

The Monitor



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Special Offer While Quantities Last

Get It While It's Hot!

DSI's special offer on refurbished TEBBS & TextPro Sr. systems has been extended. Until further notice, DSI customers can purchase newly refurbished TEBBS or TextPro Sr. systems for up to **50%-off** our normal retail price! Prices on refurbished systems still includes our 1 year warranty on parts and labor, but supplies are limited, so contact your DSI sales representative today! □

Holiday Wishes

On behalf of the entire staff at Display Systems International, we hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday. We wish all our customers the very best for the New Year, and look forward to hearing from each of you in the future. □



A word about Training

With the increased volume in purchase orders as a result of Y2K, several of our customers have expressed an interest in receiving training. For those who are unaware, the cost of DSI training is \$500/day, plus all expenses (including airfare & accommodations). In addition, it is strongly recommended that those wishing to book training do so at least two weeks in advance. This is to ensure the availability of DSI training staff, and can greatly reduce the costs associated with air travel. As a final note with respect to training, we would like to remind our customers that all training performed at our offices in Saskatoon is free of charge. □

A New Version for a New Millennium

Over the past few months some of you may have heard about a new version of the DSI software that has been in the works. Well, you won't have to wait for too much longer. According to Product Development Manager, Richard Haubrich, the new version (program version 6.0) should be available for general release sometime early this year. Some advanced features you can expect to see in version 6.0 include being able to work on multiple pages in the Text Editor at the same time, 3D and blended text effects, and smoother remote communications. Perhaps, the most exciting enhancement to version 6.0 will be the ability to post DSI pages to the Internet. "This enhancement is the type of innovation that customers have come to expect from DSI," says Mr. Haubrich. "I expect this to become one of the most popular features of our new software."

For those DSI customers familiar with our old Win 3.1x software, expect to see the return of the blended background button. Even better, customers will now be able to create blended backgrounds and rectangles in any direction. Other long awaited changes include: a New Page button in the Text Editor, and a New Schedule button in the Scheduler.

Stop by the DSI web site over the next few months to see if version 6.0 is available. □

SO YOU THINK IT'S COLD, EH?

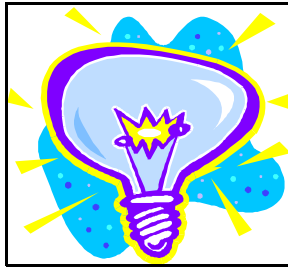
Saskatoon's coldest day occurred on February 1, 1893. The temperature dropped to a *frosty* -50 degrees Celsius (-58 degrees Fahrenheit).

Courtesy of Environment Canada

Tips and Tricks

Tips and Tricks is a section that offers suggestions on making your pages look more professional, and provides short-cuts for saving time while using the DSI software.

Our first tip for this issue of the Monitor deals with editing multiple font settings at the same time using the font properties window. To open the font properties window for any given segment of text, simply right mouse click on your text and select Properties from the pop-up menu. Once open, you can use the font properties window to adjust the shadow, outline, font, text color, background color and blink settings for the text you have selected. There is even a sample box so you can see what your text will look like. When you are satisfied with the adjustments you want to make, and wish to apply them, simply click on OK button and select Word, Line, or Page from on the font settings tool bar.



On a related topic, many of our readers have commented that each time you add a new line of text to a page, your font settings keep switching back to the default setting. Here is a quick tip that is sure to save you a lot of time and aggravation. Any time you want to change the default font settings for a page, press CTRL-E and your current font settings will be set to the default.

Our next tip deals with using rectangle effects. For example, perhaps you have a graphic loaded on a page you want to apply an effect to that graphic, but not the whole graphic. Try drawing a rectangle over the portion of the graphic you want to apply an effect to, and make sure the rectangle is set to transparent. Next, right mouse click on your new rectangle, and select Effect. Now choose the effect you want to apply, and witness the results. This tip is an excellent way to darken or lighten a portion of a graphic so the text you type over-top of it will appear more clearly.

Our final tip for this issue of the Monitor deals with the color grab feature. This feature allows users to select a color from a graphic on their page, and saves that color as one of the 16 custom colors in the color

window. To grab a color, place the tip of your mouse pointer on a color that is on a graphic on your page, then right mouse click and select Grab Color from the pop-up menu. Notice that the R, G, & B values for your color appear beside the Grab Color selection in the pop-up menu. These values represent the Red, Green, and Blue values for the color you are about to grab. Once you have selected Grab Color, you will be prompted with a message window asking you which custom color slot you would like to save the color you just grabbed. Select a number and click on okay. The next time you open the Color window, the color you grabbed will appear in the custom colors section. You can now use that color for your text, backgrounds, rectangles, or frames. You can even use a custom color as part of a blend. The color grab feature is very useful when you want to color coordinate the text of a page with a prominent color on one of your backgrounds.□

We would like anyone who has a good idea for our Tips and Tricks section to please get in touch with us and share your idea. If we put it in a future issue of The Monitor, we will give you credit for the idea. Please call us at 306-934-6884 and ask for Séamus.□

Biography Corner

Ms. Tanya Lemke has worked for DSI for just over a year and a half now.

Born: Saskatoon, SK

Education: Grade 12, plus 2 years at Prairie Bible College, Three Hills, Alberta.

