

## New Features in Creative Suite 4

*(Excerpted from our October 2008 issue.)*

Adobe's Creative Suite 4 is scheduled to ship in October. Below are all the improvements and new features we could find in the print- and Web-related applications. Pricing information is at the end of the story.

### Interface Changes

#### Application frame (optional):

- This large window contains all your open documents and panels, on a neutral-colored background. You can move the whole thing around, even onto a second display.

#### Tabbed windows (optional):

- Each document appears as a tab in the Application Frame
- You can copy an object from one document to another by dragging it onto the tab of your target document. The target document will take focus and you can position and release your object.

#### Application Bar:

- Its buttons let you open Bridge, switch workspaces, arrange documents, and perform searches

#### ConnectNow:

- To get there, choose File> Share My Screen in any app
- Connects to Acrobat.com where you and two guests can view your document in real time
- Views are synchronized as you move around
- Has a shared whiteboard for comments
- Chat via audio and/or video
- You can let guests control your screen

### InDesign

#### Flash Authoring:

- Minimal: includes only page transitions, buttons and hyperlinks
- Export to SWF or the new Flash XFL format, then edit XFL file in Flash CS4
- Buttons panel includes a library of drag-and-drop buttons

#### Smart Cursor, Smart Guides and Smart Align:

- Smart Cursor shows dimensions, rotation and X-Y coordinates of current object(s) in a small pop-up display
- Smart Guides display when a dragged object is aligned with other items or page edges — top, bottom, left, right, or center. Smart Guides also display when the object is evenly spaced with others, or is rotated or resized in relation to nearby objects.
- Smart Align snaps items to alignment locations (great for distributing items)

#### Links Panel:

- Shows thumbnails of linked items
- Takes you directly to the object
- Multiple instances of a linked item appear one time
- Click to see image's color space, scale, effective resolution, etc.
- Customizable display of details

#### Cross References:

- Can also hyperlink when exported to electronic documents
- Can reference one destination in many places

#### Live Preflight:

- Current status displays at bottom of layout
- Preflight panel takes you to problems
- Uses preflight Profiles, which can be customized

#### Conditional Text Panel:

- Like a style sheet for visibility
- Lets you show/hide text and create versions of documents
- Helpful for online vs. print versions or student vs. teacher editions
- Apply at paragraph, word, or character level
- Text and anchored objects reflow automatically when you show/hide text
- Pages are removed/added automatically when text shortens/lengthens

#### Tables:

- Inline notes in table cells
- Edit tables in Story Editor

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**Other:**

- Smart Text Reflow can add and remove pages automatically when text reflows
- Spread Rotation: temporarily rotate spread 90 degrees for editing
- Apply Nested Styles through the end of a line
- Place multiple graphics in a grid, as you place them
- Relink To Folder lets you relink multiple items in a different folder
- Task-based workspaces: shows only the most pertinent controls for tasks (typography, books, interactivity, etc.)
- Power Zoom: click, hold to zoom out — drag to another area, zoom back in
- Add effects to an object's stroke, fill and/or content
- Support for Photoshop 3D artwork
- Support for Illustrator CS4 multiple artboards
- Edit With menu item lets you specify the application to edit graphics with
- Data Merge outputs directly to PDF without an intermediary InDesign file
- New InDesign Markup Language (IDML) lets XML applications create InDesign layouts without InDesign

**Bridge**

- Faster
- New views: List view and Carousel View for quickly cycling through assets
- Preview and create HTML and Flash Web galleries, and PDF contact sheets
- One-click full-screen previews
- Collections: organize related assets in freeform or search-based virtual groups—even when assets are spread across multiple folders
- Better searches: integration with Mac's Spotlight and Vista's Desktop Search
- Smart analysis and auto-stacking of High Dynamic Range (HDR) and panoramic images for handoff to Photoshop
- Preview 3D images and panoramas
- Camera Raw: nondestructive dodge, burn, sharpen, and other adjustments
- Adobe Bridge Home: Online source of video tutorials, podcast interviews and training events

**Photoshop****Smoother interface:**

- Quick Zoom in/out for birds-eye view when editing close-up

- Uses computer's GPU and OpenGL for perfect clarity at random magnifications
- No stutter or preview lag
- Physics engine lets image continue to scroll after you let go of the Hand tool (like iTunes CoverFlow or iPhone apps)
- Drag to resize brushes
- Temporarily access a tool by holding down its shortcut key
- Notes panel: keep notes

**Content-aware Scaling:**

- Biggest new WOW! feature
- Miraculously preserves important items when you stretch an image
- Recognizes skin tones and automatically preserves "people"
- You can select other items to protect before stretching

