

MULTIMEDIA

Sonic set to ship new DVD conversion package

Sonic Solutions will soon be shipping *Vobulator*, a brand new medley of software for converting video, audio and still images to MPEG-2 data (first release Mac only, Windows NT to follow). *Vobulator* files will play from DVD-ROM discs only; unlike Sonic's *DVD Producer*, *Vobulator* will not write DVD-Video for TV set-tops.

Vobulator's strength is its productivity feature set, according to Sonic. It lets users work with up to eight audio streams and 32 subtitle streams, and includes a range of batch processing functions. Drag-n-drop has been liberally integrated into the interface.

Vobulator handles QuickTime, Windows AVI or Avid OMF files, and is fully Video Object-compliant. Sonic's current price is \$5,000 (US) (reportedly \$8,000 after March 15th).

Sonic Solutions is at www.sonic.com (or check www.vobulator.com for more info on *Vobulator*), or phone 415-893-8000.

STOCK PHOTOS

Image sources on the Web

A handy new website created by The Exeter Company gives art directors and designers free access to a comprehensive listing of stock photo sources worldwide, sorted by classification, by category, by company or by geographical location. Listings for photo sources include contact names and subject specialties.

The Stock Photo Deskbook site at www.stockphotodeskbook.com is a companion resource to Exeter's printed directory.

CONTESTS

CAPIC gala set for March

The Canadian Association of Photographers & Illustrators in Communications (CAPIC) will hold its annual gala Awards for Excellence night on March 25th at the Design Exchange in Toronto. Master of ceremonies will be CITY-TV's Gord Martineau.

For details on tickets and awards, call CAPIC at 416-462-3677.

PLUG-INS

Enfocus ships new version of PitStop PDF editor

PitStop 1.5, the editing plug-in for Adobe *Acrobat*, just released by Enfocus Software, adds several key improvements from its last iteration.

With the new version, users can copy and paste between pages in a PDF document, or between pages in different documents. Fonts, color spaces and other resources are automatically carried from one file to the next. As well, images can be replaced by saving a new image in *Photoshop* as PDF, then pasting it into a PDF page.

PitStop 1.5 also allows adding fonts to a document, either system fonts or fonts embedded in another PDF.

PitStop retails for \$295 (US). Get a demo of *PitStop* from www.enfocus.com.

IMAGE MANAGEMENT

Xinet releases WebNative companion to FullPress

Xinet Inc. is releasing *WebNative*, an add-on image management tool to its FullPress OPI server that gives printers and prepress shops the ability to distribute low res images to clients over the Internet. *WebNative* incorporates tools for maintaining a searchable, accessible image library; clients can download FPO images to use in document layouts, and send these documents back to the printer where FPOs are relinked to Xinet's OPI server.

Xinet's price on *WebNative* to FullPress users is \$7,500 (US). See a live demo at www.xinet.com/webnative/wn.html.

ACQUISITIONS

Agfa swallows DuPont units

Agfa-Gevaert has announced that, having obtained government approvals, it will assume control of DuPont's \$500 million film and offset plate business units which employ 2,000 people, effective March 1, 1998. Financial details were not disclosed.

ROYALTY-FREE IMAGES

Photo Collective of Manitoba launches stock CD collection

Photo Collective Inc., a new photographers' collective based in East Selkirk, Manitoba, has released its first collection of digital images compiled on CD-ROM.

The photo image library contains photographs of Canadian and international landscapes, people, nature, business scenes and action shots. Up to 50 high resolution (300dpi) images are available on each CD in the 9-volume collection. A free catalogue CD is offered with the purchase of one CD title. The catalogue contains the low-resolution versions of the images from all 9 volumes. Each CD is priced at about \$250.

For more information call 204-482-3549 or visit Photo Collective's website at www.photocollective.com.

PLUG-INS

PDF imposition software now Quite due

Quite Software of London, England, says it is ready to begin shipping its new plug-in for creating PDF page impositions directly in Acrobat.

Quite Imposing Plus (and its lite version, *Quite Imposing*) should be available this month, at a cost of \$629 (US) and \$325 (US) respectively. Both packages provide full imposition utility, however the Plus version also offers step-and-repeat functionality, optional single page manual imposition, the ability to define bleeds, and "masking tape" for covering parts of a page.

Download a *Quite Imposing* demo version from www.quite.com/imposing.

SCANNERS

LinoColor previews new Circon at MacWorld '98

LinoColor Circon scanner, scheduled for release in March, was previewed at MacWorld Expo in San Francisco. The A3 flatbed scanner is designed for different resolution modes: super high res (2400 dpi) high res (1200 dpi) and standard high res (800dpi). Circon offers Linotype software for Macintosh and Windows which is also used by Apple and Microsoft to manage color in their operating systems.

Circon will be available for about \$15,000 (US). Linotype CPS (Color Publishing Solutions) Company is located in New York. Phone toll-free for more information 888-LINOCOLOR or drop by their website at www.linocolor.com.



