Adobe Releases Major Creative Cloud Updates and Technical Communication Suite 5

Editor's Note: in mid-January after the publication of the last issue of the *Seybold Report* (14.1), Adobe announced a number of major updates to several Creative Cloud apps including Photoshop CC, InDesign CC, and Illustrator CC. In keeping with the CC update policy, the new features and capabilities were available to CC users immediately after the announcement. In addition, Adobe has announced the availability of Technical Communication Suite 5 with Document Type Definition (DTD) support.

The first section of this article is a recap of the news. The remainder of the article is an examination of some of the new capabilities including Photoshop CC Perspective Warp and 3-D design and using Typekit in InDesign CC, and Illustrator CC Live Corners. We also briefly discuss some of the new features in Technical Communication Suite 5.

We recommend our readers who are Adobe Creative Cloud users experiment with the new features as the features are significant and worth some exploration time. While this article includes details and images created by Adobe or by our staff, the full range of the new capabilities made possible by these new updates should be experienced by users themselves.

The Adobe News In Brief

- New features in Photoshop CC include Perspective Warp, which changes the viewpoint from which an object is seen, and Linked Smart Objects which, if used, will update the final design if the referenced file is changed.

- Adobe has announced it has added 3-D design and modeling capabilities to Adobe Photoshop CC. The company says the new 3-D imaging capabilities will enable those who wish to create 3-D designs from scratch or refine an existing 3-D model to produce print-ready 3-D models using familiar Photoshop tools.

- In addition, completed designs can be printed from Photoshop CC to a locally connected 3-D printer or via built-in access to online 3-D print services.

- Photoshop CC now supports the most popular desktop 3-D printers—such as the MakerBot Replicator—and also supports the full range of materials available on Shapeways.

- New features in Adobe Illustrator CC and InDesign CC make it easier to use the Adobe Typekit font service. It is now possible to integrate Typekit fonts into print projects, PDF files, DPS apps, and more. New functionality in InDesign CC is aimed at making searching the Typekit desktop font library a much easier task.

- InDesign CC includes new support for the EPUB 3.0 specification and also includes new ways to add interactivity to e-books, the ability to add pop-up footnotes easily, and offers simplified hyperlink creation and management.

- The latest version of Illustrator CC makes it easier to create editable rounded corners with the new Live Corners controls. Other new and improved capabilities include more intuitive drawing with the rebuilt Pencil Tool, the ability to modify existing objects and change the view of perspective drawings with Path Segment Reshape, and export responsive SVG code and graphics.

- Adobe has announced the availability of Adobe Technical Communication Suite 5. This latest version comes with Document Type Definition (DTD) support and enables multi-channel publishing. All major components of Adobe Technical Communication Suite were updated.

Photoshop CC Perspective Warp

Photoshop users who have wished for a way to put things in their images into the proper perspective* will welcome Perspective Warp. All kidding aside, as the example Adobe staff demonstrated during the press briefing on this capability indicated, this new feature will quickly become the favorite new tool of many Photoshop users.

Simply stated, Perspective Warp lets Photoshop users take various images or parts of an image and shape them so all pieces come together in a single, accurate perspective. This new capability is more than sizing or twisting an image or segment of an image. The software sizes and rotates the material simultaneously as the user manipulates the warp points.

The image at top right was created by *Seybold Report* staff and is a screen grab from a brief video created by Adobe to help illustrate the new abilities Perspective Warp provides. At the front of the train, the warp selection rectangle is visible; this portion of the image can be warped by clicking on one of the points and moving it. (To see the full video the image appears in, simply click on the image.)

The way the Perspective Warp capability works is something difficult to describe in a few words, but is understood quickly when seen in a video. Thus, we recommend viewing the video provided by Adobe. Once seen in action, anyone familiar with Photoshop should have no problem warping images as desired, but a few moments of practice will be required for the first image.

The image at bottom right is taken from another brief video from Adobe; this video presents an introduction to Perspective Warp and the other new features in Photoshop CC including Linked Smart Objects, Camera Shake Reduction, and 3-D printer support. Even though the video is only a few minutes long, viewing the video will provide enough information for deciding which of the new features is the most useful and appropriate for a particular project.

* We apologize for the pun, but then again, we could not resist the opportunity to make it.

