Do the site thing

Ken McMahon takes you on a trawl of some of the best free software on the web.

ow is a good time to think about getting your hands on lots of lovely software to keep you occupied between Christmas and the last New Year's Eve we'll be able to enjoy without the threat of "millennium armageddon" hanging over our heads. As you will be completely skint, having spent all your money on presents for relatives and bottles of Baileys, I have trawled the web searching out free demo applications, beta versions, plug-ins, extensions, fonts and other graphicsrelated free stuff for you to enjoy.

Check 'em out

www.microsoft.com/ typography/ fontpack/default.htm

Microsoft is encouraging developers to use these fonts on their web sites. You install these, and when you visit web sites that incorporate them, you will see them exactly as they were meant to look. They are a nice collection to have along with typefaces such as Impact, webdings, Monotype.com, Trebuchet, Georgia, Verdana and comic Sans. And, check out Microsoft's links at www.microsoft.com/ typography/links/ to people who give fonts away. You will find font foundries as well as shareware fonts [Fig 1].

www.microsoft.com/typography/ grayscal/smoother.htm

Still at the MS web site, if you have not yet upgraded to Windows 98 and cannot afford a copy of Adobe Type Manager Deluxe, download the Windows 95 font-

Comic Sans Georgia **Impact** Trebuchet



drinking an entire bottle of that Bailevs!

www.mindworkshop .com/alchemy/gifcon.html

That's enough Microsoft. Time to head to a shareware demo version of Alchemy's excellent gif construction set. It allows you to create and manipulate transparent gifs and animated gifs using animation wizard.

www.equilibrium.com/ ProductInfo/DBLite/DBLite.html

Here you will discover a free download of Debabelizer Lite LE. DeBabelizer Lite is good for simple image translation and slideshow functions. For RGB, bitmap, scan or paint files it offers a translation capability which is similar to DeBabelizer

◆Fig 1 As WELL AS PLENTY OF TYPOGRAPHY NEWS AND LINKS, YOU CAN DOWNLOAD THESE FREE TYPEFACES AND OTHERS FROM THE MICROSOFT WEB SITE

3 but without the CMYK capabilities, internal scripting,

processing or

image

palette manipulation. Slideshows can be used to create and translate on-screen thumbnails of images in a folder.

www.adobe.com/newsfeatures/ tryadobe/main.html

This is the place where you can try out most of Adobe's products including Photoshop, Illustrator, PageMaker, Pagemill, Premier, Streamline and After Effects. All these versions are "save disabled" which is not as good as a 30-day trial, but I guess that's why they're called tryouts. Who knows? You might like the software so much you'll want to pay for it.

www.livepix.com/download/ index.htm

Pick up a 30-day trial version of Livepix 2.0, the image-editing package that uses the flashPix file format to keep things fairly zipping along. This version has the same features as the fully-licensed version of LivePix 2.0 Deluxe but without the

Questions

& answers

I have a P133 with 16Mb of RAM, with MagnaRam installed taking me up to 20Mb. I was trying to piece together a picture taken from two shots using a camcorder. First, I fired up Adobe PhotoDeluxe, which crashed and burned after the splash screen. Then I tried Adobe Photoshop, which broke down trying to paste a picture. I tried this with all my graphics programs and they all died on me. In the end, I managed to piece together the photo using Microsoft Paint. Why is this happening? And would the result be any better in Photoshop or PhotoDeluxe?

