Black Ice Newsletter

Black Ice Software, Inc.

Inside this issue:

Color PDF file format is now available!

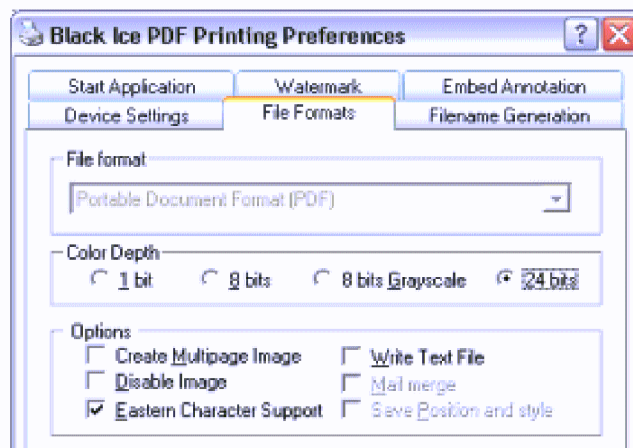**Color PDF file format is now supported.**

In the continuing effort to support the newest technology, Black Ice Software is introducing color PDF file format support.

Last year, Black Ice Software released the PDF printer driver and the PDF plug-in for the TIFF SDK. The PDF printer driver is used to convert any printable document into PDF format. The Adobe PDF (Portable Document Format) is a reliable format for electronic document ex-change that preserves document integrity so files can be viewed and printed on a variety of platforms and is a standard adopted by governments and enterprises worldwide.

Until now, Black Ice Software supported only monochrome (black and white)

ASP based enterprise level document imaging with Black Ice printer drivers and development tools

Today's enterprise level document imaging systems are designed to perform most of the tasks related to document acquiring, document generation, document processing, document storage, display, routing, etc. However one of the most important requirements of a document imaging system is the ability to provide easy access to a large number of documents for a huge user base. Users want to access documents, retrieve information from the documents, process the information and generate new documents based on the information they have retrieved.

One of the best ways to provide access to documents is to publish them on a web site. The problem with this approach is that the access to the docu-

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PDF files. Now, the new version of the PDF plug-in for the TIFF SDK or the new version of the Black Ice PDF Printer Driver makes possible the creation of color PDF files.

Using the Black Ice PDF Printer Driver the printed documents will be converted into PDF files, preserving the color information of the original document using 24 bit colors (16.4 million colors) or can be converted to 8 bit colors (256 colors).The color image can be stored in the PDF file using uncompressed format or by using JPEG compression.

Also, creating monochrome PDF files is still possible using the PDF printer driver or the PDF plug-in for the TIFF SDK. The monochrome

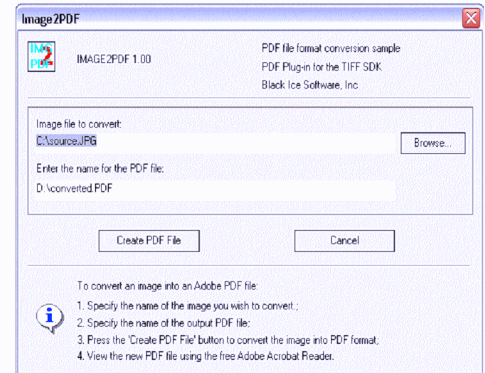images are stored internally in the PDF file using CCITT Group3D1 compression.

The PDF Plug-in for the TIFF SDK

The PDF Plug-in is available as an add-on for the TIFF SDK. It is very simple to add PDF file creation support to your existing applications written using the TIFF SDK, or to create new application which can create PDF files.
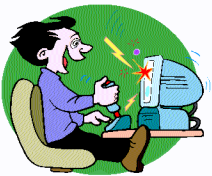
The PDF plug-in for TIFF SDK can convert files from several image formats handled by the TIFF SDK into Adobe PDF files.

Now with the 24 bit color support for the PDF format, color images can be

saved in the PDF file format. Converting the images to PDF has many advantages. To view different image formats, the user may need different image viewers. Adobe PDF files are compact and complete, and can be shared, viewed, and printed by anyone with free Adobe Reader software.

ments is read only. The user requests a document from the web server, the web server prepares the document and presents it to the user as an HTML page. Then the user can view the page, but cannot modify it and cannot store the modified document within the document imaging system.

The answer to all of these problems is ASP or Active Server Pages. ASP pages are scripts written in JavaScript, VBScript, C# or other languages and they run on the web server. Every time a request is received, the ASP page will process the request and will generate an HTML page that will be displayed in the client's browser. Since ASP pages have access to COM objects and ActiveX controls, the processing that ASP pages can do is

very extensive. An ASP page can retrieve existing documents from the document imaging system, can modify documents and can even generate new documents based on the information that the user has provided.

> Black Ice printer drivers and development tools include an ActiveX control that can be used on ASP pages

Black Ice printer drivers and development tools include an ActiveX control that can be used on ASP pages and this way the functionalities implemented by the Black Ice development tools are available for ASP scripts. This gives web application developers tremendous power. Practically every aspect of a document imaging system now can be implemented with ASP.

By using the Black Ice printer drivers on an ASP page, any printable docu-

ment can be converted on the fly to an image file. The generated image file can be stored in the document imaging system by the same ASP page.