Click on the image above to activate a brief video created by Adobe to show how the Perspective Warp capability in Photoshop CC works. Click on the image below to activate another brief video about the new features which Adobe has added to Photoshop CC. The image below shows the use of Camera Shake Reduction, also a new feature. An Internet connection is required to view the videos.
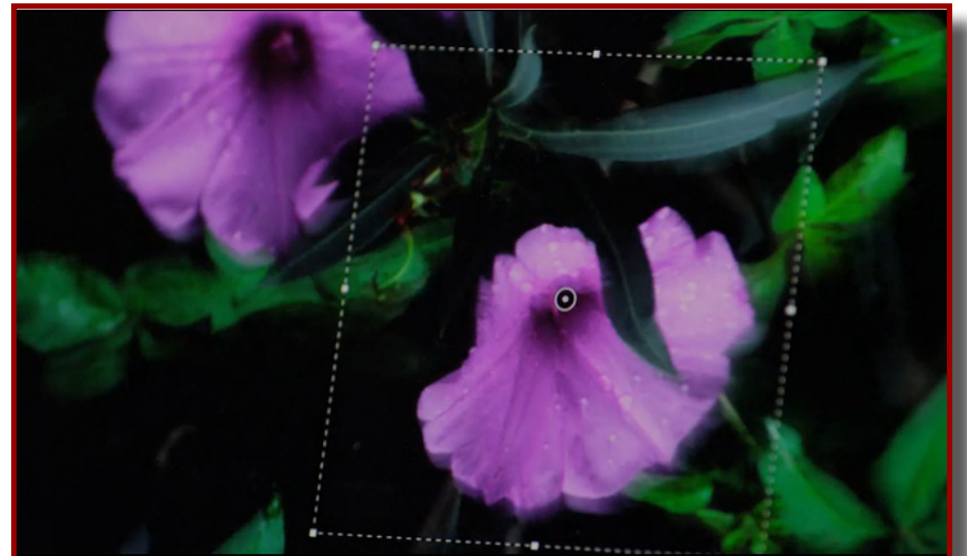
Working with Photoshop CC Linked Smart Objects

Even if only one person is working on image edits for even a simple project, keeping track of the status and placement of edited images can be a daunting task. Adobe added Linked Smart Objects (LSOs) to Photoshop CC to help make this task easier. With it, objects may be used and updated simultaneously across multiple Photoshop documents. Once created, Photoshop will updated the contents of linked smart objects when anyone changes the source image file.

Adobe has updated the Help files for Photoshop CC to include instructions on how to create and update (as needed) LSOs. But, here is a short snippet of instruction on how to create LSOs for those who want to try the process right away:

- Choose File > Place Linked.

- Select an appropriate file and click Place.

The LSO is created, and its existence is displayed in the Layers panel with a link icon.

Users can also create a LSO in an open document by dragging-and-dropping the appropriate file while keeping the following key pressed: (Windows) Alt key (Mac) Opt key. To change this default behavior, turn off Preferences > General > Always Create Smart Objects While Placing.

To update LSOs: if an external source file changes while a Photoshop document referencing the linked file is open, the relevant LSO is automatically updated. However, when a user opens a Photoshop document containing out-of-sync LSOs, the user can force-update the smart objects:

- Right-click a linked smart object layer and select Update Modified Content.

- Select Layer > Smart Objects > Update Modified Content

Another useful feature related to LSOs is it is also possible to replace the

contents of a LSO or multiple LSOs almost automatically. This capability will come in very handy for users who do projects which contain many (or mostly) images such as catalogs and will be especially useful for projects which contain many low-resolution placeholder images which must be replaced with higher resolution final ones. Note: When a LSO is replaced, any scaling, warping, or effects applied to the original Smart Object are maintained.

Photoshop CC 3-D Design and Printing Capabilities

Although few people have 3-D imaging devices connected to their design workstations these days, some people do, and we expect the number of designers working on 3-D design projects to increase significantly within the next few years. So, we suggest Photoshop CC users try out the new 3-D design capabilities even if they do not (yet) have a 3-D printer handy.

