Visual PostScript Editing

FirstClass NV announces the next level in PostScript editing with the release of Tailor Office 2.0 and Tailor Publishing 2.0

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GHENT, June 6, 1994 --- The Belgian software developer FirstClass NV today announces the release of Tailor Office 2.0 and Tailor Publishing 2.0 for NEXTSTEP, successors to Tailor 1.0, the proven visual PostScript editor. The products share the innovative technology for making PostScript documents editable in a graphical way, without requiring any knowledge of the PostScript language. As their name indicates, the products are targeted to different application areas. They will be released at NEXTSTEP EXPO 94 on June 21, 1994.

"Tailor 1.0 has been received extremely well by our customers," says Peter Camps, CEO and co-founder of FirstClass NV. "We have been overwhelmed by raving e-mails and thank-you notes. Tailor has tremendously increased the productivity of many people."

Magnus Nordborg from the Department of Biological Sciences at Stanford University puts it bluntly : "My colleagues are green with envy when I show them how I can fix problems easily while they have to get out the old white-out and glue." Terry Cosgrove from the East San Rafael Veterinary Clinic uses Tailor a lot for fine-tuning PostScript documents produced on a Macintosh; "Tailor is absolutely a great program," he says. Or take Michael Burgstahler, General Manager of Two Tribes Informationsgestaltung in Germany, who says "Tailor swallows the heaviest PS-files from the most exotic sources; fixing annoying rendering errors generated by poor PostScript drivers is now an easy job."

"All this positive feedback has encouraged us to carry the underlying technology to an even higher level," Camps concludes. "Listening to our users, we realized that there really are two application domains for PostScript editing : the office environment, including reports and presentations, and the professional publishing world. And even within those domains, needs differ from user to user."

To increase the flexibility in catering to specific needs, Tailor now supports dynamically loadable extensions, called keystones. Keystones provide additional functionality, leveraging the power of the base application. FirstClass already offers several exciting keystones, and more will be developed in the future.

The Keystone Application Programming Interface (KAPI) specification is freely available to all interested Tailor users. This means that users may develop their own keystones, and that third parties may offer keystones with specific solutions.

Tailor Office 2.0

Tailor Office 2.0 is targeted towards the general user. Example applications are :

- Update contact information, pricing etc. on data sheets, press releases,...
- Reuse text or other elements from PostScript documents in reports or presentations
- Fine-tune or enhance business graphics to fit reports or presentations
- Make last-minute revisions just before printing

Tailor Office 2.0 contains all functionality of Tailor 1.0, plus a large number of new features, including :

- suport for importing Adobe Acrobat (PDF) files (with limitations; for example hyperlinks are ignored)
- optional generation of EPSI or PC TIFF preview section in EPS output
- fast viewing of the first page in multi-page documents
- full editing of paths including Bezier control points
- selectable units : inch, cm and points

- support for Adobe Type 3 fonts
- support for PS output from most TeX implementations
- the option to export the original font name rather than the substituted font
- many additional Preferences to customize behavior

Tailor Office 2.0 lists $495.- and is offered to registered Tailor 1.0 users at the upgrade cost of $120.-

Tailor Publishing 2.0

Tailor Publishing 2.0 includes all functionality of Tailor Office 2.0, and adds a suite of features targeted towards the graphic arts professional. FirstClass plans to develop even more publishing oriented features in future releases of Tailor Publishing.

The current release includes :

- support for the overprint attribute used for trapping
- exporting to Adobe Illustrator format
- support for spot colors

The Adobe Illustrator export format provides the unique possibility to convert any PostScript file to a form that is fully editable by popular line art programs such as Adobe Illustrator, Aldus Freehand, CorelDraw and Altsys Virtuoso. In addition, Tailor for Publishing allows straight copy and paste to Virtuoso using Illustrator format on the pasteboard. Once pasted, the graphics are fully editable in Virtuoso.

With the Spot Color functionality, Tailor recognizes spot colors in imported EPS/PS files, and provides a spot color inspector to view and modify spot color definitions. At this time, exporting spot colors is only supported in Adobe Illustrator output format. Future versions will also support spot color export to EPS files.

Tailor Publishing 2.0 lists $995.- and is offered to registered Tailor 1.0 users at the upgrade cost of $620.-

Keystones

Keystones are dynamically loadable modules, extending the functionality of Tailor 2.0. Some standard Tailor functions, such as Text Reconstruct, are provided via keystones.

FirstClass is developing several additional keystones. A first set will become available in September 94 : the Find and Align keystones.

The Find keystone will offer a Find/Replace panel enabling the user to easily locate objects with specified attributes, such as color, linewidth, typeface and more. In addition, the panel will allow to automatically modify attributes to another value. For example, change all lines thinner than 0.25 points to exactly 0.25 points, or substitute one typeface for another across the whole document or a selection.

The Align keystone will provide classic alignment tools to help place objects or groups of objects on a grid, or align them in several ways.

The set of the Find and Align keystones will list $120.-

FirstClass NV

FirstClass NV was founded in Ghent, Belgium in 1993 by publishing industry professionals, as a privately owned company. Its business mission is to develop and market graphics applications for high-end desktop platforms.