishing time (which as many a Macintosh owner with a battery problem has come to know is January 4, 1904), there was —Apple's

QuickDraw screen language. With it came bit-mapped screen fonts from various cities like Chicago, Geneva and San Francisco. Screen fonts were available in specific sizes — usually 10, 12, 14, 18, and 24 point. If you wanted to display a different size like say 13 point you were out-of-luck as the scaling capabilities were not so good. (You could however make 12 point type look better by specifying 24 point screen fonts and reducing the printout to 50%).

Into this world of city states came Adobe, the creator of the PostScript printer language. PostScript allowed quality typefaces like Times and Helvetica to be brought to

providing a limited version of Display PostScript called Adobe Type Manager which would use the information in the PostScript printer font dictionary to render a smooth



Recommended settings for ATM Control Panel

screen rendition of the typeface at any size. The bit-mapped fonts remain as a sort of hook for ATM to hang the Display PostScript tricks on.

The TrueType Detour

ATM and PostScript fonts worked so well that Apple and Microsoft decided they should be getting a piece of this juicy pie. Together (yes, together) the two companies created the TrueType font specification to break Adobe's monopoly. TrueType had some advantages from the start. It printed just as well to non-PostScript printers as to PostScript ones. There was no longer a duality of screen/printer fonts just waiting to get separated —

always at deadline time. Instead, one simple TrueType font suitcase was easy to install and keep track of.

Too Many Fonts

When Apple introduced the Mac with its handful of "city" fonts it never envisioned a world with tens of thousands of digital typefaces. The early Mac operating system had very limited numbers of font resource numbers available. This limited resource number was quickly increased and finally eliminated by selecting fonts by name rather resource number.

But a big problem still remained. The operating system had a limit for open files and each font suitcase counted as one of these open files. To stick-handle around this new limit, a clever programmer invented the Suitcase font Desk Accessory. This little piece of software allowed fonts to be accessed even when they were outside the system folder. Number limits no longer applied.

ATM Deluxe

Adobe stepped in at this point to add Suitcase-like font

management to its ATM product. ATM for font smoothing on screen became ATM Deluxe when it could open and close fonts and font sets.

As the Suitcase Desk Accessory was bought and sold from company to company (going to Fifth Generation Systems, Symantec and finally ending up at Extensis), ATM Deluxe became the de facto standard of font management.

Decline and Fall

Despite this ascendancy, the seeds of ATM's downfall were being sewn by Adobe itself.

With TrueType fonts not requiring ATM (Lite or Deluxe) at all, Adobe realized that it could add value to its products by ensuring that PostScript

You Need ATM Lite?

You don't need the free ATM Lite for screen font rasterization if

- You only use TrueType fonts
- You use PostScript fonts but only with InDesign, Illustrator 9, and/or Photoshop 6 or higher
- In Mac OS X you use PostScript fonts in Mac OS X native programs.

You Need ATM Deluxe?

You don't need ATM Deluxe to manage your fonts if

- You keep all fonts in your System Folder fonts folder.
- If you use an alternative font management utility such as Extensis Suitcase, Diamondsoft Font Reserve or ALSoft FontJuggler.

fonts would render to screen well without ATM. It began, by building Display Postscript into early versions of Illustrator. These days, the current versions of Illustrator, Photoshop and InDesign all have their own Display PostScript engines which render fonts to the screen. So, if you are using these applications you no longer need ATM for its smoothing capabilities.

Apple saw the writing on the wall (so-to-speak), and built Type 1 font rasterization into Mac OS 9 although it has not caught on with software developers. And, Apple's Mac OS X uses Quartz —a version of Adobe Display PostScript.

Did you know that by Adobe's own admission the last supported version of Mac OS for ATM was 9.0.4. Although 9.1 survived initial testing by Adobe's quality assurance people the company failed to put its seal of approval on the match.

At least that's what the above-noted Adobe web page says. It appears to be out-of-date however. ATM Lite 4.6.2 has been updated to work with Mac OS X Classic (Mac OS 9.1/9.2 and should be installed even when using ATM Deluxe version 4.6.1 under Mac OS versions 8.1 through 9.2.1.

As Adobe has clearly stated: The time to check out the alternatives is now! ⚡

The X Fonts

A Brave New World of Fonts in OS X!

Mac OS X combines Apple's new Apple Type Solution (ATS) with the Quartz graphics engine to render 2D objects like fonts and graphics to screen. Because Quartz is based on Adobe's efficient PDF technology, Quartz offers native support for PostScript Type 1, TrueType and Adobe's new OpenType fonts. (OpenType fonts are a new cross-platform single file font technology —ed.)

Quartz's built-in, system-level antialiasing means that font display in OS X native programs does not require Adobe Type Manager to make scalable fonts appear smooth on screen.