(NAME NOT SUPPLIED)

The problem is almost certainly that you do not have enough RAM — real RAM that is, as opposed to the virtual kind provided by MagnaRam. The 4Mb additional virtual RAM you are getting with MagnaRam is hardly worth the bother. You do not say which version of Photoshop you are using, but as 4.0 needs a minimum of 16Mb RAM and 3.05 needs 10Mb, you're sailing pretty close to the wind anyhow. With the price of RAM now at around £1 per megabyte, there is really no excuse not to upgrade. So go out and buy a couple of 32Mb modules and you will enjoy faster, more reliable performance with all your applications. In answer to your second question, yes, it would look better and the

job would be far easier in Photoshop or PhotoDeluxe, both of which have a much wider range of more sophisticated tools than Paint. The tricky part of joining two halves of a picture is first to get the halves aligned (by using rotate, and then nudging one half of a pixel at a time with the arrow keys) and then make the join invisible by selective use of the clone and smudge tools.

I have a TV card which will only save captured single frames in the Microsoft Windows DIB format.

I can't find an application that will allow me to view this.

Is it possible to convert the file to a different format?

DAVID SMITH

It's Paintshop Pro 5.01 to the rescue once again. It will open and convert your DIB file to pretty much any other format. It's on our cover CD, or you can get it from www.jasc.com.

In September's Q&A, reader Alex Pounds was looking for a way to get a GIF out of Internet Explorer in another format. Ben Curthoys suggests setting the GIF as wallpaper: right-click the GIF and select "set as wallpaper". This creates a file called "Internet Explorer walpaper.bmp" in the Windows folder. You can open this in MS Paint or any other image-editing package that supports the bmp file format.

Novita LiveLetter email application or the Xaos Tools special effects filters, and with only two sample templates. If you have LivePix SOHO, you can also download a new SOHO project every month.

www.macromedia.com/software/ downloads/

Stop off at Macromedia to download Shockwave and Flash players so that you can view "shocked" sites which include interactive animations. While you're here you can also pick up demo versions of Macromedia heavyweights Director and Freehand (both are save disabled) as well as Authorware, Dreamweaver, Fireworks, Flash and Generator (these are mostly 30-day trial versions).

www.quark.com/ftp001.htm

At the Quark XPress web site [Fig 2] you can take the opportunity to play with the page layout software that is used by so many people, for the simple reason that it's really quite good. The bad news? Files cannot be saved, new libraries cannot be created and printing is limited.

www.quark.com/xtensions/

Here you will find a whole barrowload of filters and extensions for Quark XPress versions 3.3x and 4.0. Most are available for MacOS and Windows and many are

beta versions. Here are some of the more interesting ones available for XPress 4.0:

- MS-Word 8 Filter (Beta2) works for documents imported from (or exported to) the release of Microsoft Word 8.0, which is called Word97 for Windows and Word98 for MacOS. And if you have seen the mess when you try to import these files without it, you'll know just how useful that is.
- PDF Import/Export XT (Beta) allows you to save a page or range of pages from a Quark XPress document as a PDF file. The filter saves the pages in PostScript format and uses Adobe Acrobat Distiller (which you need to have installed) to create the PDF file. The filter also allows you to import a page of a PDF document into a Quark XPress picture box. It only works with Quark XPress or Quark XPress Passport 4.02 or later.
- **TypeTricks 1.01** features include Make Fraction, Make Price, Remove Manual Kerning, Word Space Tracking and Line Check. This one requires Quark XPress 4.0 or Quark XPress Passport 4.0.
- **Jabberwocky** (which is MacOS only) enables you to fill a text box with random text for testing and placement purposes.

should head for www.extensions, you should head for www.extensis.com/products/download.html. Xtensis products include Preflight Pro, QX-Tools and QX-Effects for XPress, and Photoshop plug-ins Intellihance, Mask Pro and Phototools, to name but a few. Thirty-day trial versions of each can be downloaded free of charge. Additionally, there are free, fully-working tools available for download, among which are PhotoBevel, QX-Drag&Drop and VectorFrame.

Christmas crackers

No Christmas shopping expedition would be complete without a trip to www.metacreations.com/downloads/ [Fig 3] where, among other things, you can pick up demo versions of Bryce 3D Convolver, Dabbler, KPT, Painter 5 and Ray Dream 3D. Have fun!

PCW CONTACTS

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