SCANNERS

Agfa drops prices on DuoScan and SnapScan

Agfa Canada has announced price reductions on its DuoScan and SnapScan desktop scanners.

The DuoScan Full version now sells for a suggested list price of \$5,299, while the DuoScan Solo model list has been dropped to \$4,999. The SnapScan 310 now sells for \$269.

Call Agfa Canada at (416) 241-1110 to check further details.

SOFT PROOFING

Icefields delivers accurate on-screen images

Isis Imaging Corporation says its new *Soft-proofer* software displays images so accurately that the monitor can be placed next to the printing press to serve as a contract proof.

Isis says that Icefields' *Soft-proofer* for *Icefields* 3.0 is designed to simulate the printed result, saving time and materials by finding problems before making film or plates.

List price is \$275 (US). Call Isis Imaging for more information at 604-323-0033 or e-mail isiscorp@axionet.com.

CONFERENCES

Publish 98 agenda covers digital document delivery

The final agenda for the inaugural Publish 98 conference, to be held March 2-5 in Montreal, has been announced.

Session topics range from Direct to Press to Data Base Publishing to PDF Workflow (led by none other than GRAPHIC EXCHANGE publisher Dan Brill). The conference will also include a mini-trade show.

Organizers InterDoc Corporation have also announced that the event will be moved to Toronto in 1999.

Check www.interdoc.ca for the complete agenda and other information, or call InterDoc at 800-260-7501.



LASER PRINTERS

New 800 dpi Phaser 360 pushes down price of 350

Tektronix has introduced the Phaser 360, an 800 dpi color laser printer with built-in Ethernet interface, Adobe PostScript 3 software, and 24 MB RAM, priced below color printers with similar configurations. As part of its strategy to make color printing more affordable to use every day, Tektronix also recently lowered the price of its 600 dpi Phaser 350 color printer.

Phaser 360 retails at \$5,995. Phaser 350's new price is \$3,995.

Visit Tektronix's website at http://www.tek.com/color_printers or call 800-646-9202 for more details.

PLUG-INS

Photoshop gets a new edge with EdgeWizard

Chroma Graphics' new edge blending plug-in for Adobe *Photoshop* and compatible applications allows users to blend edges in a variety of ways without "halo" or "banding effects". The new edging technology, introduced at Macworld 98, includes four productivity-enhancing tools for applying seamless 8-bit edges to masks created in *Photoshop* or Chroma's *MagicMask*.

EdgeWizard, the second in a series of integrated plug-ins, is now shipping for Macintosh, Windows 95 and Windows NT and retails for about \$100 (US). For more information contact Chroma Graphics at 888-824-7662 or visit <http://chromagraphics.com>.

SOFTWARE

Bug fix released for QuarkXPress 4.0

Right on the heels of shipping its gargantuan version 4.0 *QuarkXPress* release, Quark has posted an update which fixes a number of problems, including certain bezier box errors, printing errors, and text flow errors. Fixes include:

- no longer crashes when basing one character style sheet on another
- no crashes when printing certain 3.3x documents over a network
- a Bezier text box will now accept text if the box is converted to a text box from a picture box.
- ovals that display solid white or black within a Bezier object that has a wide frame will now print to a PostScript printer
- if you update picture files of different types in the Picture tab of the Usage dialog box (Utilities menu), it will display the correct file type, and will no longer revert to the file type of the first picture updated
- missing pictures located in a single folder will now update when a graphic from another folder is encountered in the Usage list (Utilities menu)
- polygon shaped text boxes will no longer display text outside of the text box

Download the 4.01r1 updaters from www.quark.com/ftp001.htm.

DIGITAL VIDEO SOFTWARE

Apple previews QuickTime 3.0

QuickTime 3.0 is the latest version of Apple's industry-standard software architecture for creating and publishing digital media for both Mac OS and Windows platforms.

QuickTime 3.0 uniquely offers a single integrated digital media solution that includes both interactive virtual reality and 3D animation capabilities. The new software will be available for the first time to all major personal computer platforms including Mac OS 8, Mac OS 7.x, Windows 95 and Windows NT 4.

QuickTime is used for professional video editing, website creation and the development of CD-ROMS. Video formats include QuickTime Movie, AVI, a Windows format and DV an emerging digital video standard for consumer video cameras. QuickTime 3.0 also supports many digital audio, animation and MIDI formats as well as still image file formats. The developer preview release is available to the public and can be downloaded from the web at <http://www.quicktime.apple.com/preview>. Or for more information visit Apple's website <http://www.apple.com/source>.

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DIGITAL OFFICES

Ikon Digital Initiative ties together voice integration, networks and systems

Ikon Office Solutions has launched what it calls the Ikon Digital Initiative, aimed at assisting its customers with a smooth transition from existing office technologies to full digital capabilities.