**Rotate View:**

- Rotate canvas to any angle, and rulers and grids will match
- Great for tablet users

**Adjustments panel:**

- Combines Levels, Curves, Hue/Saturation, etc. for direct, nondestructive editing
- New Vibrance control adjusts saturation without harming delicate tones, such as skin
- Include new presets as starting points

**Masks panel:**

- Combines mask tools: Refine Mask, feather, Color Range, opacity, etc.
- Color Range vastly improved: can use multiple colors

**On-image controls:**

- For Curves, Black & White, and Hue/Saturation adjustment layers
- Drag left and right on the image itself to make adjustments

**Tool improvements:**

- Sponge, Dodge & Burn tools: preserve tonal quality
- Clone Stamp & Healing Brush: live preview before clicking

**Smarter Smart Objects:**

- Can now transform perspective
- Use layer masks
- Eyedropper can sample any or all layers

**Printing:**

- Preview out-of-gamut (unprintable) colors

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- Streamlined interface
- 16-bit printing for more detail
- Support for Device Link color profiles

#### **Accessibility:**

- Preview for color blindness

#### **Photomerge:**

- Improved correction for vignetting (darkened edges) and geometry
- Create 360° panoramas
- Auto-detect fisheye lenses

#### **Extended depth of field:**

- Blend multiple shots containing different exposures, focus & color into one perfect shot
- Brings everything into focus

#### **Integration with Lightroom 2:**

- Open multiple images from Lightroom into one layered PSD file, or as an HDR image, panorama or Smart Object
- Changes made to images in Lightroom 2 or in Camera Raw are recognized by each other

#### **Camera Raw improvements:**

- Now supports TIFF and JPEG images!
- Nondestructive editing
- Shares same engine as Lightroom 2
- Vibrance adjustment layer
- Adjustment Brush: paint adjustments onto image
- Graduated Filter tool: gradient-based localized correction for skies, landscapes, etc.
- Improved Dodge, Burn, and Sponge tools help preserve tonal and color quality
- Post Crop Vignetting adjusts the darkened edges of a vignette to follow along as you crop an image
- Increased motion graphics support and compatibility with After Effects and Flash

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#### **Photoshop Extended:**

- 3D engine: entirely new, dramatically faster
- Convert 2D art to 3D primitives
- Paint directly onto 3D objects
- Wrap 2D art and video files onto 3D objects
- Make 3D logos move in space
- Use models downloaded from Google
- New Mesh from Grayscale, Invert Visible Surfaces, and Create UV Overlays
- Edit lights, materials and cameras

- New high-quality ray tracer
- Export to OBJ, KMZ, Collada and U3D formats
- Edit video frames quickly; preview and export audio with video
- After Effects can read 3D layers in Photoshop files
- Improved medical and engineering features

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#### **Illustrator**

##### **Multiple artboards:**

- Various sizes & color modes
- May touch or even overlap
- You can link text boxes from one artboard to another
- Artboards can be within other artboards
- All share same Styles, colors and output settings
- Live Color works across artboards
- Output separately or as one multi-page PDF

##### **Blob Brush:**

- Merges brushstrokes to create a combined shape
- More like moving paint than drawing a stroke
- Randomization feature allows a more “analog” appearance

##### **Appearance panel:**

- Edit attributes of multiple selected objects at once
- Copy and paste attributes across objects
- Enable/disable attributes
- Show/hide attributes

##### **Graphic Styles panel:**

- Preview Styles on objects without applying them
- Apply multiple Styles to one object
- Includes a library of pre-built Styles

##### **Isolation Mode improved:**

- Other objects dimmed
- Layers panel shows only Isolated item(s)
- Illustrator displays the object’s hierarchy as a series of clickable “breadcrumbs” at the top of the screen
- Can now be used on compound paths, gradient meshes, images and clipping masks
- Allows Outline View

##### **Gradients:**

- Gradient controls are displayed directly on the object
- Just drag a circle and a gradient bar to change gradient
- Gradient stops can use transparency
- New elliptical gradients

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### Others:

- Apply multiple fills to a single object, with transparency
- The Appearance panel is now more like the Layers panel: attributes can be shown, hidden, and revised
- Clipping masks: edit with or without seeing clipped area
- Smart Guides show object dimensions, rotation angles and distance from nearby objects
- Graphic Styles preview faster and are easier to revise
- Separations Preview shows overprints, CMYK blacks, etc.
- Drag and drop an object onto panels to alter that object's attributes (Transparency, for example)
- Show "video safe" area
- Flex integration: create Flex skins in Illustrator

