

What's New in Adobe Photoshop CS4

UITS - IT Training and Education

About IT Training & Education

The University Information Technology Services (UITS) IT Training & Education program at Indiana University offers instructor-led computing workshops and self-study training resources to the Indiana University community and beyond. We deliver training to more than 30,000 participants annually across all Indiana University campuses. Our staff is comprised of enthusiastic professionals who enjoy developing and teaching computing workshops. We appreciate your feedback and use it to improve our workshops and expand our offerings. We have received several international awards for our materials and they are being used at universities across the country. Please keep your questions, comments and suggestions coming!

In Bloomington, contact us at ittraining@indiana.edu or call us at (812) 855-7383.

In Indianapolis, contact us at ittraining@iupui.edu or call us at (317) 274-7383.

For the most up-to-date information about workshops and schedules, visit us at:

<http://ittraining.iu.edu/>

© 2009, Copyright 2009 - The Trustees of Indiana University

These materials are for personal use only and may not be copied or distributed. If you would like to use our materials for self-study or to teach others, please contact us at: IT Training & Education, 2711 East 10th Street, Bloomington, IN 47408-2671, phone: (812) 855-7383. All rights reserved.

The names of software products referred to in these materials are claimed as trademarks of their respective



What's New in Adobe Photoshop CS4

In the transition between CS3 and CS4, we have a shift in the interface, as well as a large change in the way we create adjustment layers. Otherwise, most new features are additions to existing functionality.

In this document, we will explore ways to alter the interface into a more comfortable look and feel, as well as exploring the new features that make this version of Photoshop different from previous versions.

New Features

This version of Photoshop includes a series of new features aimed at making Photoshop more efficient.

Panels

- ◆ The new Adjustments panel puts all of our Adjustment layers in a single location that we can easily access and adjust.
- ◆ The Masks panel helps make Masks easier to understand and control, along with some helpful features that make mask creation and alteration faster.

New Tools/Adjustments

- ◆ One of the major new features in Photoshop CS4 is the idea of Content Aware Scaling. In previous versions, a Photoshop user would have to carefully protect his image before attempt-

ing to scale, so that the image would not end up out of proportion. Now, with the Content Aware Scaling feature, we can scale images, and Photoshop will recognize objects that should not be scaled, like people, and round objects.

- ◆ We also have the Vibrance adjustment. This adjustment allows users to subtly enhance or remove the colors in their image.

Improvements to Existing Tools

- ◆ The Healing Brush and Clone Stamp tools are greatly improved. Now, your brush cursor will contain a preview of the pixels you are about to move. This makes it much easier to line up and predict where the pixels will go as you attempt to edit them.
- ◆ The Dodge and Burn tools are also improved. In previous versions of Photoshop, the Dodge and Burn tools would lighten and darken the image respectively, but were imprecise and hard to control. Without careful use, they could severely damage the image. Now, they include the "Protect Tones" option. This option protects the image while lightening or darkening the pixels, reducing the possibility of damage.

Now let's look at specific interface changes.

Interface Changes

The most noticeable interface change in CS4 is the removal of the Title Bar that is ubiquitous across all other Windows applications. Now the menu bar is the top line of the application.

The default interface has also changed. There are fewer panels available on the right side of the screen than we've seen in previous versions of Photoshop. Also, several tools, like the Hand tool and Zoom tool are duplicated to the right of the menu bar.

The first thing we want to do is attempt to make the interface a bit more comfortable for the seasoned CS3 user. One of the unique things about Adobe products is how malleable the interface is. We can make adjustments to see whatever interface we are most comfortable with. There are several default interfaces built into each Adobe program, designed for specific functionalities of the program like Web, or Color and Tone.

The default workspace of CS4 is called "Essentials". This keeps the toolbar intact from previous versions, but reduces the number of Panels on the right side, while adding the new Adjustment and Masks panels. These are incredibly useful new palettes and we will explain the Adjustments panel later.

Let's see how to move back to an interface that is more similar to CS3. Notice in the menu bar an item called "Essentials". This is the menu of default workspaces available to us in CS4. We can create our own as well.

To change the interface, on the right side of the menu bar,

1. Click Essentials, Click Basic
2. Click Yes to continue.

The new interface appears. We will have to expand the Panel interface.

To expand the Panels,

1. Click Panel expansion button

In this interface, we have the History and Action palettes at the top, the Navigator group below that, then the Color group, Adjustments group and the Layers group. We can collapse and expand these groups to give more space to other panel groups. We can also close any of these groups by clicking the panel options menu, and click "Close Group".

Now that we see a panel group more similar to our CS3 interface, let's examine our newest palette, the Adjustments panel.

The Adjustments Panel

In previous versions of Photoshop, the best way to create adjustments to images was through Adjustment Layers. These layers are completely editable, and give us a lot of flexibility for our Photoshop creations.

The purpose of the Adjustments panel is to give users a quick and easy way to add and alter adjustment layers in their Photoshop documents. Previous versions of Photoshop used a menu to add these, now the menu is hidden and all of these adjustments are located in the Adjustments panel.

Let's look at the Adjustments Panel now.

Open a document to see the active version of the adjustments panel.

Each button in the panel is a different adjustment. They are arranged in rows. The first row involves exposure changes. The second row includes color adjustments, including the removal of color, and the final row are special adjustments usually used for creative effects, or to get information about the content of the image.

We won't go into what each adjustment can accomplish today, but IT Training and Education has

several Photoshop classes that discuss these adjustments in depth.

To add an adjustment layer,

1. Click 

The view of the Adjustment panel changes to the Levels adjustment view. This is the view we would normally see in a separate dialog box in previous versions of Photoshop. Now it is completely contained within the Adjustments panel. We also see the Levels adjustment layer appear in the layers palette.

All of the adjustments available here work the same way they did in previous versions of Photoshop. To edit an adjustment layer, we simply click the layer, and the adjustment panel shows the current settings of the layer.

To add an additional layer, we need to go back to the Adjustments list.

1. Click 

We see the list of buttons for adjustments again. As with previous versions of Photoshop, we can create as many adjustment layers as we like. We create additional layers either by returning to the main Adjustments panel window, or we can click the Adjustments button in the Layers Panel, as in previous versions of Photoshop.

For more information about new features in Photoshop CS4, see www.adobetv.com for short videos detailing all of the new features.

More Information

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