Color Management in QuarkXPress

What you need to know to survive

Presenter: **Dan Reid**

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What is the role of QuarkXPress in production?

- QuarkXPress is layout program
- Not engineered to handle conversions or proofing elegantly.
- Do you really need to proof or convert from within QuarkXPress?

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What do you want Quark CMS to do for you?

- Conversion
  - Separation from RGB to CMYK
  - Repurpose CMYK objects to a different CMYK color space
- Proofing
  - Monitor soft proofing
  - Hard copy proof of target print conditions (press)

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Which version of QuarkXPress CMS is best?

- QuarkXPress v4.x
  - Don't go there! Pandora's box of CMS problems.
  - RGB workflow a mess between the updates
  - Can't proof to RGB composite device
- QuarkXPress v5.x and v6.x
  - The same GUI for each version
  - RGB workflow better and allows RGB composite proofs

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Big Problems in Quark v5 and v6

- No way to easily tell if CMS is enabled.
- Monitor ICC profile not automatically loaded from the system display control panel.
- CMS settings are saved into the document
  - Monitor ICC profile designation saved as part of the doc
- Both versions do not recognize ICC profiles contained in sub folders of Colorsync (i.e. Adobe ICC profiles)
  - Allows only one additional folder of ICC profiles to be selected.

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Big Problems in Quark v5 & v6

- Changing separation or composite ICC profiles in the Print dialog also changes the documents color management settings too.
- Converted RGB output (printer) docs do not allow selection of the printer ICC profile as source when placing in Quark layout.
  - Only input or working space RGB profiles are listed.
- No option to change white point simulation in soft proof to the screen or hard proof.
- CMM selected by default listed inside ICC profile.

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Embedded ICC profiles in bitmaps documents

- Embedded ICC profiles are not always recognized.
  - Both QuarkXPress 5 and 6 have exactly the same behavior in recognizing embedded ICC profiles.
  - Neither recognizes embedded ICC profiles in JPEGs but does in TIFFs.
  - Must select "embedded" in the color management pull down list to use in the Get Picture window.
- Does not display the actual embedded ICC profile, instead listing "*embedded*" in Profile Info window.

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Good news in v5 and v6!

- Thankfully CMS is disabled by default
- Even if CMS is enabled the default is to not color manage CMYK but do so for RGB
- Must change each object to "Color manage source (RGB or CMYK) to (RGB or CMYK) destination" to invoke color matching for that object

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Good news for v5 and v6! - continued -

- Ability change the CMS preference for each color model independently
- No more reliance on Kodak CMS for QuarkXPress v6 on the Mac
- Collect for output allows ICC profiles to copied for transmittal

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New CMS options in QuarkXPress v6

- Added option to print as *DeviceN* colors instead of composite CMYK or RGB
- Added option to print *As Is Color Space*

New in QuarkXPress v6, As Is Color Space

- As Is Color is not applied when Quark CMS is active
- "As Is Color Space" allows a RIP to handle color conversion (rather than QuarkXPress) from their source color space.
- Best option for in-RIP separation and simulations.
- Does not emit spot color plates

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New in QuarkXPress v6, DeviceN color

- Available when Quark CMS is enabled
- QuarkXPress applies the ICC profile that you specify in the Separation Output pop-up menu of the CMS preference
- Emits spot color plates and process plates (CMYK)
- Ready for plate setter or can composited at the RIP for proofing

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PMS colors and Quark colors

- PMS colors are handled very differently in QuarkXPress v4 then in QuarkXPress 5 and 6
- QuarkXPress 5 and 6 uses the new 2000 PMS library update
  - Synchronized with current Adobe applications
- Quark created color builds are based upon the solid color ICC profile for that color model

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Proofing:
Soft Proofing to your screen

- Easy to select an incorrect monitor profile.
- If "Color Manage to RGB destination" is unchecked for the object, no soft proof.
  - This option controls both the screen proof and separation to the same color model
  - Your monitor is considered destination, why wouldn't you want a soft proof to screen?

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Proofing:
Hard copy local proofs

- No absolute colorimetric rendering option for composite simulates separations.
- Hard copy proof will not be correct if “Manage CMYK source to CMYK destination” is unchecked.

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Praxisoft CompassProXT

- PMS colors are converted using LAB libraries to device numbers from destination output profile
- Color Manage EPS file including nested bitmaps objects. (Placed images in AI)
- Ensure PMS colors in AI objects (EPS) and Quark PMS color designation print the same.
- Recognizes embedded ICC profiles in TIFF and JPEG
- Color manages Quark solid color builds too

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Alright, so what do I do!

- Color manage raster and vector objects in their native applications.
- Purchase Praxisoft CompassPro XT to suitably convert files for proofing and separation.
  - Does not help in soft proofing on the screen
- Utilize the conversion options at the RIP or employ a color server product. (Gretag iQue, or Praxisoft Autoflow)

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Summary

- Convert your raster and vector artwork to final output color space
- Disable Quark CMS

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