

ART 210 – APPLICATION COMPATIBILITY ISSUES

Your class exercises are designed to be completed in the classroom (or student lab in IB #3303 if necessary). But some of you may wish to work at home on the projects using your own computers and/or software. Please keep the following things in mind if you want to use your own computers and software applications.

- First, even if everything seems compatible (hardware and software) there is no absolute guarantee that what you produce outside of class will be identical to what you see in class when you open your image file. That's just the way it is.....expect some degree of uncertainty. Be cautious.
- Nowadays, hardware is not the main cause of file incompatibility, software is. Current Adobe software is cross-platform, and so PC's and Mac's should both work with your files. But your computer **must** meet the necessary requirements (e.g. correct operating system version, sufficient speed, memory, and disk storage) to effectively run the software.
- Now, In terms of software, here are the basic things to consider:
 - Files produced in non-Adobe software (for example Freehand, Painter, Corel Draw or Paint) might work in some situations, but not others. Files may not even open. extreme caution is advised. It's best not to use non-Adobe software to avoid major disappointment.
 - Files created in older (pre-CS2) versions of Illustrator or Photoshop will most likely work without problems when opened in CS2. But don't use software that is really outdated, because you will be at a disadvantage in terms of features and similarity to current versions.
 - Here's the major issue, "backward" compatibility problems. For instance, if you are lucky enough to own the new Adobe CS3 versions of Photoshop and/or Illustrator, you should be careful which features of the new software you use. As long as you do not use features in CS3 that are not present in CS2 (for example, the new "live filters" in Photoshop CS3), files will likely be workable in both versions. However, if you use functions in CS3

that are not present in CS2, you may encounter differences and difficulties of various degrees (or files may not even open) when you try to open your CS3 files in CS2.

- And, finally, if you use CS2 software in the classroom and decide to use an early version of Photoshop or Illustrator at home, you can expect problems, minor to major. Don't try to do things in any versions earlier than CS (but Photoshop 7 and Illustrator 10 might be OK at times).