We show, in the screen capture below, the 3-D palettes which appear when 3-D design work is being done in Photoshop CC. Note the various options for setting the 3-D properties (bottom right of the image) and the other controls (top right of image). Although some of these design options are similar to those for 2-D work done in Photoshop, users must be prepared to spend a considerable amount of time, at least a few hours or more, to learn how to manipulate the 3-D design options.
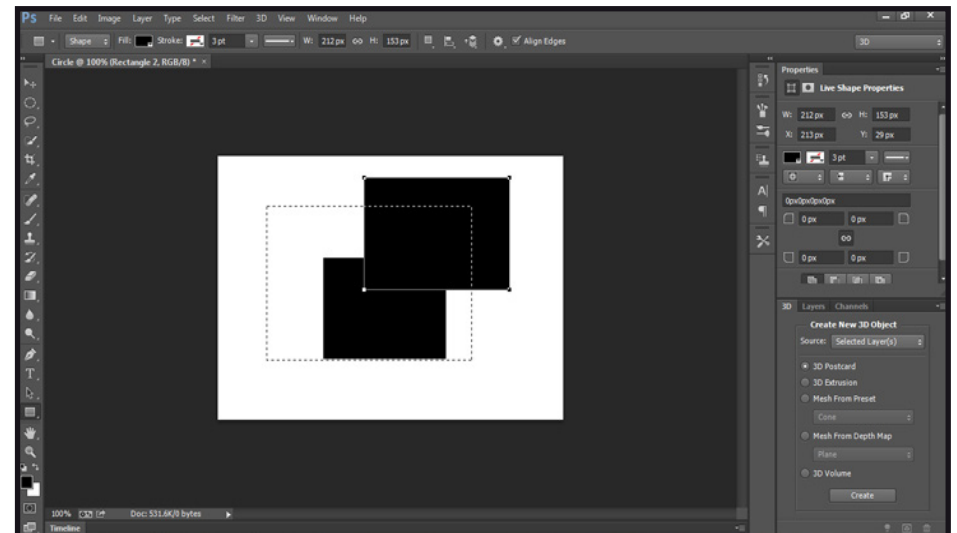
Once a 3-D object has been designed or edited in Photoshop, the user can choose a number of 3-D printing options. To access and change these options:

- Select Window > Workspace > 3D to switch to the 3D workspace.

- Open the 3-D model in Photoshop. and, if necessary, customize the size of the 3D model while opening it.

- Select 3D > 3D Print Settings.

Photoshop currently supports the following local 3-D printers:

- 3D Systems Cube,

- MakerBot Replicator 2,

- MakerBot Replicator 2x, and

- ZCorp Full Color.

- Photoshop also supports several Shapeways.com profiles.

Using Typekit in InDesign CC

Adobe says InDesign CC will now automatically search the Typekit desktop font library for missing fonts and offer the option to use those fonts, or similar fonts, if a match exists. We found, though, the automatic part does not happen without some initial manual intervention.

Desktop font sync is available to customers with a paid monthly or annual Creative Cloud subscription (excluding single-app subscriptions) or a Portfolio, Performance, or Business standalone Typekit plan which has been linked to an Adobe ID. Users with one of these subscriptions can sync with Typekit but will need to follow a few steps to sync up InDesign. Once Typekit is synced, the fonts are available in the users Creative Cloud apps. Here is the link to the instructions: http://help.typekit.com/customer/portal/articles/1145956-syncing-typekit-fonts-to-your-desktop.

