

VUEPOINT Magazine Article Index

Acquire (Scanning within Ventura)

Volume 4/Issue 6

Many veteran Ventura users tend to hang on to some of their old beliefs—for instance, that every paragraph should have a tag, and that you should always keep certain features active, such as snap to column guides and interline spacing.

While these are good axioms for fast and efficient Ventura work, they rarely leave room for openmindedness when using some of the newer features of Corel Ventura. One such feature is the Acquire command on the File menu. Ventura uses a TWAIN driver to interface with TWAIN-compliant devices, and some users forget how much that can do for them. CorelScan, which is bundled with Ventura 8 and 10, can control some input devices as well.

Advanced Libraries

Volume 4/Issue 5

A library is an often little recognized asset of Corel Ventura. Libraries are used to store often used elements, but they are also required when you want to link multiple publications to the same stylesheet or text. This article shows you the ins and outs of libraries, and more.

Automating Database Publisher

Volume 5/Issue 1

You may or may not know that DataBase Publisher can be automated, although not in the same manner as Ventura Publisher. That is, while DBP does not yet support OLE Automation (hopefully one day!), you can in fact run DBP and pass commands to it...sort of...from the command line. There are two ways to run DBP from the command line—in normal mode, where DBP will appear on screen, or in “silent” mode, where DBP will run in the background, hidden from view.

Bending The Rules

Volume 7/Issue 1

Tables can be a strong and succinct way to display data—not just tabular listings, but they’re a great way to generate a simple form or create a counterfeit Bingo card for your mother-in-law for that hot Friday night game with the girls! But, as with everything you do, it has to look great (or in the case of the Bingo card, better than a reasonable facsimile). Thankfully, Ventura gives you the tools to dress up that table before you take it out on Friday night. One of those tools is Rule Tags.

Breaks Part 1

Volume 3/Issue 6

We have all come across some times when we have to publish something in columns, but are not quite sure how to go about it. Tabbing small bits of information into columns can work, but sometimes text in a column will need multiple lines while others will use just one. Case in point: the monthly calendar of events in your newsletter. The numeric dates are really scant when you compare it with the event, time, place, and contact information that you have to put to the right of those little numbers.

Breaks Part 2

Volume 4/Issue 1

If you were fortunate enough to read Part I on breaks, you’ve got a good idea of their potential. But, there are a few other things that you can use in conjunction with breaks that can give you a whole different look or fill a specific need. They may also make your publishing life a little easier.

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Convert to Curves

Volume 6/Issue 6

There is a powerful feature associated with Ventura's set of basic drawing tools called *convert to curves*. It is the purpose of this article to explore that hidden little jewel and expose it to light. What is it, why is it there, what can it do for you? The author will demonstrate the use of curved objects with frames, with drawing tools, and with artistic text. Hopefully, by the time we're done you'll understand both the functionality and the spirit behind convert to curves.

Cool Frame Effects

Volume 3/Issue 5

In this article you're going to explore some of the methods you can use to put some pizzaz in Ventura picture frames. You'll start out with something relatively simple; you'll recreate the effect used to make the title graphic for this article. Then you'll move on to more advanced topics. You'll be surprised to learn that the tools for creating some cool frame effects lie in some areas of the program that you would not necessarily associate with frames. If you want to play along, substitute the image of your choice. If you want to stick to the fonts in the lessons, they'll be named them as you go along.

Creating a Table of Contents

Volume 4/Issue 4

We all know what a table of contents is and how to use one. When you are working with shorter documents, it's often easy to create the contents page from scratch by typing the information in a word processing program or directly into Ventura. But for lengthy documents it's nice to have a utility that automatically creates the TOC and enters the location of the referenced sections.

Customizing Menus in Ventura 8

Volume 4/Issue 4

Many of you remember the commercial for the fast food restaurant where you could customize your order to "Have it your way." But did you know that Ventura can also be customized to make the workspace and interface more to your liking? You can add or remove icons, move the toolbars around, and change menus so they're more meaningful to you. You can also set up separate workspaces with different settings, to be used by other people on your system. This is a great way to limit the features that can be accessed by a lesser skilled user.

(The way to begin this process in V10 is slightly different, but the rest of the technique is the same as described in this article.)

Filing Fundamentals

Volume 6/Issue 2

Copying Ventura files to another drive or folder is easy—much easier than in previous versions, however it can still be a bit confusing. The simple approach is to drag the file ending in ".vp" to a new location. The confusion comes when users don't know (or realize) that the .vp file may only be part of the publication if there are externally referenced files. Both text and pictures can be external to the publication but they aren't the only components. In situations where stylesheets are linked to multiple publications, the library from which they are copied becomes an external component as well.

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File Management

Volume 4/Issue 5

Ventura 5 was the most difficult of all when it came to file management, yet to correctly copy files from one location to another, the task had to be mastered.

Unfortunately, many users didn't bother to learn the correct procedures, so they struggled with finding all the pieces once files were copied to a new drive or directory or folder. Today, anyone using Ventura 7–10 has it easy. Copying files to a new location is so easy there's no excuse for not doing it correctly. Since this feature is accessed from outside Ventura, it's not something you'll find on a menu or within a dialog box. The procedure is described, and once you're finished with this article, there's no reason not to copy files properly in the future.

