Tech Info Library

Apple Media Kit Version 1.1: Description (10/94)

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TOPIC ---

Version 1.1 of the Apple Media Kit, Apple Computer's cross-platform multimedia
authoring tool, includes enhanced features for both the Apple Media Tool and the
Apple Media Tool Programming Environment. The Media tool lets users assemble
interactive multimedia presentations that can run on Macintosh and Windows
computers without using a programming language. The tool uses object-based
authoring for rapid creation of presentation prototypes using rough-draft media
elements such as text, pictures, sounds and QuickTime movies.In addition,
version 1.1 ships with a demo CD.

DISCUSSION --

New Apple Media Tool Features
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To give designers and producers more power and flexibility in the project
development process, the Tool includes these new features:

• Scrollable PICT and text files, which let designers scroll a
  picture or text image.
• A selection of cursors, controllers, and scrollbars, which
  lets designers personalize their projects with a variety of styles.
• QuickTime controller support, which lets designers assign
  QuickTime movie controllers to movies.
• Improved support for editable text, which lets the designer choose
  text font, style and color.
• A dissolve effect, which lets users fade from one screen image
  to another.
• A cross-platform utility that checks movie, picture, sound, and
  text files for compatibility with the Microsoft Windows platform
  and converts, if necessary, the files to the cross-platform formats
  of the Apple Media Kit.

- An addendum, which explains the new features and answers the most
  commonly asked questions about project creation using the Tool.

Enhanced Apple Media Tool Programming Environment

The number of classes in the Programming Environment (PE) has doubled in size
from version 1.0, so programmers have a richer development environment in which
to work. These classes have also been enhanced to support the new Tool features
previously described.

The PE now includes sample source code that programmers can incorporate into
their own projects or use as a reference. Programmers may customize cursors,
scrollbars and controllers using common resource editing tools such as ResEdit.

The new version of the PE also has improved documentation and support. The
revised PE documentation, which ships with version 1.1, is more comprehensive,
providing detailed descriptions of new and existing features. It also includes
an index that allows programmers to quickly locate a reference.

Demo CD
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The demo CD that ships with the new software is included as a reference tool for
designers and programmers and includes, among other things, a number of sample
projects with source code. It lets users view projects and understand how to
better utilize the Apple Media Tool and Programming Environment. The Demo CD
includes the following components:

- A demo version of the Apple Media Tool, which lets designers
  create, edit and preview interactive multimedia projects. The only
  feature that is not enabled in this demo version of the Tool is the
  ability to create a runtime for the project;

- Four sample Apple Media Tool projects. Among the projects is a complete
  copy of "Peter's Magic Adventure", a children's edutainment title
  published under Apple's StarCore label, valued at $29.95. Designers can
  open up the projects to see how they were created;

- A sample Programming Environment (PE) animation project entitled
  "Gearhead", which was created by Art Technology Group in Cambridge, MA.
   This sample project illustrates how the PE can be used to create
   extensions to Apple Media Kit projects. The PE includes a number of
   sophisticated animations and special effects. Source code for the
   project is also included enabling programmers to better understand how
   to use the object-oriented development environment to enhance projects;

- Additional Programming Environment sample code, which provides examples
  of possible extensions that may be incorporated into projects. These
  possibilities include flipbook animations; Hypertext links, which enable
  the user to click and browse through information; and the use of
  Plaintalk, Apple's text-to-speech technology;

- A complete electronic version of the Programming Environment

documentation;

• A list of Programming Environment consultants who can provide project
  support, with background on their specific areas of specialty.

Ordering and Support Information
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Pricing

The Apple Media Tool is available for US $795, the Apple Media Tool Programming
Environment is US$995 and the Apple Media Kit, which includes both the Tool and
the Programming Environment, is US$1,495. The demo CD, which ships with version
1.1 of the Kit, is also available separately for US $10.

Upgrades

Version 1.1 of the Apple Media Tool will be sent free to all registered users
of version 1.0. Customers who do not receive their upgrade will be referred
to APDA.

Usage Requirements

  - Macintosh IIci or later with at least 8MB DRAM
  - System 7.1
  - AppleCD CD-ROM or comparable CD-ROM drive

Support

Up and Running support for the Apple Media Tool is provided by the Software
Support group at Apple Assurance.

Article Change History:
11 Oct 1994 - Reviewed for technical accuracy; made minor additions.
10 Jun 1994 - Added some additional configuration and support information.

Support Information Services

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