What's New in ActionLine 1.1?
New features and performance enhancements make interactive web authoring even easier.

If you are already an ActionLine user, you will find this description a useful introduction to the changes and improvements in the 1.1 release of the product.

Here is a brief summary of the new features. Detailed explanations of their use are described after the summary. They are also documented in the reference and getting started manuals.

ActionLine 1.1 now requires QuickTime™ version 2.5, which is available from Apple's website. Link addresses are provided at the end of this sheet and on IMC's website at URL http://www.imcinfo.com.

Slide Creation Features

Color Handling and Color Palettes

New Color Palettes make it easy to add color to portals and text, just by clicking one of the 81 predefined colors on the color palette. In addition, the standard color wheel is available to allow selection of any of the millions of colors in the 24bit color spectrum. Eyedropper Tool

Additional color management features have been added to the eyedropper tool

Image Formats

In addition to PICT and PhotoCD images, ActionLine now utilizes Gif and JPEG images in the ActionLine Editor. All image types can be utilized using Macintosh Drag and Drop.

Image and Text Positioning

Text and images can be accurately positioned within a portal during the authoring process.

Text entry into portal.

If a new portal is created, just begin typing to enter text into the portal. The text tool does not need to be selected to enter text into newly created portals. If the portal was created previously, you can enter text by clicking the text tool on the portal.

Printing support

In the editor slides can be printed out in any of three views, showing only the interactions, only the image and text data or both data and interactions. This creates a "blueprint" of the slide which facilitates easy editing and revision.

New Link Actions

Scrolling

Images and text can be scrolled horizontally and vertically within a portal, in increments set by the author. This allows the easy creation of rolling credits, scrolling text and other special effects.

Using the new features

Color Palettes

The color palette is a dragable tool palette. If it is not shown when the ActionLine editor is launched, go to the Display menu and select Show Colors. With one or more portals selected, use the selection tool to click on a color from the palette. The color you click on will be applied to all selected portals. If a portal containing text is selected, and the text itself is selected, clicking on a color in the Color Palette will apply the selected color to the text.

The uses of the eyedropper tool have been extended. If a portal containing text is selected and the eyedropper tool is clicked on it with the option key held down, the text color will be applied to the Foreground Color portion of the tool palette
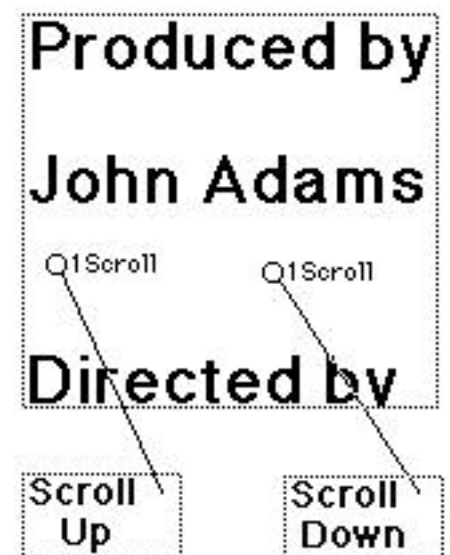
Image Formats

When creating a slide, you can now use images in any of the following formats-JPEG, Gif, PICT or PhotoCD. JPEG and Gif images can also be placed directly in your Image folder on your server. PICT and PhotoCD images will need to be converted to Gif or JPEG before being viewable in your web browser.

Image and Text Positioning

Once an image or text is placed within a portal, choosing "Set Data Position" from the Content Menu, will allow you to drag the text or image within the portal. This allows you to center an area of an image that you want to emphasize, or place text precisely within a portal.

Scrolling

Images and text can be scrolled horizontally and vertically, using the "scrolling" link action. The **Scroll Data** action is located in the Actions Menu, under the Data Menu.   When it is selected, you can select a horizontal and vertical value for the scroll increment. The value is in pixels. An example of a portal with scrolling text is shown in the right hand figure. Two portals have been created, to allow the viewer to scroll the text up or down. If a repeating delay is also assigned to the ActionLink, you can creating a rolling credit that can scroll on and off the slide.

Printing support

When you are in the ActionLine editor, you can print out your slide at any time by selecting Print from the File Menu. Everything that is showing in your slide will be printed. If you want to only show the ActionLinks and their actions, select "Hide Data" from the Display Menu before Printing. If you want to only print the Data, select "Hide Links" from the Display Menu before printing.

Performance Improvements

Several areas of general performance have been improved including The Build Java Applet function in the File Menu   Speed and downloading performance have been enhanced in the JavaViewer.

Summary of File Formats supported by ActionLine Version 1.1

File Type	ActionLine Editor & Viewer	JavaViewer
Images	Gif, JPEG, PICT and Photo CD	Gif and JPEG
Sound	AIFF	au

Table 1. File Format Requirements Version 1.1

Suggested file conversion utilities: Links to all these utilities are provided on the IMC website at URL http://www.imcinfo.com

Apple QuickTime™ version 2.5

http://www.quicktime.apple.com/

Image formats:

Clip2Gif

http://hyperarchive.lcs.mit.edu/HyperArchive/Archive/gst/grf/clip-to-gif-072.hqx

Gif Converter

http://hyperarchive.lcs.mit.edu/HyperArchive/Archive/gst/grf/gif-converter-237.hqx

Sound File Formats

ConvertMachine

http://www.anutech.com.au/tprogman/SoundMachine_WWW/welcome.html

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