Adobe InDesign to Challenge Quark

At last week's Seybold conference in Boston, Adobe Systems finally took the wraps off its upcoming "Quark-killer" called InDesign. The new-from-the-ground-up page layout program is set for a summer debut. InDesign will be able to open QuarkXPress 3 and 4 documents and will even offer a set of Quark keyboard shortcuts. The beefy new program will also offer native Photoshop, Illustrator and PDF file format support. The PDF capabilities in particular will change workflows to PostScript 3 output devices. Pricing is expected to be $699 U.S. Find out more on-line at:

http://www.adobe.com/prodindex/indesign/main.html

PageMaker 6.5 Plus: Focus on Business

With the appearance on InDesign, Adobe PageMaker Plus has been targeted toward business customers with increased integration with Microsoft Office products, more templates and included Photoshop 5.0 Limited Edition in the box. Upgrade prices are $99 U.S. PageMaker Plus is expected to ship by the end of March. Find out more on-line at:
http://www.adobe.com/prodindex/pagemaker/main.html

Adobe Acrobat 4.0

Also at Seybold, Adobe announced that Acrobat 4.0 will ship in late March for $249 ($99 for upgrades) The new version offers Press Optimization for PDF file creation and provides the ability to view a document with the fonts it was created with or fonts native to the viewing machine. Greater post file creation editing capabilities are also built-in And, of course, the new version is 100% hooked in to PostScript 3. Find out more (and get the beta Reader) at:
http://www.adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat/main.html

Adobe PressReady

Adobe was busy at Seybold at this year. One promising development for the Summer is expected to the release of a new PostScript 3 RIP for inkjet printers called PressReady. PressReady will take advantage of PostScript 3 and PDF workflows to provide accurate proofing for press conditions. The RIP will allow for both Print Optimization (for screen and inkjet accuracy) and Press Optimization for printing to high-end output devices. Initially, 8 inkjet printers including the Epson 800, 850, 1520 and 3000 will be supported. Other inkjet support will be added later. Find out more on-line at:
http://www.adobe.com/prodindex/pressready/main.html

Adobe Type Reference Guide 99

Adobe has just published its 1999 guide to fonts. The 301 page resource guide has complete character sets for all Adobe's typefaces and is availabe for $19.95 U.S. from:
http://www.adobe.com/type/typeprod.html

Corel Updates CorelDRAW to 8.0.2

Corel has provided a 20 MegaByte update to CorelDRAW which adds some new features and quashes many bugs. This is a must upgrade. We recommend you use an FTP Client such as Fetch for the download at:

ftp://ftp.corel.com/pub/MacProducts/Draw8MACSuite/Corel_Graphics_802_Update.bin

Netscape Communicator 4.5.1

Netscape has updated Communicator to 4.5.1. Various fixes are included and we recommend upgrading. However, be advised that the full easy install includes many things not necessarily desirable such as a new Real Audio, StuffIt Expander, AOL software, and ShockWave. Always check to make sure you remove any copies of "Object Support Lib" that get installed into your System Folder:Extensions folder. (Precursor Systems would be pleased to assist our customersin this installation –just ask at your next maintenance visit).

ftp://ftp.netscape.com./pub/communicator/4.51/english/mac/complete_install/
Comm4.51_Complete_EX.bin

Extensis Suitcase 8 in Beta

Extensis has released the first beta of Suitcase 8 that we told you about in the last issue of *Precursor PDFNews*. Precursor Systems is beta-testing the product and without violating our non-disclosure agreement we can safely say that the program addresses the Symantec versions shortcomings and focuses on exactly what Prepress professionals need. Join the beta program:

http://beta.extensis.com/suitcase/

StuffIt Expander & DropStuff 5.1

Aladdin has updated its freeware Expander utility to version 5.1 which it claims is the best Expander ever. The new version no longer requires the StuffIt extension for highest speed extraction and expansion of extra formats such as .ZIP. In addition, the new version is the first to expand ALL previous versions of .SIT files. Find it at:

http://www.alaDdlnsys.com./expander/index.html

Aladdin has also –finally– released the Shareware drag-and-drop compression utility DropStuff in a corresponding 5.1 version. Get your copy at:

http://www.alaDdlnsys.com./dropstuff/index.html

Also of note for owners of StuffIt Deluxe 5 are the StuffIt Deluxe 5.0.2 update:

http://www.alaDdlnsys.com./deluxe/dlx502update.html

And the StuffIt SpaceSaver 5.0.1 update:

http://www.alaDdlnsys.com./deluxe/ss501update.html

Apple ColorSync 2.6

Apple took the opportunity of the Seybold conference to release a new version of its ColorSync CMS (Colour Management System). Among other things the new version seems to fix longstanding bugs between ColorSync 2.5.x and EPSON printers. Get your copy at:

http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n11286

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AppleShare IP Web & File Update 6.1.1

Apple has corrected a serious memory leak problem in AppleShare IP 6.x. The updater file is easy to install and solves a couple of other problems:
http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n11284

Quark PDF Filter 1.0

Quark Inc. had relatively little to say at Seybold about QuarkXPress version 5.0 –expected later this year. However, later in the week the company did finally release the PDF export filter it has had in beta for about a year. The Quark PDF filter helps to export Quark pages directly to PDF and requires QuarkXpress 4.0.4 or higher. Check it out at:
http://www.quark.com/files/xtquarkxts_40.html

ClarisWorks Import Filter XTension

A new Quark XTension is available to bring all the latest ClarisWorks files into QuarkXPress:
http://www.infologic.net/products/claris.html

iCab Web Browser

For those of you weary of the endless bloatware that passes for browser technology these days a German company may have just the ticket. iCab is a snappy new super-efficient web browser that runs in only 2 MB of disk space! An English version of the beta is available at:
http://www.icab.de/download.html

Graphic Converter 3.6

The Swiss Army Knife of graphic shareware has been updated to version 3.6. This must have graphics utility can be found at:
http://www.lemkesoft.de/us_gcdownload.html

SoftWindows 95 & 98 5.0.5

Insignia has updated its SoftWindows package for both SoftWindows 95 and SoftWindows 98. The new versions (5.0.5) and their associated files can be found on the company's FTP server at:
ftp://ftp.insignia.com/mac/

Beware the Trojan Horse

A "Trojan Horse" is a virus contained in a specific file that invades your Mac when you run that application. Beware of a file called "Mac OS 8.5.1 Chooser Update". This is a bogus file that can do VERY nasty things to your hard drive. And remember, most Virus detection software cannot defend against Trojan Horses –only you can!

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