

Week Three – Information Sheet Four

Graphics Product List

To work on, or create images yourself, there are many products available.

Note: most things quoted here are for PC. If you use Mac, and can't find the app under the name I give, then Google "XXXX equivalent for Mac" where XXXX is the name I have given you. Ditto if I actually have one below that is not for PC – you will need to google for an equivalent..

There are online image creation sites such as www.canva.com Canva is good for making relatively simple things intended for primarily online use, or a small image size on the page. However, for images intended for print, or for large on screen use, even when you tell it to export at 300dpi, the result is often too grainy to be ideal.

For use on your computer, things range from :

Included In Your Operating System

Microsoft Paint

Free Open Source Apps

Gimp (sort of a Photoshop equivalent)

DarkTable (sort of a Lightroom equivalent) www.darktable.org

Hugin (stitches multiple shots into panoramas)

Rawtherapee (ort of a Lightroom equivalent) www.rawtherapee.com

There is a list of free graphics programs at <http://mashable.com/2007/10/27/graphics-toolbox/>

Paid Commercial Apps

Adobe Photoshop - this is one of the oldest and most used graphics applications around. It is updated very frequently and is the gold standard app.

Adobe Lightroom – is a newer app in the Adobe collection, and is a photo catalogue management app as well as a modification and enhancement app.

Photoshop is more aimed at graphics design style work, and Lightroom is aimed more at photographic work. Adobe have moved to a subscription model for their software (rather than an ouchy big up front price, like it used to be), and you can get subscriptions for various combinations of their products. Their subscription system is called Creative cloud, and there are over 30 Adobe applications that can be bundled in various ways. The Photoshop plus Lightroom subscription is approx. \$20 per month, and all upgrades etc are included. You can get this deal at www.creative.adobe.com

There are various other paid applications out there, but generally, Adobe is the one to use.

Also, remember that many Microsoft products now have some included graphics capability, so if you have Microsoft office, you can do some good things. Publisher and PowerPoint have some graphics ability, as does Word these days. In Word, you can do very creative things with reflections and frames on any image, as well as interesting things with text effects.