

From the Darkroom to your Desktop

By Blair Ball

This past February marked the 20th Anniversary of the legendary tool used today by the majority of digital photographers affectionately known as Adobe Photoshop. The Knoll brothers at an early age saw the vision and pioneered this software tool by following their passion. If Ansel Adams were alive today, would he be the master of the desktop as well? Many suspect he would.

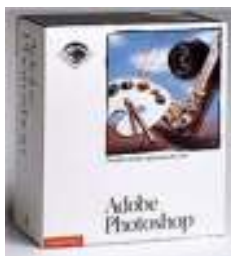
Glenn their father was a college professor in Michigan who maintained a darkroom in the family basement that sparked the children's first interest. John took an early interest in computers while Thomas would learn to develop film with their father's darkroom equipment applying his techniques for balancing contrast and color. Like most inquisitive kids, the Knoll brothers took that passion and combined the darkroom with the technology of the early computer.

Thomas first saw an ad for a computer in Time magazine that peaked his interest, and shortly thereafter purchased one to help him with his thesis. Thomas discovered while working on his PhD that the Apple Macintosh Plus couldn't display gray-scale image, so with this challenge Thomas wrote a subroutine to simulate the gray-scale effect. That work led to more subroutines and image programming. This cycle of refinement continued over a period of months and led to an application called "ImagePro" in early 1988. It was at this point that John suggested to Thomas that they turn Image Pro into a commercial application. Thomas completed a beta version in six months while John approached many Silicon Valley companies who were lukewarm to the idea of an image manipulation program. In September 1988 John presented a demo to Adobe's internal creative team, and they loved the product. A license agreement was struck soon after, and Photoshop 1.0 was shipped in February 1990 after 10 months of development.

Thomas never did finish his thesis, and remains involved. John works with ILM (a George Lucas company) as a visual effects supervisor on projects such as "Mission Impossible" (1996), "Star Trek: First Contact (1996) and "Star Wars": Episode I – The Phantom Menace" (1999). Glenn Knoll the father is still a college professor, with Photoshop replacing his darkroom equipment.

<u>Version</u>	<u>Platform</u>	<u>Codename</u>	<u>Release Date</u>
0.63	Macintosh		October 1988
1.0	Macintosh		February 1990
2.0	Macintosh	Fast Eddy	June 1991
2.5	Macintosh	Merlin	November 1992
	Windows	Brimstone	November 1992
	IRIX, Solaris		November 1993
	Macintosh	Tiger Mtn.	September 1994
3.0	Windows		November 1994

	IRIX, Solaris		
4.0	Macintosh	Big Electric	November 1996
	Windows	Cut	
5.0	Macintosh	Strange	May 1998
	Windows	Cargo	May 1998
5.5	Macintosh		February 1999
	Windows		February 1999
6.0	Macintosh	Venus In	September 2000
	Windows	Furs	September 2000
7.0	Mac OS	Liquid Sky	March 2002
	Windows		March 2002
7.0.1	Mac OS		August 2002
	Windows		August 2002
CS (8.0)	Mac OS X,	Dark Matter	October 2003
	Windows		October 2003
CS2 (9.0)	Mac Os, X,	Space Monkey	April 2005
	Windows 2000		April 2005
	XP		April 2005
CS3, Extended (10.0)	Universal Mac	Red Pill	April 16, 2007
	Windows XP	Red Pill	April 16, 2007
CS4, Extended (11.0)	Universal Mac	Stonehenge	October 30, 2008
	Windows	Stonehenge	October 30, 2008



First Version of Adobe Photoshop



Current Version of Adobe Photoshop



John Knoll



Thomas Knoll

Photos by Jeff Schewe