

What's New in Adobe Illustrator CS4

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The changes between Illustrator CS3 and CS4 are minor at best. We have some interface tweaks, some new features, and some features that could be helpful or distracting, depending on your workflow.

Let's see some of these changes now.

Interface Changes

The interface changes are very minor compared to the other Adobe applications in this update. CS3 veterans will recognize the Panel and toolbox locations as essentially identical. The changes are simply to match the new CS4 look and feel.

We can also change the interface to be arranged more like Photoshop or Indesign from the Workspace menu.

New Features

The most important new feature in Illustrator CS4 is the ability to create multiple artboards. This feature is very helpful when creating multiple versions of an illustration to show to potential clients. By using the artboard tool, we can press and drag new artboards over various illustrations, separating them from the others.

Once we have done this, we can then place the file in InDesign and Photoshop, and retrieve individual artboards. This way, we don't have to create a new file every time we want to create a variation on an illustration.

Smart Guides

One new feature that every user will notice are the Smart Guides. These guides appear by default as you are working, and could potentially be distracting.

They show the user how things will align to the center of the page, or other objects while pressing and dragging, or while using shape tools like the Rectangle tool and the ellipse tool. Once we are used to these, they could be a big help, but if you want to turn them off, here's how.

To turn off the Smart Guides feature, from the menu bar,

1. Click Edit->Preferences->Smart Guides

The Preferences dialog box will appear

NOTE: On a Macintosh, Click Illustrator->Preferences->Smart Guides

2. Click the checkbox next to 'Alignment Guides'.
3. Click OK.

Once this is completed, you should no longer see the Smart Guides lines appear over the image as you are working.

More Information

To find more training and information about Illustrator, go to: <http://ittraining.iu.edu/illustrator>.