GRAPHIC WORKSHOP PROFESSIONAL 2.0a

BETA 6 (release candidate 2)

Please read this document in its entirety before proceeding or a leather-winged demon of the night will stop by your digs and lunch out on your pancreas. No foolin'.

Graphic Workshop Professional and all its ancillary applications are shareware. We invite you to evaluate the Graphic Workshop Professional package to see if it's suitable for your needs. If you like it, please register it. If it turns out not to be what you need, or if you don't feel it's worth registering, please delete it from your hard drive and accept our thanks for trying it out. If you do productive work of any sort with this software, you are no longer evaluating it.

This is a beta test copy of the Graphic Workshop Professional software. While it is complete and sufficiently stable as a release for testing, it may not be bug-free

This test copy will be superceded by a final release copy in a few months. For this reason -- because we do not want to see potentially buggy beta copies in circulation for all eternity -- this copy will expire and thereafter refuse to boot after the date listed in its beta notice.

Long before this beta expires, a release copy of Graphic Workshop Professional will be available for download from our web page at http://www.mindworkshop.com/alchemy/gwspro.html.

Note also that because this beta is available in advance of the "official" release of Graphic Workshop Professional, some of the registration details are not on line as of this writing. Specifically, Graphic Workshop Professional will not be available on CD-ROM until the conclusion of the beta cycle. If you register before the final release, you will be e-mailed a registration code which will register both the beta and the final release copy. No media will be shipped.

Thanks for checking out Graphic Workshop Professional. If you encounter problems with it or have any questions, please contact us at alchemy@mindworkshop.com.

Beta notes: The Help section is now complete -- or at least, it should be. If you find missing links in Help, please let us know.

New things to beat up on in this release include:

- Beta 6 addresses a single problem -- the old Change Directory and Move/Copy Options dialogs did not behave correctly under Windows 98 in all cases. The redesigned dialogs should deal with this. Let us know if you have any problems with them.

- Make your own Windows screen savers -- convert to SCR.

- The amazingly fast Pegasus JPEG library. Please let us know if you encounter any peculiarities reading JPEG files. Note that conventional, less than amazingly fast JPEG support can be selected by disabling the **Pegasus JPEG** switch in Setup. This addition also includes support for the PIC format used by several commercial photofinishers to provide pictures on floppy disks.

- Graphic Workshop is now a drag and drop source -- you can drag files between browser windows.

- GrafCat -- print high-resolution thumbnails from Graphic Workshop.

- Captioning -- add text to your pictures.

- EXE Picture configuration.

- Association Wizard

- Resource Extractor -- look for graphics, icons, text and sounds in Windows executables and libraries.

- Rotator -- changes your Windows wallpaper and screen saver periodically.

- GIF Construction Set UltraLight -- a simple GIF animator based on Alchemy Mindworks' GIF Construction Set software.

What It Does

Graphic Workshop Professional is *the* image management package for Windows 95/NT. It features multiple browser windows, batch processing, drag and drop, thumbnails, Pentium-optimized functionality and a lot more. It converts, prints, views, dithers, captions, transforms, flips, rotates, scales, crops, colour-adjusts, scans, quantizes, catalogs and wreaks special effects on ART, AVI, BGA, BMP, CAM, CDR bitmaps and previews, CPT, CUT, DCX, DLL, EXE, FIF, FITS, FLC, FLI, FPX FlashPix, GEM/Ventura GIF, HRZ, ICO, IFF, IMG, JPEG, KDC, KQP, LBM, MacPaint, MIDI (play only), MOV view only, MPEG view only, MSP, PCX, PIC, PNG, PSD, RAS, RGB, RGB, RLE, SCR, SFW, SGI, Targa, TIFF, TXT,VBX, WAV (play

only),WMF, WPG and XBM picture files. Graphic Workshop Professional requires a Pentium or better processor. A display adapter and Windows screen driver capable of displaying more than 256 colours are recommended.

Users of Graphic Workshop Classic -- Graphic Workshop 1.1 -- will find the following new features of Graphic Workshop Professional, among others:

- Multiple browser windows
- Directory tree displays in its browser windows
- Johnson-Grace ART file support to handle ART files from AOL
- Pentium-optimized code to run everything at least a bit faster
- Tip of the Day
- Delete to the recycle bin
- Zoom by factor in View mode
- Considerably improved Crop function
- Small thumbnail mode
- Mystery file identifier
- More comprehensive documentation
- Thumbnail database
- Captioning
- High-resolution thumbnail printing, along the lines of Alchemy Mindworks' GrafCat software.
- EXE picture configuration.
- Windows screen saver creation.
- Fast JPEG reading with the Pegasus JPEG libraries.
- Support for Pegasus PIC files, as used by several commercial photofinishers.
- Resource Extractor -- look for graphics, icons, text and sounds in Windows executables and libraries.
- Rotator -- changes your Windows wallpaper and screen saver periodically.
- Screen capture

Hacker Warning

Graphic Workshop Professional is true shareware – nothing is crippled or disabled in the downloadable evaluation copies. We invite you to try out every feature in the software exactly as it will work at such time as you register. Graphic Workshop Professional does not include a time-limit, exclusive of beta expiry dates. It will not cease to function one day and hold your graphics hostage until you pay for it.

The only "price" for evaluating Graphic Workshop Professional is that it will display its shareware reminder notice when you exit the software, and in some of its proprietary files. This notice will not appear in registered copies, of course.

Regrettably, there are people who seek to disable the shareware notices in applications like Graphic Workshop Professional, in effect, to enjoy registered copies of Graphic Workshop without paying for them. We regard this as theft, no less so than someone who seeks to enjoy a television set or a car without paying for them.

In order to prevent the theft of Graphic Workshop in this way, Graphic Workshop's registration codes are fairly sneaky. They permit Graphic Workshop to know with a high degree of certainty when it's having its leg pulled by someone with a bogus code. Being a very patient application, Graphic Workshop does not always respond immediately to attempts to "register" it in this manner.

We have encountered several attempts by software pirates to create Graphic Workshop registration code generators. Of these:

- Some flat-out did not work.

- Some generated illegal codes which Graphic Workshop will accept for a time and then reject.

- One actually generated genuine Graphic Workshop codes about one time in twenty, and generated illegal codes the rest of the time. Best of luck guessing which was which.

- One was infected with the Stoned virus.

If you feed Graphic Workshop a bogus code, it will eventually do something fairly surprising. Consult your imagination for the possible meanings of "eventually" and "surprising."

We've been developing software longer than most of the parties responsible for trying to crack Graphic Workshop's registration codes have been alive. Consider whether you want to believe us or a prematurely-bald fourteen year old kid who identifies himself as "CrakkHed." Consider further the cost of a legitimate, registered copy of Graphic Workshop Professional compared to the time it will take you to reformat and reload your hard drive, should CrakkHed's illegal code generator turn out to be the one with the Stoned virus.

Alchemy Mindworks specifically disavows any responsibility for consequences arising out of the use of hacked copies of its software or illegally-obtained registration codes, however surprising said consequences may be.