According to the company's press release, the key focus of Ikon's thrust centres on systems integration of LOAN and WAN networks, sales and service of input and output devices, hardware and software interface solutions connecting devices to networks, software solutions for open architecture platforms, the integration of telephony, Internet and network-centric voice communications, and education and training. In pursuit of a broad base of solutions, Ikon has recently acquired various companies in the systems integration, software development, color output, telephony capability and high tech education fields. Ikon now partners with vendors such as Microsoft, Canon, Ricoh, Oce, IBM, Lotus, Hewlett-Packard and Compaq.

Ikon's most recent product offering was Ikon *Director Plus*, an open architecture interface platform which connects networks to digital printers and manages document workflow in an office environment.

Take a trip to www.ikon.com to find the complete rundown of products, services and the Ikon Digital Initiative.

MONITORS

Mitsubishi displays the future with new DiamondTron flat screen and LCD models

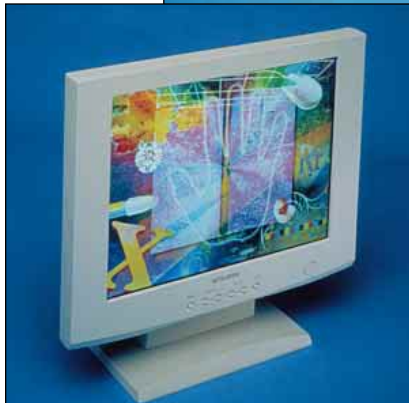
Mitsubishi will introduce a new line of flat-faced DiamondTron CRT color monitors this year which will combine LCD (liquid crystal display) with what the company claims is the largest diagonal viewable images in the industry. Production for a 19-inch DiamondTron NF CRT display is scheduled for the second quarter. A 21-inch monitor will be introduced in Q3 and, based on market acceptance, a 17-inch model will follow. Pricing has not yet been announced.

Meanwhile Mitsubishi's new 14-inch LCD40 and 15-inch LCD50 monitors, the company's latest entries for the desktop market, are now shipping. Maximum resolution for both is 1024 x 768 at 75 Hz refresh rate. These models were developed for users who require the high performance of a CRT display but have space and weight constraints. Priced at \$3,599 and \$4,999 respectively, they measure a svelte 2.3 inches deep and weigh 10 and 12 pounds respectively.

In addition, the new Diamond Pro 1010 monitor, now shipping, is designed for advanced graphics imaging and CAD/CAM/CAE professionals requiring optimal screen performance and image control. Mitsubishi's latest release in the 21-inch monitor category boasts a 0.26 aperture grille pitch from edge to edge and tops out at a resolution of 1800x 1440 at 76 Hz refresh. Suggested retail price is \$2,795.

Get more details on pricing and availability from Mitsubishi Canada, telephone 905-475-7728.

(right)
Mitsubishi
expects to
begin shipping
its new line of
DiamondTron
NF CRT flat
screen displays
in the second
quarter of
1998.



(left) Available now,
the Mitsubishi 14"
LCD40 and 15"
LCD50 liquid
crystal display
models.

THE SHADOW KNOWS...

Recent future sightings: new Apple G3 Extreme models, Photoshop 5...Tis the season for ballyhooing "killers" of all flavours, it seems...Adobe is rumoured to be busily working on its K2 and Stilton "Quark-killer", and although details are sketchy, grapevine whispers say it will be a supercharged page layout cum draw cum imaging cum publishing solution...On the immediate horizon: Epson's new "dye-sub-killer", a high end inkjet double page proofer...And then there's the imminent wave of "CD-ROM-killers" in the form of a bunch of DVD variations...And in the games department, "Quake-killer" Daikatana is near completion by Ion Storm...Bang! You're all dead!...Is the PDF versus TIFF-IT debate ever going to die down? Doesn't the admission by Time Magazine, one of TIFF-IT's biggest boosters, that its TIFF-ITs still have to be converted to EPS or DCS for imposition sort of throw a wet blanket on TIFF-IT's role as the completely predictable "final page" in the workflow? Standards, anyone?...The word is now out that Heidelberg will demo its new 74 DI digital press in September at IPEX in England -- reports say it will be a larger format than the QuickMaster DI, twice as fast, and driven by a Delta front end...Agfa parent company Bayer recently sent out a curious letter on the Year 2000 dilemma ordering all suppliers to advise how they were planning to deal with the millenium quandary; it ended with the somber notice that "Failure to comply may cause us to re-evaluate our relationship with you." (Guess they never heard of a Mac)...Computer Accessory Find of the Year thusfar: I really thought I'd have given my right arm for a cure for my sore mouse arm, until I stumbled on a very nifty arm support, a padded, cantilevered invention from Canadian company NEF Ecit, no less, and only \$59. I'll take a box of them...Coming very soon: Publish 98 in Montreal, March 2-5; CAPIC's Gala Awards Night, March 25th at the Design Exchange...While I'm at it, let me correct an inadvertent error on NewMedia 98 dates: May 12-15 in Toronto...