By adding 3-D printing capabilities to Photoshop CC, Adobe has made it much easier for designers and creators to experiment with 3-D design and printing. Shown at right is the 3-D print settings from Photoshop CC. From this one box, a user can select the printer (see the list at left for the currently supported local 3-D printers) and various settings such as detail level and print dimensions.
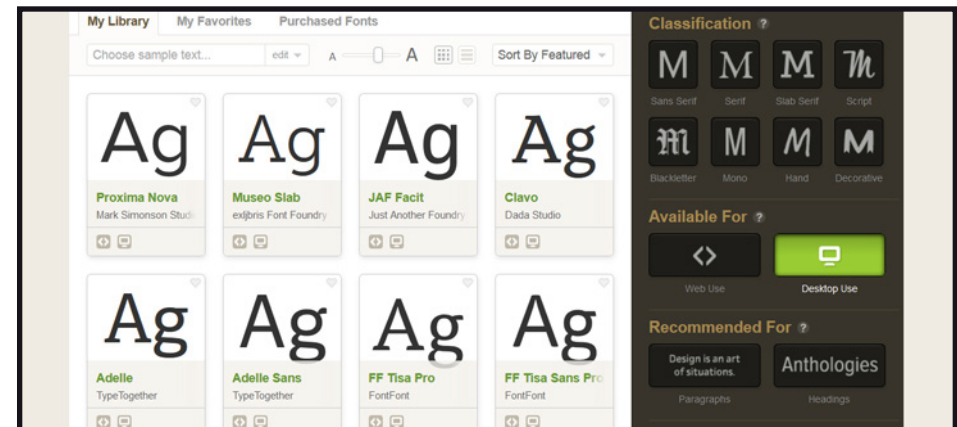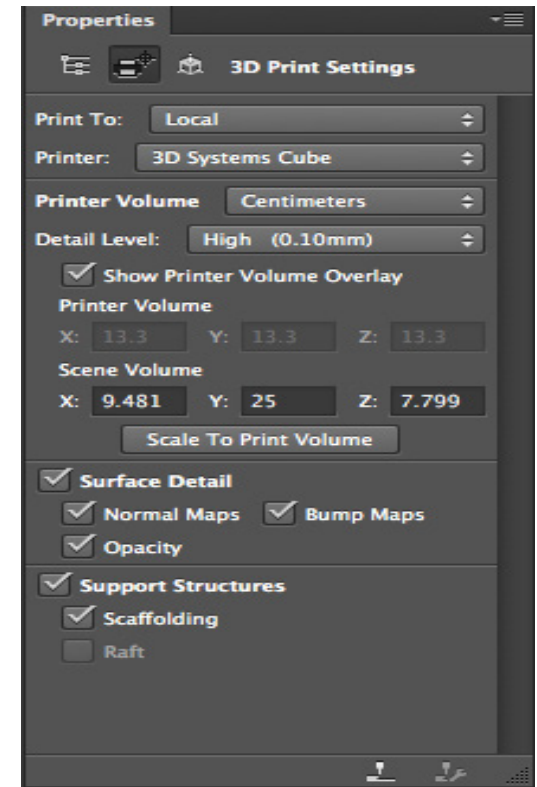
Not all Typekit fonts can be synced with Creative Cloud applications. When following the instructions for syncing Typekit fonts to the desktop, make sure to click the Desktop icon (see below) under the Available For section in the Typekit user interface.

EPUB 3.0 Support Enhancements in InDesign CC

Note: since EPUB 3.0 support is very important to many *Seybold Report* readers, we have included the full list of EPUB enhancements in InDesign CC. Many of these will be helpful for speeding up multi-channel publishing efforts. The list includes:

- Style to class name mapping.

- Style class ownership-handling of CSS class name collisions.

- Clean markup for Ordered/Numbered Lists.

- Improved heuristic for determining bullet and numbering structure.

- Static ordered list removed from EPUB export.

- Improved HTML markup and CSS for Convert To Text list Export option.

- Version string metadata.

- Improved naming convention of CSS classes to match their purpose.

- CSS generated for Japanese ruby tag.

- Scripting support for EPUB book export.

- New export warning or error message dialog.

- Improved mapping of bullet character to list-style-type property.

- Break-before property mapping.

- Access to iBooks reader device fonts.

- Font embedding on the iBooks reader is now supported.

- EPUB 3.0 with Layout option removed from EPUB export.

- Mapping paragraph keeps attributes to CSS paragraph properties.

- Support for more than one CSS class name in 'Style To Tag/Class' fields of paragraph, character, and object styles.

- Empty <p> and <li> ranges are removed.

Live Corners and the Pencil Tool in Illustrator CC

Live Corners in a new feature which will make it easier for designers and illustrators to smooth out the rough edges in their designs. This is another new feature in a CC app which will make some designers very happy and which will save them considerable time. In brief, Live Corners allows an Illustrator CC user to have greater control of the shape of corners and sharp angles without trying to draw a curve freehand. As can be seen in the image below taken from the Adobe Web site, a peak can be turned into a convex or concave shape or even flattened using Live Corners.

