Quark 6.0 –the wait is over?

On Tuesday, June 10, Quark announced that Quark 6 will ship next week. For many digital publishers this is the last obstacle remaining in the switch to Mac OS X. We examine this important development:

Features
QuarkXPress 6 is finally Mac OS X native. It will now include: Multiple undo and redo support; Full PDF creation support along with retention of spot colours; New project files will allow users to share attributes and information (share style sheets, colors, hyphenation settings and lists) in complex projects that include multiple versions of print and Web pages in varying sizes and orientations; Synchronized Text will let users share content among layouts with live update capabilities; Tables support is said to be greatly improved; Web-page conversion features introduced in Version 5 are extended with enhancements including rollovers, menus, hyperlinks, font-family management, and preview and export controls.

Availability
While Quark's press release says shipping will start within one week, Internet reports quote Quark's phone operators as telling people that delivery could be delayed to late July.

Readiness
Will QuarkXPress 6 be ready for prime time? Historically, the company has usually needed at least one minor upgrade under it's belt to deal with bugs –Quark 4, 4.0.1 4.02, 4.03 were all unusable in a production environment. Nevertheless, Quark has had more than enough time to get this right. XPress 6 is the last major application to be ported to OS X and we expect quality control to be higher this time.

Pricing
Quark's Canadian distributors have not announced Canadian pricing as of this writing but version 6 will be available for $1045 U.S. at the company's web site. Upgraders from 5 can get it for $199; from 4.0 for $399 U.S. and from 3.0 for $499 U.S.
QuarkXPress 6 – Precursor Price TBA
http://www.quark.com
Support your local consultant ! shop at: http://hardware.precursor.ca

Mac OS X Upgrade Plan –Free

With Quark 6 finally available, many digital publishers will be investigating the installation of Mac OS X. Precursor Systems has been working with Mac OS X since before its delivery (Precursor was on Apple's software seed test team). And we have been using Mac OS X from 10.0 to 10.2.6 ever since.

We would like to help you convert to Mac OS X and realize the benefits in flexibility and stability that this new operating system has to offer. All Precursor annual support contract customers are entitled to a free Mac OS X Upgrade Plan report that will indicate what will be required in assets, costs and training to make the conversion successful.

Please contact us at your convenience to initiate this.