Interests: Art, Sports, International travel, & music.

Career Goal: To save enough money for further international travel.

DSI Responsibilities: Sr. Executive Assistant to Dale Lemke, Manager of Accounting & General Ledger, as well as Project Coordinator for DSI tutorial schedules, the electronic version of our manual.□

Joke of the Day

The manager of a store overheard a clerk say, "No madam, we haven't had any for a long time."

As the woman was leaving, the manager said to her, "Oh yes we have. We will send to the warehouse and have it delivered to your home."

The manager then turned to the clerk and said, "Never say that we don't have something. Always send for it. What did she want?"

The clerk replied, "She just remarked that we haven't had any snow lately." □

Y2K Aftermath

As with most things, the turn to the year 2000 caused very few problems. The following are some problems reported to us with computers turning to year 2000. Some 486 computers caused problems as they rolled back to 1980. This caused schedules that had all pages with start/expiry times to quit displaying pages. By setting the clock and calendar back to the correct time and date after the problem was noticed, the system went back to being fully reliable and working as it should. This problem is related to the computer itself rather than the software. Of the over 2000 character generators that we have in place, only two customers have reported problems relating to the date displaying as 1980 and start/expiries as noted above. □



In Our Next Issue

The next issue of the monitor is scheduled for spring of 2000. Articles to be expected include a look into DSI's trade shows for 2000, more Tips and Tricks, another DSI employee biography, and of course more jokes and trivia. □

New Upgrade Packages

Package #4 - Pentium II Celeron 400MHz System, 40 X CD-ROM, Windows 98, 4 Gig Hard Drive, 32 Meg of Ram, 4 Meg Video Card, new case, keyboard, mouse, loading, configuration and testing of Windows 95 version of your program. *Includes 1 year warranty coverage on hardware..... \$1520.00*

Package #5 - Pentium II Celeron 400MHz System, 40 X CD-ROM, Windows 98, 4 Gig Hard Drive, 32 Meg of Ram, 4 Meg Video Card, new case, keyboard, mouse, loading, **new scanner or image capture board**, configuration and testing of Windows 95 version of your program. *Includes 1 year warranty on hardware \$1915.00*

Package #6 - Pentium II Celeron 400MHz System, 40 X CD-ROM, Windows 98, 4 Gig Hard Drive, 32 Meg of Ram, 4 Meg Video Card, new case, keyboard, mouse, loading, **new scanner or image capture board, new video converter (external)**, configuration and testing of Windows 95 version of your program. *Includes 1 year warranty on hardware \$2410.00*

□

Did you know???

- The average bank teller loses about \$250 every year.
- Every person has a unique tongue print.
- Your right lung takes in more air than your left one does.
- Most lipstick contains fish scales.
- Women's hearts beat faster than men's.
- No word in the English language rhymes with *month, orange, silver* or *purple*.
- Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur.
- More people in the world drink goat's milk than cow's milk.
- Penguins can change salt water into fresh water. □

More Humor

An out-of-towner drove his car into a ditch in a desolated area. Luckily, a local farmer came to help with his big, strong horse named Buddy.

He hitched Buddy up to the car and yelled, "Pull, Nellie, pull!" Buddy didn't move. Then the farmer hollered, "Pull, Buster, pull!" Buddy didn't respond. Once more the farmer commanded, "Pull, Coco, pull!" Nothing. Then the farmer nonchalantly said, "Pull, Buddy, pull!" And the horse easily dragged the car out of the ditch.

The motorist was most appreciative and very curious. He asked the farmer why he called his horse by the wrong name three times.

"Well, Buddy is blind and if he thought he was the only one pulling, he wouldn't even try!" □

*A fine is a tax for doing wrong.
A tax is a fine for doing well.*

Saskatoon Berries

In 1883, the city of Saskatoon was founded by a group of settlers who were searching for Utopia. In the area they settled in, there were many bushes of berries that the Cree Indian people of the area called "*Mis-sask-quah-toomina*". This is how the name Saskatoon originated, for both the berries and our city.

Saskatoon Berries are small berries which look and taste similar to blueberries, native to the Saskatoon area. Picking season is usually from July to August. Saskatoon Berries can be made into pies, syrup, jelly, jam, champagne and wine.

There are many Saskatoon Berry farms around our city. Many of these farms sell their products year-round. If you would like more information on Saskatoon Berries, or if you would like to try Saskatoon Berry products, contact Parenteau's Gourmet Foods Inc, located in Langham (32 km or 20 miles from Saskatoon) at (306) 283-4960 or write them at Box 618, Langham, SK, S0K 2L0, Canada. □



If you would like to hear more about DSI products, please fill in this form and send, fax or email it to DSI at 203 Mallin Crescent, Saskatoon, SK, S7K 7W8, Canada Fax#:306.934.6447 sales@displaysystemsintl.com



I am interested in receiving information on the following DSI products: (Check all that apply.)

IBM ELITE Gold
IBM ELITE 2000
IBM TextPro Sr.
IBM TEBBS

Please send me a free DSI Demo CD.

I would like someone from DSI to contact me.

Please fill out the following so we can serve you better:

Name: _____

Company: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone#: _____

Email: _____