## Flash Professional

### Object-based Animation:

- Replaces Frame-based animation
- Right-click, choose Create Motion Tween, move the object. Paths are generated automatically.
- Now animate two instances of a symbol on the same layer at the same time
- Edit paths as any Bezier path

### Motion Editor:

- 16 Motion Presets to apply common behaviors
- Create and save your own presets

### 3D Tools:

- Rotate 2D art (like a movie title)
- Translate (move away and closer up) 2D/3D art

### Bones tool:

- Connect items where they touch each other, to make them behave like armatures — swinging in response to movement and gravity. Also known as inverse kinematics.

### Others:

- New Deco tool and Drawing Effect panel fills shapes with patterns (a fractal vine pattern or a grid pattern) or draws symbols in symmetry to one another
- The new XFL file format, which will replace FLA, allows for better integration with InDesign, After Effects and eventually other apps from Adobe and others (Quark?)
- XMP metadata: for better support in Bridge and other asset-managing tools, as well as on mobile devices
- H.264 video support, as well as FLV and F4V
- Adobe AIR 1.0 is now an option when publishing, making it easy to create AIR applications with Flash

## Fireworks

- Speed: continue to work while a file is saving
- Export to PDF: maintains hot links
- Smart Guides (see InDesign, above)
- In-place symbol editing
- Nested symbols
- 9-slice scaling everywhere
- Export to Adobe AIR, HTML, Flash, or Flex
- Interface: matches other CS4 apps
- Drag pre-made form elements: check boxes, text fields, submit buttons, etc.
- Drag pre-made OS elements: Mac and Windows interface items
- Text engine: same as Illustrator and Photoshop
- Import PSD files, including editable text
- Styles now work properly
- Kuler: create, store and share color themes online

## Dreamweaver

### Integration:

- First "real" Adobe version of Dreamweaver

### Related Files Bar:

- Shows Style Sheets, Java scripts, and linked files
- Lets you edit them

### Smart Objects:

- Links to Photoshop files update when you click on them

### HTML Data Sets:

- Import a table of text, and it becomes a dynamic table with sortable columns, master-detail layouts, etc.

### Code Navigator:

- Command-Option-click an object to display CSS rules applied to it
- Click a rule to edit it

### Live View:

- Shows page exactly as in a Web browser, with all functions active (scripts, etc.)
- Code edits display immediately in browser

### Live Code:

- Left/right split view in addition to top/bottom split view
- Preview updates as code changes, including JavaScript & Ajax

### InContext Editing:

- Better than Contribute: requires only a browser to access the online InContext Editing service. (...continues on next page →)

- Free during “preview” period, then maybe not

#### Adobe AIR:

- Can build and preview AIR apps in Dreamweaver

#### Other:

- Code Hinting for JavaScript and Ajax, with built-in syntax checking
- Workgroup version control using Subversion

### Acrobat

Acrobat 9 has many new features, which we outlined in our July issue. Of note:

- Include Flash in PDFs and convert Flash to PDF
- PDF Portfolios
- Better Preflight: provides common fixups
- Output preview: separates object types; you can click on objects for info
- Convert colors of all types
- Compare any two PDFs or images in detail

### For Further Information:

[www.Macworld.com](http://www.Macworld.com) has “first look” articles, and will be posting reviews as they become available.

[www.CreativePro.com](http://www.CreativePro.com) has first looks and reviews

[www.LayersMagazine.com](http://www.LayersMagazine.com) has a CS4 Learning Center

[www.Lynda.com](http://www.Lynda.com) has training videos for all CS4 apps

<http://tv.adobe.com> has videos on CS4's new features

### Pricing

Upgrades for any individual app costs \$199, except **Fireworks**, which costs \$149 to upgrade, and **Acrobat 9**, which costs \$159 to upgrade. Adobe has a chart of which apps are included in which editions (summarized below), at [www.adobe.com/products/creativesuite/compare/](http://www.adobe.com/products/creativesuite/compare/).

All include **Bridge**, **Device Central** and **Version Cue**:

**CS4 Design Standard** (ID, PS, AI, AC)

\$1,399 new, \$499 upgrade

**CS4 Design Premium** (ID, PSe, AI, FL, DW, FW, AC)

\$1,799 new, \$599 upgrade

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\$1,699 new, \$599 upgrade

**CS4 Production Premium** (PSe, IL, AE, PR, FL, SB, OL, EN)

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**CS4 Master Collection** (Everything)

\$2,499 new, \$899 upgrade

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