But this begs the question: Has Apple given us all the tools we need to work with fonts in Mac OS X? While Mac OS X has elegant, native support for the display and selection of various fonts —and even comes with a selection of high quality typography— it is still lacking a tool for the management of the hundreds, sometimes thousands, of fonts that designers and service bureaus typically work with.

The Importance of Being Managed

If you thought managing your fonts was a chore in Mac OS 9 and earlier then you have another think coming when load up Apple's new Mac OS X. Whereas there is only one default location for fonts in Classic Mac OS —the venerable System Folder:Fonts folder— there are five different locations where fonts can be stored in OS X!

In addition to any fonts located in the OS 9.1 Classic environment (The System Folder:Fonts folder), there are four different font directories in Mac OS X. Fonts are registered (loaded) and searched for in the following order, and in the following locations:

- System** /System/Library/Fonts (read-only default system fonts)
- Local** /Library/Fonts (machine-specific fonts not part of the set of default system fonts)
- Network** /Network/Library/Fonts (site-specific fonts through a corporate LAN/WAN)
- User** ~/Library/Fonts (user-specific fonts)

If a font file exists in more than one of the above locations, the last to be registered is used.



The Font Panel in Mac OS X

The OS X Font Panel

What help does Mac OS X give to sort out this mess? Well, the OS X Font Panel is a nice organization tool that allows users to organize their fonts into collections. This should make tasks like font selection easier. Will it be enough? Likely not.

The new OS X Font Panel (illustrated above) is available only to Cocoa (rewritten from the ground up for OS X) applications (like Apple Mail) and some Carbon (adapted for the Mac OS environment) applications (e.g. FileMaker Pro 5.5 for X does not have it while FreeHand 10 for X does). Many Carbon and all Classic applications will not have access to the Font Panel's collections.

Besides, Apple's admittedly elegant Font Panel and its collections are not there for management purposes but for organization and selection purposes. You cannot activate and deactivate fonts in the Font Panel. For that you will need a true font management utility like Extensis Suitcase or DiamondSoft Font Reserve (when they are ported to X).

Managing fonts in Mac OS X promises to be an even greater challenge than it has become in the world of Mac OS Classic. We look forward to seeing what DiamondSoft and Extensis can develop for Mac OS X. ⚡

Big Caslon
Didot
Baskerville
COPPERPLATE
FUTURA
Gill Sans
Helvetica Neue
Optima
HERCULANUM
American Typewriter
Marker Felt
Papyrus
Zapfino

System supplied fonts in Mac OS X

Font Reserve 2.6

Diamond in the Rough?



Font Reserve may be the undiscovered gem of font management. IF you can get past its somewhat ugly and complicated interface you will find a range of management features unmatched by any existing font utility.

In addition to the easy creation of font sets Font Reserve allows you to specify an ownership characteristic to each set. This allows you to activate and deactivate all the font sets for one customer at a single click.

DiamondSoft uses a proprietary font matching system called FontSense to determine which font is the exact match for fonts in existing documents.

Plug-ins are available to aid auto-activation in programs like Quark, Illustrator and InDesign.

Hopefully, when it is carbonized to the Mac OS X aqua interface, that ugly user interface will be gone. ⚡

Suitcase 10

All Grown Up



The venerable Suitcase font manager software is now in its third iteration at the hands of Extensis. With the recently released version 10, Suitcase has fully matured and finally provides auto-activation and offers support for Adobe's Multiple Master fonts.

Suitcase has an elegant and clean interface that takes advantage of the best that the Mac OS has to offer. For example, Extensis uses Apple's own FontSync technology to match fonts. Perhaps the best new feature is the Suitcase Control Strip Module allowing access to font sets through Apple's Control Strip.

Annoying deficiencies like only being able to add one font at a time have been eliminated.

Plug-ins to aid auto-activation are available for Quark and Illustrator. And like DiamondSoft, Extensis is committed to releasing a carbonized Mac OS X version before 2002. ⚡

digital.roadmap

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Published quarterly in Winnipeg, Canada. Volume 2001: Issue Q4

Conceptualized, designed, written, illustrated, typeset, and printed at Precursor Systems by you know who.

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	This way
	Waves Ahead
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	Speed Up
	Slow Down
LEGEND	

Precursor digital roadmap is a quarterly publication for digital publishing professionals that helps show the way.

was founded in March 1994 to provide service and support for the computer-based business in the field of electronic publishing. This includes Digital Publishing, Printing, Prepress, Imaging, Video and the World Wide Web.

Carbon

Carbon applications can run on Classic Mac OS 8.1-9.2.1 as well as on Mac OS X! Carbon is designed to provide a gentle migration path from Mac OS 9 to Mac OS X. As most Carbon APIs are supported in Classic Mac OS, a program can take advantage of most Mac OS X features while continuing to support previous versions of Mac OS.

