TIFF (Tag Image File Format) Support   October 1992

Aldus has recently changed its support system for TIFF. Following is the latest information on how we administer TIFF and how you can get a copy of the specification.

Written by Aldus with input from leading scanner vendors, TIFF began in 1986 as a standard graphics file format for black-and-white desktop images. Over the years, TIFF has been revised to include support for grayscale, palette color and RGB full color images. TIFF version 6.0 now includes support for JPEG compression to manage color TIFF file size, CMYK for desktop color publishing and prepress images, YCbCr for digital video support, tiled images, CIEL*a*b for device-independent manipulation of continuous tone images, along with other enhancements and extensions.

TIFF is now the de facto standard for desktop images and is supported by all major imaging hardware and software developers. And *how* developers use TIFF has expanded much more than we anticipated. TIFF is being used in applications that have nothing to do with desktop publishing, and on platforms for which Aldus has no products. The level of technical knowledge and expertise for one company to properly support the current specification would be prohibitively high.

Consequently, Aldus has moved to a support system similar to that of a standards organization.We manage the specificationUs distribution, but no longer provide direct TIFF support to developers. TIFF is a mature specification, and weUre confident developers will be able to support each otherQto brainstorm, problem-solve, and successfully write TIFF software. Aldus may participate, but can no longer answer all TIFF development questions.

Aldus will continue to support TIFF-specific issues directly related to Aldus products. For example, if a TIFF file doesnUt work with an Aldus product, we want to isolate and understand the problem, then try to correct it in our productUs next release.

And while Aldus no longer offers direct support, we are committed to making sure TIFF remains a viable standard. We will maintain an active role by chairing the TIFF Advisory Committee (a group of imaging experts who define future versions of the TIFF specification).

How to obtain the TIFF 6.0 specification: TIFF 6.0 is available in both written and electronic form. To place an order for the written spec, please call (800) 831-6395. The cost is $25 (plus sales tax). You can pay by check or credit card. You can also fax your order to (414) 631-1425. Be sure to include your mailing address, credit card number, expiration date, name on the card, and a phone number where you may be reached.

You may also download the spec from CompuServe, Applelink, and Internet. ItUs posted as a compressed PostScript file, so youUll need to print it to a PostScript printer. There is no charge for downloading the TIFF 6.0 spec.

CompuServe: Enter Library 10 of the ALDSVC forum. *Macintosh users:* Download TIFF6D.SIT. *PC users:* Download TIFF6.ZIP.
AppleLink: PathQThird Parties: Aldus: Developer Folder and TIFF Files: Final TIFF 6.0 Specification.PS (PKG).
Internet: via public ftp on sgi.com in the directory graphics/tiff (file name tiff6.ps).

We also post information on how our products support TIFF and encourage other developers to do likewise. Please note that the current TIFF sample files and source code do not cover the enhancements in TIFF 6.0. We welcome your submissions to this collection.

TIFF Support: All TIFF support questions must be posted to CompuServe. To access the developer forum, log onto CompuServe, type RGO ALDSVC,S and enter Message Section #10. This forum provides developers a place to communicate with one another, and with other interested companies, for mutual support and answers to TIFF questions. All development questions should be posted here so the TIFF developer community may benefit from answers and discussion. For an introduc-tory CompuServe account, call (800) 848-8199 and ask for Representative 85. Outside the U.S., dial (614) 457-8650.

Private TIFF tags: To request allocation of private TIFF tags, fax your inquiry to the Aldus Developers Desk at (206) 343-4240. Sending a fax is also the best communication method if you have a compatibility question about an Aldus product reading your TIFF files.

Pacific Rim orders

Japan only:
The TIFF 6.0 final spec and OPI 1.2 (Open Prepress Interface) files are posted in FMACPRO (Macintosh Programmers Forum) of NIFTY-Serve (the Japanese version of CompuServe).

NIFTY-Serve:FMACPRO:LIB 7 (Data & Documentations): #153 OPI 1.2 Spec.final.PS

NIFTY-Serve:FMACPRO:LIB 7 (Data & Documentations): #154 TIFF6.0 Spec.final.PS

The files are in a Macintosh type library and stuffed with Stuffit. A Macintosh will be needed to download these files.

All other Pac Rim developers should fax their TIFF 6.0 spec order to (414) 631-1425.