The TIFF SDK/Image SDK ActiveX control can help accomplish several document imaging tasks. For example, when the User requests a document from the document imaging system by clicking on a link on a web page, an ASP page can capture the request and retrieve the document (i.e. TIFF file, JPEG file, etc) from the documents imaging system. After that, the same ASP page can prepare the document to be displayed on a web page. This includes resizing the document, changing the resolution of the document, crop a portion of the document and rotating the document if needed. The TIFF SDK ActiveX control will save the resulting image in a web friendly format so that the ASP page can generate an HTML

page with a link to the saved image. The generated HTML file will be displayed in the user's browser and the user can ask for further processing such as increase/decrease the size of the image, rotate/flip the image, etc.

Another document imaging processing task that can be done with the TIFF SDK/Image SDK ActiveX is the acquiring of documents through scanning. Scanning is the most common way to convert paper documents to electronic formats. TIFF SDK/Image SDK ActiveX not only can handle the scanning of the documents but can also handle the post processing of the scanned documents. The post processing includes image cleanup, image de-skewing, splitting multi-page image files into multiple single page files or merging several single page images into one multi-page image, etc.

For applications that require form processing, TIFF SDK/Image SDK ActiveX control can be used to fill out forms based on the information the user entered on an HTML form and can save the generated form into an image file that is ready for faxing or for storage.

Annotation SDK ActiveX is capable of adding notes, stamps or highlights to existing documents through the web. These additions can be tempo-

rary or they can be "burned in" permanently. If the annotations were not burned in, then they can be removed or modified at a later time.

When the Annotation SDK ActiveX is used on an ASP page, the ASP page can add or remove annotations to/from the documents that the ASP page will display in the user's browser. For example the ASP page can add a copyright or confidential notice to every displayed document. Or if the user creates or modifies the documents through the web, the ASP page can also add annotations like "Last modified on…", "Not yet processed", "Paid", "Faxed" or can do other modifications that are application specific.

> **With Black Ice development tools, every aspect of a document imaging processing system can be implemented**

Another application of the Annotation SDK ActiveX control is to add routing related notes to any document. If more than one person processes a document, then annotations can be added to a document with information that is important for the person(s) who processes the document. These annotations can be notes with important information, warnings, dates, etc. These types of annotations are temporary and they can later be removed.

The Fax ActiveX control can be used to accomplish one of the most important tasks in document imaging: document acquisition and distribution. After a document was prepared it is not always enough to store it in the document imaging system. Sometimes a paper copy of the document has to reach the user (i.e. for signing). Two of the most common

document distribution methods are faxing and emailing. Fax C++ can fax one or more documents to a fax number or if used with the Email2Fax Fax2Email add-on then it can also email documents.

By using the Fax ActiveX control on an ASP page, users can request documents by filling out a web form and providing some basic information like fax number, email address and document ID. An ASP page captures this information, prepares the requested documents and by using the Fax ActiveX control, the ASP page can fax or email the documents to the user.

The Cover Page Generator Add-on for the TIFF SDK can be used to create personalized cover pages for the faxes that are being sent with the Fax ActiveX control. If the user provides their name, company name, and phone number through a web form, then an ASP page can capture this information and can create a personalized cover page by using the Cover Page Generator.

For additional information about Black Ice products or for a live demonstration of the aforementioned principles and techniques, feel free to visit our website at: www. blackice.com.

Upcoming topics in the next Newsletter

Some of the upcoming topics for the next newsletter are:
- V34 Faxing
- Image Server

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Inside

Color PDF file format is now available!

Time to upgrade?   Latest Version Numbers

Programming Tools

Product	Version	Date
Fax C++/ActiveX/COM	9.12	03/17/03
Voice C++/ActiveX/COM	9.12	03/17/03
ColorPrinter Driver for Win95/98/ME	5.53	04/02/03
Metafile Printer Driver for Win95/98/ME	5.53	04/02/03
Mono Printer Driver for Win95/98/ME	5.53	04/02/03
PDF Printer Driver for Win95/98/ME	5.53	04/02/03
Mono Printer Driver for NT/Win2000/XP	8.00	04/01/03
Color Printer Driver for NT/Win2000/XP	8.00	04/01/03
Mono Printer Driver for NT/W2K/XP	8.00	04/01/03
Metafile Printer Driver for NT/W2K/XP	8.00	04/01/03
PDF Printer Driver for NT/W2K/XP	8.00	04/01/03
Terminal Server Printer Driver for NT4.0/Win2000	8.00	04/01/03
Tiff SDK/ActiveX/COM	9.05	03/21/03
Annotation SDK/ActiveX/COM	3.05	03/27/03
TIFF SDK w/ Cover Page Generator	9.05	03/21/03
PDF Plug-in for TIFF SDK	2.00	12/31/02
Image SDK/OCX	5.57	05/04/01

Impact Products

Product	Version	Date
Impact Fax Server	4.36	12/18/02
Impact Voice Mail Server (Standard)	3.14	04/11/01
Impact Voice Mail Server (Deluxe)	3.79	04/11/01
Impact Terminal Fax Server	4.34	05/03/02
Impact Fax on Demand	4.06	12/01/00
Impact Fax Broadcast	3.03	03/17/03
Impact ColorFax	5.00	02/21/03
Drag and Drop Printing	2.00	12/24/02

Internet Tools

Product	Version	Date
Print2Email	3.00	01/20/03
Tiff Viewer Plug-in - Complete	4.00	03/26/02
Print Monitoring Server	2.00	02/10/03

Free Software

Product	Version	Date
ColorFax LITE	5.00	02/21/03
Tiff Viewer Plug-in - Free Version	4.00	09/27/02
ModemWeasel	2.00	08/01/02