Cocoa

Cocoa applications are Mac OS X-only! The Cocoa application environment is designed specifically for Mac OS X-only native applications. Apple claims that its object-oriented framework allows rapid development of applications that would be unheard of in Classic Mac OS.

Application	OS X	Classic	Carbon	Cocoa
Adobe Illustrator	Now	Yes	Yes	No
Adobe InDesign	Q1/02	?	?	?
Adobe Photoshop	?	?	?	?
AppleWorks	Now	Yes	Yes	No
DiamondSoft Font Reserve	Fall/01	?	?	?
Extensis Suitcase	Nov/01	Yes	Yes	No
FileMaker Pro	Now	Yes	Yes	No
FileMaker Pro Server	Now	No	No	Yes
Macromedia FreeHand	Now	Yes	Yes	No
Microsoft Office 10	Nov/01	No	No	Yes
Microsoft Internet Explorer	Now	Yes	Yes	No
QuarkXPress	?	?	?	?
Retrospect 5	Q1/02	Yes	Yes	No
Timbuktu Pro	Now	Yes	Yes	No

Mac OS X Timetable

Here is story to split the sides of anybody that works with typography on a daily basis. The satirical internet magazine *The Onion* has lampooned the world of typefaces with an hilarious send-up of the fictitious *Academy Of Fonts & Typefaces* awards.

Helvetica Bold Oblique Sweeps Fonty Awards!?

"A bold as Best Font? They may as well have banded the award to Chicago, for God's sake."

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Precursor Systems

Precursor Systems was founded to meet the need for high quality support at a price that even the small business could afford. We help companies save time and money—keeping employees productive and customers satisfied.

Our Story

In 1994 Precursor's founder, Alex Narvey, had 10 years experience with electronic publishing from design and creation right through to production. During this time he participated in the migration from traditional publishing methods to the new electronic platform. This electronic technology is continuing to evolve: Processor speeds double every 18 months; Application manufacturers introduce major upgrades on an eighteen month cycle; Operating Systems are rejuvenated on a twelve month cycle; and, minor upgrades and patches appear on the internet weekly!

Mr. Narvey observed that most businesses are unprepared to deal with the pace of change. After an initial capital outlay to purchase electronic hardware and software, small and medium-sized businesses shy away from the costs of platform evolution and support. In no time, the company's head operator is swamped with the chores of taking care of workstations and the network itself. Under these conditions, computer departments waste time rather than saving it; burn money rather than making it!

Our Method

Using a combination of on-site and remote (via the internet) access, Precursor Systems is responsible for administration of computer departments in design studios, advertising agencies and printers in Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario.

If you require high quality support at an affordable price please contact us today.

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Alex Narvey

Alex Narvey has been involved in the digital publishing since 1986 when he authored, designed, illustrated, typeset, and marketed two books under the imprint of the Thunder Enlightening Press. The second, "The Canadian Canoeing Companion", (ISBN 921959-01-X), sold across Canada, the U.S. and Europe.

A Desktop Pioneer

Needless to say, in 1986 there was next to no support for digital publishing. Through necessity, Mr. Narvey became self-taught and proficient in a variety of programs from their introduction to the marketplace including QuarkXPress, FreeHand, Photoshop, and Illustrator.

Alex began to offer his expertise to others as MacTuneUp™. During this time, his contributions appeared in such publications as *MACWORLD*, *MacUser*, and *ALDUS Magazines*.

After MacTuneUp™ was called in to solve various problems at Winnipeg's Embassy Graphics, Mr. Narvey was hired on as Systems Manager. Over an eighteen month period Alex oversaw Embassy's expansion from a small desktop computer service bureau to a large prepress installation.

Alex Narvey left Embassy Graphics to found Precursor Systems in March 1994. Precursor Systems is now a trusted name in computer support in three provinces.

A Web Pioneer

In July of 1995, Mr. Narvey took Precursor Systems into new territory when he started up a World Wide Web service bureau. The Precursor Systems web site quickly expanded to T1 internet access and served over 10,000 visitors a day. During this period Mr. Narvey had an eighteen month association with *MacSense*—an electronic publication produced in Eastern Canada and published to the WWW from the Precursor Systems site. Alex served as Executive Editor and Webmaster of *MacSense* until the publication was sold to the California-based *Mac Home Journal*. Before folding up the Precursor web server, the innovative *MacSense* site was featured in a five page spread in the June 1997 issue of *ZD-Internet Magazine*.

Alex Narvey has a long and strong history with the desktop computer as a tool for both single, multimedia and virtual publishing. He combines his first-hand experience in computers with a diverse background in the printing/publishing/prepress industries. If you are looking for honest computer expertise without compromise, then you need look no further than Alex Narvey of Precursor Systems.

The Precursor Advantage

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