

For immediate release
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Adobe Systems Announces Illustrator 8.0

Industry-Standard Illustration Software Redefines Computer Drawing

Adobe Systems has announced Adobe® Illustrator® 8.0, a powerful, innovative upgrade that spans the creative needs of professional designers and business users. This exciting upgrade redefines computer drawing by offering groundbreaking creativity tools which allow users to create effects never before seen in a vector drawing application. Illustrator 8.0 software successfully combines the control and precision of computer drawing with results closer to those achieved using more traditional methods. Version 8.0 also boasts improved productivity and ease-of-use.

Illustrator 8.0, together with Adobe Photoshop®, Adobe PageMaker®, Adobe ImageReady™, and Adobe Premiere® software, forms an exceptional, tightly integrated suite of graphics tools for print, Web and video production.

Smooth Integration with Adobe Products and Other Software Tools

More than 80% of Illustrator customers use at least one other Adobe tool, such as Photoshop or PageMaker. To help users learn faster and work more efficiently, Adobe has designed its professional graphics products to work smoothly together by offering common tools, menus, palettes, and keyboard shortcuts. Illustrator 8.0 reinforces this integration by incorporating “Adobe Original” features - such as the Actions Palette, the Navigator Palette, and the Links Palette - which are available only in other Adobe applications. For example, Illustrator 8.0 software can now preserve layers when exporting to Photoshop allowing users to enhance and manipulate these layers in Photoshop, ImageReady, or Adobe After Effects®.

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“With Illustrator 8, Adobe has given users virtually everything they were asking for, plus a lot more,” says Steve Caplin, a freelance graphic designer based in London.

Productivity Enhancements for Faster, High-Quality Results

Everyone - from graphics professionals to Web designers to corporate users - can appreciate being able to complete projects more quickly. Illustrator 8.0 delivers an array of new productivity features that help users meet deadlines without compromising high-quality results. In addition to implementing more than 100 productivity enhancements in response to customer requests, Illustrator 8.0 has several major new features like the Actions palette, the Text Eyedropper tool, and Smart Guides that offer tremendous productivity gains that can save literally hundreds of hours for users.

Creativity Tools that Help Express Ideas in Ways Never Before Possible

The boldest innovations in Adobe Illustrator 8.0 software are powerful new creativity tools not available in other illustration programs. Four new types of live brushes - Art, Scatter, Calligraphic, and Pattern brushes - stretch and scatter art and calligraphic strokes along easily editable paths with precision and control. Users can begin working immediately with approximately 800 professionally designed brushes that will ship with the product, or they can easily create their own.

“The new Art Brush and improved Calligraphic Brush allow creation of very naturalistic artwork in a way that was nearly impossible before, and the Pencil Tool is absolutely the best freeform drawing tool of any graphics package,” Caplin continued. “This new ability to create artwork in Illustrator that looks as if it’s created in a bitmap program is extraordinary.”

The Gradient Mesh tool is another unique feature that lets users blend multiple colours in multiple directions and achieve painterly shading effects not previously possible using illustration software.

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“The best part is that although the images look as if they’re bitmapped, they remain fully editable throughout the design process,” Caplin says. “This is one of several feature that give Illustrator 8 an edge over other software products.”

Accessible Tools for a More Intuitive Creative Process

Illustrator 8.0 software provides innovative new tools that make the application easier to use for professional designers and business users alike. The unique Pencil tool lets users draw paths onscreen as simply as with pencil on paper. Curves are smoother than previously possible, and editing paths is as effortless as drawing a line. Bounding Box editing and new Smooth and Erase tools also help users easily edit their work.

“Smart Guides are like a CAD tool within Illustrator”, says Caplin. “They might save half an hour every time I need to align elements, which is critical when you only have a few hours to complete a project.”

Pricing and Availability

Adobe Illustrator 8.0 is expected to be available late September 1998 at an estimated average street price of £299 + VAT. Registered users of Adobe Illustrator 7.0 can upgrade to version 8.0 for £75 + VAT through Adobe Direct on 0131 458 6842.

Customers purchasing a version of Illustrator 7.0 during the first 30 days Illustrator 8.0 is available will be eligible to claim a free-of-charge upgrade to version 8.0. Customers must claim their upgrade to Illustrator 8.0 within 90 days of the relevant language version becoming available.

For a limited time customers can purchase the Illustrator 8.0 upgrade together with an upgrade to Photoshop 5.0 for £195 + VAT from Adobe on 0131 458 6842.

Further information is available from Adobe on 0181 606 4001, or visit the Adobe UK Web site at <http://www.adobe.co.uk>.

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System Requirements

Windows: Pentium ® or faster Intel ® processor running Windows ® 95, Windows 98, or Windows NT ® 4.0 or later; 32 MB of RAM (64 MB recommended); 50 MB of available hard-disk space (95 MB recommended); CD-ROM drive; Video card displaying 800 x 600 pixels desktop area.

Macintosh: Power PC based Macintosh computer running Apple System Software 7.5 or later; 32 MB of RAM with 20 MB available to Adobe Illustrator (64 MB recommended); 50 MB of available hard-disk space (95 MB recommended); CD-ROM drive; 800 x 600 monitor resolution.

About Adobe Systems

Adobe Systems Incorporated is headquartered in San Jose, California. Adobe develops and supports products to help people express and use information in more imaginative and meaningful ways, across all print and electronic media. Founded in 1982, Adobe helped launch the desktop publishing revolution. Today, the company offers a market-leading line of application software and type products for creating and distributing visually rich communication materials; licenses its industry-standard technologies to major hardware manufacturers, software developers, and service providers; and offers integrated software solutions to businesses of all sizes. Adobe has subsidiaries in Europe and the Pacific Rim serving a worldwide network of dealers and distributors. Adobe's 1997 revenue was \$911.9 million. For more information, see Adobe's home page at <http://www.adobe.com> or the Adobe UK home page at <http://www.adobe.co.uk> on the World Wide Web.

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