Frame Tags

Volume 4/Issue 2

A Frame Tag, like other tags, contains a set of common attributes that apply to an existing frame, or to a frame being drawn (more about this later). Every publication has a Default frame tag. It may not suit you to begin with, but you can change it to meet your needs.

Layout Grid

Volume 3/Issue 6

The carpenter who would build a house without first consulting the blueprints, or building a frame work, would be considered more than a little foolish. Without plans to direct the construction and without a frame-work on which to hang the building materials, the project would fail.

The same thing applies to publishing. Yogi Berra is credited, perhaps apocryphally, with saying that you'd better be sure you know where you're going because otherwise you might not get there. The publisher who begins only with a blank Ventura publication file, some articles, and some illustrations will produce something, but the publisher who starts by preparing a grid will produce something better—and something that can be repeated from one issue to the next.

Navigating a Ventura Publication

Volume 3/Issue 2

The Ventura Navigator is one of the greatest new features of Ventura 7. This handy tool gives you at a glance, the structure of your publication. The Navigator allows you to see which text and pictures files are associated with the publication, and which ones are embedded versus those that are externally linked.

The Ventura Navigator was first introduced in Ventura 7 and improved in Ventura 8 and 10. The main difference is that in V8/10 the Navigator window is docked so it doesn't cover part of the publication. So, users of all versions can benefit from this article.

Page Tag Basics

Volume 4/Issue 1

Building a publication is not unlike building a house. You need a master plan before you begin. The master plan outlines the dimensions and other general properties that need to be decided upon before construction begins. Corel Ventura 8's Page Tags perform the same basic function—they describe the general properties of the publication. Page Tags are more flexible than a house plan however, since they can easily be changed after you've started the publication. And, you can use as many page tags as necessary to accommodate the data you're publishing. For instance, you can have page tags with different margin and column settings or mix portrait and landscape pages in the same publication. Or, when you need to change only a page or two you can override the settings of the page tag without creating a new one.

Q&A Pages

The Q&A pages from each publication are combined into a single PDF and apply to Ventura versions 8 and 10.

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Resizing/Resampling Images

Volume 3/Issue 4

Two things are for certain about image editing. One, not every Ventura user wants to do it. Two, almost every Ventura user does. Because sooner or later, at one time or another, you're going to work with images at least at the basic level. And it's at that most basic level where most people make their first mistake. What is that most basic level of image editing? It's the simple act of opening an image and sizing it for your needs. For some unknown reason, nobody ever teaches the proper way to open an image and resize and/or resample it. And there is a difference. To resize does not necessarily mean to resample. One of the best kept secrets in all the pixel pushing world is a little button in a dialog box that you encounter when sizing your image. You'll learn how to use it in this article and the technical aspects will be short.

Table Tactics, Part 1

Volume 4/Issue 2

Tables were powerful, yet easy to create from the beginning. Tables can be used for many different types of information, and in fact, don't have to look like tables at all. There are many instances where information is presented using a table providing an easy to read list that has no vertical or horizontal lines to indicate that it is a table.

Table Tactics, Part 2

Volume 4/Issue 3

In Part I (Volume 4/Issue 2), you were introduced to some basic concepts of working with tables in Ventura. Part 2 focuses on specific table techniques, including advanced features such as sorting data and performing calculations within a table.

Tagging Paragraph

Volume 3/Issue 3

Time and time again the guru's tell you that there's more than one way to do something, and that there's no wrong way to do things. Well, let's break that myth right now. There are several ways to tag paragraphs and some of the ways people have approached this task are all wrong. This article will elaborate.

This article was written for Ventura 7, however the techniques are the same for Ventura 8 and 10.

Tips & Tricks

The Tips and Tricks from each publication are combined into a single PDF and apply to Ventura versions 8 and 10.

White Text

Volume 4/Issue 6

Ventura is a powerful program when it comes to automating functions such as headers, footers, and tables of contents, just to name a few. Ventura uses the certain tags in a publication to help identify what information to pull from the body of the document. This is great if the text you want to show in a header or footer appears in the body of the publication. And a Table of Contents is quick and easy to produce if all referenced paragraphs are short and written exactly the way you want them to appear on the contents page. But what if this isn't the case? Must you forgo these tools or enter the text manually to have the text appear the way you want? Sometimes you can't get around doing just that, but often you can still use Ventura's automation tools. By typing the text exactly the way you want it to appear and applying a special paragraph tag to that text, you can automate functions without having to manually tweak the text each time. With a little "white" magic, you can create text that displays correctly in the headers, footers, and Table of Contents.

Wrapping Text

Volume 3/Issue 2

So, your next publication has to be a big production? You need to wow the audience? You'd really like to be nominated for the office Academy Award? Ever try the wrap? Not the music style of rap. This wrap is a key feature of Ventura where you can wrap your text around your graphics. Sound like a good show to you? Grab your popcorn, soft drinks and settle down in the front row. The show is about to begin.

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