

Paint Shop Pro 5.0 Beta

Jasc, Inc. has released beta 2 of Paint Shop Pro 5.0, the latest version of the Internet's most popular graphic design application.

New features include complete layers support for blend mode control, grouping, visibility, transparency locking and variable opacity. Realistic Picture Tube brushes allow users to easily add a variety of images to their work. CMYK color separations can now be processed to accurately reproduce your images on paper.

A new multiple-level undo history lets you back up to any point in your image's creation. Pressure-sensitive tablet support brings out the artist in anyone.

Paint Shop Pro 5 features powerful enhancements to a wide array of painting and retouching brushes, new adjustable cropping and selection tools, and improved image enhancements and third-party plug-in filter support. You can now adjust virtually every color parameter of an image with Paint Shop Pro; palette editing and direct palette mapping allow you to make global color changes to multiple images.

Also includes an enhanced thumbnail image browser that allows you to visually search directories for images, advanced Internet graphics file format support, a built-in screen capture utility, batch conversion of over 40 different file formats, and direct TWAIN scanner and digital camera support.

Damar Group customers may purchase Paint Shop Pro on CD-ROM for Win95 or WinNT 4.x at a 10% discount.

Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.0 Alpha

Microsoft is preparing their upgrade to Internet Explorer by designing a graphics-friendly web browser that will be released by the end of the year.

Internet Explorer 5.0 will support the vector graphics file format. Vector graphics format allows much smaller file sizes than the current bit-mapped graphics format without the usual loss of resolution following resizing.

FrontPage 98 Bug

FrontPage 98, Microsoft's website authoring tool, has developed yet another bug.

Microsoft acknowledged that the search function of discussion groups that are created using FP98 does not work properly. A fix is expected shortly.

Cut Out Banner Ads

Solid Oak, who makes adult-filtering software Cybersitter, will release an update that not only filters smut but also annoying website banner advertisements.

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Upcoming Classes



Here's a short list of our most popular classes. Call Dave or Ann for a list of all our classes.

Windows, Lvl 1 call
Word, Lvl 1 3/19
Word, Lvl 2 3/30
Word, Lvl 3 3/9
Excel, Lvl 1 3/10, 3/23
Excel, Lvl 2 3/17
Excel, Lvl 3 call
PowerPoint, Lvl 1 call
PowerPoint, Lvl 2 3/26
Access, Lvl 1 3/6
Access, Lvl 2 3/12
Netscape, Lvl 1 3/5
Website Dev, Lvl 1 & 2 3/11
PageMaker, Lvl 1 3/24 & 3/25
PageMaker, Lvl 2 call
Act!, Level 1 call
Project, Level 1 3/16 & 3/18

Maxtor Releases High-Capacity Drives

Maxtor has released a line of new, high-capacity hard disk drives. IBM will supply the key internal components. One of the drives to be announced will be an 11.5Gb disk drive using "magneto-resistive" (MR) technology.

The 3.5" drive is designed for use in standard desktop and tower personal computer cases. This drive boosts the current limit of commonly-accessible disk drives, about 9GB over the magic 10GB mark.

The large capacity drive follows demand generated from games, full-motion video, and other multimedia applications that are well known for having a voracious appetite for disk space.