

Tech Tome is a monthly e-newsletter written by Jeff Rhoades, our pre-press technical guru!

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Hello and welcome to our first issue of Tech Tome. Technology moves a lot faster than we sometimes like it to. We decided to publish this monthly newsletter to help those of you that don't have the time to keep up with the newest Tech Trends.

Useful usergroups-

<http://www.publish-l.com/> The Publish-L email list is a good resource for publishing issues. There are a number of knowledgeable independent publishers on the list. They discuss a variety of topics including e-books and the Google book settlement. As a printer, the publishing world was a mystery to me. After finding this list I've learned a lot about that segment of the book industry.

Indesign Tips-

Have you ever received a file from an author or designer and not known what version they were working in. There's a quick way to find out the details of the file without contacting the designer.

Open the Indesign file. On a Mac, hold down the command key and go to the menu Indesign>About Indesign. In Windows, hold down the Control key and go to Help>About Indesign. This should bring up a window showing the version of Indesign as well as other information. You'll find the original version in the Document History window. This window will even tell you if the file was originally a Quark file.

Here is a list of the most recent Indesign versions...

Indesign CS4	Version 6.0.4
Indesign CS3	Version 5.0.4
Indesign CS2	Version 4.0.5

Staying current-

It's important to stay up to date on your software versions. It's OK to wait a month or so to see if there are any major problems. Generally, the dot releases that come out after a new version launches fix bugs in the initial release. One current example is Indesign CS4. There is a bug in versions 6.0.0 – 6.0.3 that can cause font issues with placed EPS or PDF files. The 6.0.4 version fixes this bug. If you currently use Indesign CS4, make sure to download and install the 6.0.4 update.

Elephant in the Room- QuarkExpress-

Ah Quark. They dominated for so long. Complacency was their enemy. Yet they persist. They have made great strides lately and Quark 8 has started to catch up with Indesign. This is important as we all know that competition is necessary in this industry. Heaven help us if Adobe is the only company we have to rely on for our desktop publishing needs. As good as their software is, it's not perfect. If

Quark went away, they too would become complacent. Being the only horse in the stable, they would eventually become fat and lazy. We would all get bucked off if we tried to ride her. So to all the Quark users still out there, good for you. We still have Quark here and still receive files from that program. If there is anything you want me to cover related to Quark, please let me know.