

# THE SHADOW KNOWS...



Full page ads placed not long ago in the Washington Post and NY Times by the California-based Independent Institute supporting Microsoft in its anti-trust suit weren't quite as "independent" as they seemed -- word has leaked out that they were paid for by:

Microsoft...Apple wins round one, as a Japanese court issues a temporary injunction against K. K. Sotec, makers of the iMac-like "eOne" computer...When new IBM voice recognition software ViaVoice was shown at the Steve Jobs Seybold keynote, the text of the presenter's on-screen demo disappeared off the

screen in a hurry -- but sharp-eyed attendees who read down to the last half of the dictation saw what was unmistakably pure gibberish...CorelDraw 9 has a lot of great features but apparently "Publish to PDF" isn't one of them -- the Shadow's techheads report that Corel-made PDFs are twice the size of Acrobat

Distiller's, and bitmaps can develop nasty color casts; as well, PDFs imported into Draw 9 are prone to missing images, fractured vector gradients and indecipherable "missing font" messages...IBM is offering its schematics for PowerPC motherboards to Linux OEMs for free -- look for Linux PowerPC boxes to

be available as soon as Q1 2000...First reports are starting to waft in and one thing seems nauseatingly clear: G4s stink -- seems that when turned on and warmed up, the plastic cases on the new Macs have a tendency to smell like, well, um,, burning plastic; Apple

Tech says the problem will go away over time...Under the "weird technology" heading, did you hear about "smart dust" project being worked on at U of California? -- clouds of tiny 5mm long motes designed to communicate with one another to form a "computer" that can float suspended in air and be monitored via optical transceivers up to 21 km away...

## ACQUISITION

### Xerox forks out \$1 billion to buy Tektronix

Xerox Corporation has made an aggressive move into the color printer market with the purchase of the Tektronix Color Printing and Imaging Division for US\$950 million. The acquisition is the largest of its kind in Xerox history.

Tektronix' family of Phaser color laser and solid ink printers last year logged nearly US\$725 million in sales. With this move, Xerox will become Hewlett-Packard's single strongest competitor in office color printing, as Xerox' distribution capacity nearly doubles to more than 16,000 resellers and dealers worldwide, commanding more than 30 per cent market share in office color printing.

Xerox expects that its color printer operations, based in Webster, N.Y., will be blended with those of Tektronix. Tektronix' printing division, with approximately 2,400 employees, is headquartered in the Portland suburb of Wilsonville, Oregon.

In addition to the comprehensive line of printers, the established distribution network, and manufacturing capabilities, Xerox acquires Tektronix' associated software and supplies. Gerry Perkel, current president of Tektronix' Color Printing and Imaging Division, will become president of the new Xerox Office Printing Business.

## PDF WORKFLOW

### Adobe utility streamlines PDF file creation

Adobe Systems has released a simplified way for Macintosh users to create PDF files from any software application. Used in tandem with the AdobePS 8.6 PostScript printer driver, the new *Create Adobe PDF* utility allows users to create PDF files without having to create a PostScript file or launching Acrobat *Distiller*.

*Distiller 4.x*, part of the commercial Adobe *Acrobat 4.0* package, must be installed on the user's Mac; the AdobePS 8.6 driver is also required (it will not work if only the free *Acrobat Reader* is installed).

After installing the new utility, it can be accessed by choosing File > Page Setup from within any application using the 8.6 driver, then selecting *Create Adobe PDF* as the printer. Other settings in the print dialog window include the default Job Options in *Distiller 4*, along with any customized settings which may have been created. Another option is having either *Acrobat* or *Reader* automatically launch the new PDF once it's created.

*Create Adobe PDF* requirements are a Power Macintosh with 16MB RAM available, Adobe *Acrobat Distiller 4.0*, and AdobePS 8.6 (in the same language as *Create Adobe PDF*).

To download *Create Adobe PDF*, go to [www.adobe.com/supportservice/custsupport/LIBRARY/acmac.htm](http://www.adobe.com/supportservice/custsupport/LIBRARY/acmac.htm). Adobe has also posted a list of supported printers which will be updated regularly.

## IMAGESSETTERS

**New 4-up Agfa Phoenix fast and compact**

Agfa's new compact Phoenix four-up drum imagesetter will start shipping at the end of October.