In addition, the Pencil Tool has been improved to make it easier to use. New capabilities include better curve-fitting, auto-closing of paths, and drawing of constrained and unconstrained straight line segments.
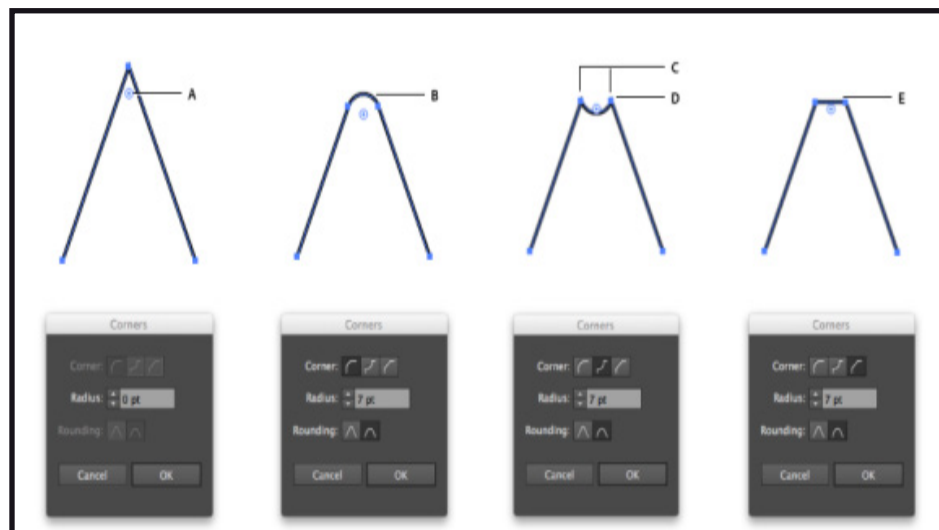
Updates to Adobe Technical Communication Suite 5

And, if all these new features for Creative Cloud users were not enough, Adobe has also been busy working on making major changes to Technical Communication Suite 5. If we were to include the full list of changes and updates, the list would take up more than a few pages.

So, we decided to focus on the changes related to multi-channel publishing and also to other activities we know are popular with our readers. For the full list, please see the product documentation on the Adobe Web site: http://www.adobe.com/products/technicalcommunicationsuite.html.

Here is our list of the updates and improvements made to the latest version of Adobe Technical Communication Suite we feel will be of greatest interest to our readers:

- Dropbox-powered sharing and collaboration in Adobe RoboHelp 11 and FrameMaker 12

- e-Learning content integration—Rapidly author interactive e-Learning and HTML5-based m-Learning content using Adobe Captivate 7.

- Publish HTML5 and SWF content created with Adobe Captivate 7 to a wider range of formats using Adobe RoboHelp 11.

- Multi-channel publishing support—Publish to HTML5, WebHelp, CHM, e-book (EPUB 3, Kindle Format 8, MOBI), native mobile apps (Android, Blackberry, iOS, Symbian, Windows), Adobe AIR, PDF, Microsoft Word, Adobe FlashHelp, JavaHelp, Eclipse Help, and Oracle Help for Java.

- Single-click responsive HTML5 publishing—Generate responsive HTML5 output for multiple devices EPUB 3, Kindle Format 8 (KF8), and MOBI support

- Out-of-the-box support for MathML equations—Create or edit MathML equations within Adobe FrameMaker 12 with native

integration with MathFlow Structure and Style Editors from Design Science. Import a MathML equation into FrameMaker as an image, auto-size it, and save its source in the XML file. Automatically render all documents including XML with embedded MathML equations.

- XPath 2.0 support—Eliminate the need to browse through numerous lines of XML code. Use the XPath pod in Adobe FrameMaker 12 to search and find elements and apply functions to them.

Our Take

Clearly, as the detail presented in this article indicates, the latest changes Adobe has made to Creative Cloud apps and to its Technical Communication Suite are extensive. Even the changes made to a single app are worth spending hours examining and experimenting with because being well versed in them will help users become more productive with the software.

In addition, we found the help materials and introductory videos presented by Adobe on the company's Web site to be useful in learning about the details and in figuring out how to find or trigger some of the new capabilities. That said, there is so much capability new in the most recent updates to these Creative Could apps, we expect plenty of training classes and third-party how-to lessons will be available on the Web and in person soon.

However, after studying the material presented in this article, our readers will be better prepared to use the new capabilities and to decide which deserve further study and practice. **TSR**