

ADOBE® PHOTOSHOP®

FAQ: Plans for 64-bit processing support in Photoshop

Q: At Photoshop World, Adobe announced the release of Adobe Photoshop Lightroom® 2.0 beta with support for native 64-bit processing. What are Adobe's plans for 64-bit native support in Photoshop itself?

A: Adobe plans to get 64-bit versions of Photoshop software released to customers as soon as possible. Photoshop for Microsoft® Windows® will run 64-bit-native with the next version release. We'll need additional time to complete our Macintosh® 64-bit version, which is now planned for a future release. This additional time is a result of a change to Apple's platform strategy, which now requires a migration from Carbon technology to Cocoa technology in order for an application to run 64-bit native.

Q: What are the advantages of 64-bit computing?

A: In early testing of 64-bit support in Photoshop for Windows we have observed overall performance gains in the range of 8-12%. Those who work with extremely large files may realize noticeably larger gains in performance, in some cases as dramatic as 10 times the previous speed. This is because 64-bit applications can address larger amounts of memory, and thus result in less file-swapping—one of the biggest factors that can affect data processing speed.

Q: Why will the next release of Photoshop be 64-bit native on Windows only? What about the Mac® platform?

A: Adobe plans to add 64-bit support on both Windows and Apple platforms. However, before 64-bit support can be added on the Mac, significant parts of Photoshop and its plug-ins must first be ported from Apple's Carbon technology to Apple's Cocoa technology. Only after the move to Cocoa can 64-bit native support be added. The Photoshop team began working on porting Photoshop to Cocoa as soon as Apple announced 64-bit support in Carbon was no longer part of their plans.

Q: Why didn't Adobe move to Cocoa previously so they'd be ready for this?

A: Until June 2007, Apple planned to enable Carbon-based applications to run 64-bit native. Moving to Cocoa is a significant task, so we chose to focus engineering resources on user-visible features rather than switching to Cocoa. Now that Apple has shifted their strategy to make Cocoa a requirement for 64-bit support we have adjusted our plans accordingly.

Q: How is Lightroom able to support 64-bit computing in its next release for the Mac while Photoshop is not?

A: From the start, Lightroom software was written using Cocoa technology, so no porting from Carbon is necessary.

Q: Will the rest of the Creative Suite be 64-bit native on Mac and Windows?

A: Adobe is not yet in a position to announce detailed plans for 64-bit support across all of the Creative Suite products. However, the announcement that Lightroom 2.0 will be 64-bit native on both Mac and Windows has prompted us to provide some early indication of plans for Photoshop. We can say that for other Creative Suite products we'll be prioritizing 64-bit work based on the potential user benefits and the complexity of the code transition.

Please check back regularly or speak to your local Adobe representative for the latest information about our future products.

Q: Does the lack of 64-bit support mean Mac users won't see any performance gains in the next release of Photoshop?

A: We are always working to enhance the performance of our products, and 64-bit support is only one way to get there. We're investing in a variety of foundational improvements—for example, greater use of graphics processors—that will improve Photoshop performance for all users. We're also working on a number of workflow improvements to help boost your day-to-day productivity. Stay tuned for more details.

Q: Will the current versions of Adobe products be made available with 64-bit support? For example, can we look for a 64-bit native update of Photoshop CS3?

A: No. 64-bit support will only be available in future full-version upgrades of Adobe software.

Q: Where can I get more information about Adobe Photoshop Lightroom 2.0?

A: For more information about Lightroom, go to www.adobe.com/products/photoshoplightroom.

Q: Where can I get more information about Photoshop?

A: Contact your local Adobe sales representative or the Adobe PR team. For PR team contact information, go to www.adobe.com/aboutadobe/pressroom/prcontacts.jsp.