There will be two basic models available; the Phoenix 2000 has an imaging area of 20 x 27" and the 2250 images up to 22.5 x 29.375". Both can handle up to 200 lpi output at 1200, 1800, 2400, or 3000 dpi. Imaging speed is a blazing 92 4-page flats per hour at 1200 dpi or 51 4-page flats per hour at 3000 dpi.

The Phoenix is a completely new technology and boasts a very small footprint. With online processor attached, the new model occupies a space of only 44 x 68". It features a radical new non-conventional film delivery system whereby film exits to the top of the machine. Options include custom punches, although it will not support CristalRaster stochastic screening.

Pricing for the Phoenix 2000 and 2250 models is US\$59,000 and US\$69,000 respectively. Visit [www.agfa-home.com](http://www.agfa-home.com) to learn more.

## PORTABLE STORAGE

**Iomega now shipping new 250MB USB Zip drive**

Iomega has announced a new addition to its Zip drive product line with the 250MB Universal Serial Bus (USB) drive. The ultra-thin mobile drive is only one inch thick and weighs just under a pound. The drive uses Zip 250MB disks and also reads and writes to Zip 100MB disks and is compatible with both Mac and Windows machines.

The Zip 250MB USB drive, which includes one 250MB disk and a USB cable power supply, is available now at an estimated street price of about \$269 (Canadian), with 250MB disks available for approximately \$24.99 (Canadian) each when purchased in a six-pack.

## PAGE LAYOUT SOFTWARE

**Quark says XPress 4.1 close to release**

Quark is almost set to release *QuarkXPress 4.1*, which will fix bugs in *XPress 4.0* and add several new features, including direct PDF import.

Version 4.1 will only support the PDF 1.0 specification, meaning it will still be necessary to use *Acrobat Distiller* to output PDF files. *Quark 4.1* also addresses problems with AppleScript integration, as well as printing and network bugs.

The update's new features include a Scissors tool that can dissect shapes, HTML importing capabilities, a feature called Déjà Vu that can open the last several documents; an updated text import filter; an enhanced step-and-repeat tool, and guides that can be placed at absolute intervals. Also new is the capability to create pages with asymmetric bleeds, and to send RGB data to printers.

A company spokesperson said that *XPress 5.0*, which will feature the capability to export tables to HTML, will be available in a limited release later this year, and in beta by next spring.

For more information, contact Quark at 307-772-7100 or check [www.quark.com](http://www.quark.com).

## ACQUISITION

**Transcon buys Plesman for undisclosed amount**

Transcontinental Publications announced that it has purchased Toronto-based Plesman Communications. Plesman publishes seven trade publications, including *Computing Canada*, *Computer Dealer News* and *Direction Informatique*. This acquisition raises the number of specialty titles in Transcontinental's stable to almost 40.

Financial details of the transaction were not released. Plesman Communications founder and CEO Paul Plesman will stay on in a management role with Transcontinental.

## LARGE FORMAT PRINTING

**Fuji Graphic launches new Inkjet Product Group**

Fuji Graphic Systems Canada has announced details of its plan to create a new Inkjet Products Group to supply the large format printing industry with a product line which will include inks, media, software, and plotters. Initial focus will be on the Toronto and Montreal markets, with gradual expansion into major markets across the country.

The Inkjet Products Group offers a range of high quality inks for piezo and thermal inkjet plotters, including UV resistant, water resistant, and specialized inks, as well as a complete line of inkjet media. Services also include recommending the best plotter for customers' needs from manufacturers like Encad, Epson, Hewlett Packard and Mimaki, and compatible software for multi-tasking, multi-platform networking, color management, and high-speed color and density measurement.

For further information, call Fuji Graphic Systems Canada at (905) 905-612-8111 or check [www.fujigraphics.com](http://www.fujigraphics.com).

## UTILITY SOFTWARE

**Norton for Mac 5.0 and NAV 6.0 now available**

Symantec has announced the availability of *Norton Utilities for Macintosh 5.0* and *Norton AntiVirus for Macintosh 6.0*, with integration of both products through a common interface.

Norton Disk Doctor now features Live Repair, which allows NDD to safely repair the startup disk without booting up from a bootable CD. It also includes an Undo feature which allows the user to back out of any changes made to a disk in the event of unexpected results.

*Norton Utilities for Macintosh 5.0* is priced at US\$99.95; *Norton AntiVirus for Macintosh 6.0* is US\$69.95.

Go to [www.symantec.com](http://www.symantec.com) for details.