

# THE MONITOR



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## Searching for the Right Solution?

### Try DSI's Internet Trouble Shooter.

Display Systems International would like to announce the reopening of the Internet support web page. This service is available free of charge, offering troubleshooting at anytime. The Display Systems International website can be reached at [www.displaysystemsintl.com](http://www.displaysystemsintl.com).

On the main menu of the DSI home page is the "Support" button, which connects to our technical support page. This page has new announcements posted and a user-friendly support menu with options such as "Search for Solution" and "Report New Trouble".

"Search for Solution" displays a window with a search engine. The search engine is easy to use and automatically sifts through the trouble shooting database. Type any key word, or phrase, into the "Search:" Area and click on the "Submit" button. Key words that will be most effective are product names and shortened phrase descriptions. For example, let's say someone is having difficulties configuring their weather station with the E2000 software. Typing the product title (i.e., Texas or E2000) will bring up a list of problems with solutions, all of which contain that particular key word. Another useful way to do this is using words that pertain directly to the issue at hand, such as "rainfall", "graphics" or "display". The solution list that appears will have a few fields represented per entry: the DSI product name, version number, and short problem description. Next to these is a view button, that when clicked opens the solution details. If unable to locate a specific problem in the solution database, we suggest completing a trouble report.

The "Report New Trouble" button when pressed will bring up a window with a form. Fill out the form in detail and email it to DSI, via the "Send" button at the bottom of the page. The technical support staff will

answer the problem by posting a complete solution with the form and placing it on the web page. A client who is receiving support is notified of the web posting via email. Acquiring assistance in this manner is useful to other customers, who may be dealing with similar difficulties. Besides, it's a great way to save money on pricey phone bills.

\*Please note that in the announcements section there is a bulletin posted asking users who have recently submitted problems to re-submit them. There was a problem with the database file around Feb.28, and some information was lost. Thank - you. D

*"Don't sweat over petty things and  
don't pet sweaty things."*

### DSI On The Road

The SCTE show in Orlando, May of 2001, was a success. Rob and Edgar represented DSI at booth number 400. The show hosted vendors from around the world, over 500 participants. The Literature Library's spring issue of 2001 catalogues these events in detail.

Edgar Emond was DSI's representative for the Arizona 2nd Annual SCTE Cactus Chapter Vendor Show. This SCTE show was the most recent DSI excursion, occurring from August 24 to 29 in Phoenix. DSI plans to be at the North-Central Vendor Show in Minneapolis. Dates will be detailed in an upcoming *Monitor*. D



## Tips and Tricks

**T**ips and Tricks is a section that offers suggestions to make your pages look more professional, and provides short-cuts for saving time while using the DSI software.



This issue of 'Tips and Tricks' highlights QUILTED BACKGROUNDS. This feature is available with all DSI software products for schedule page design with the Text editor. It multiplies an image to create a checkerboard (or 'quilted') effect with one or more selected graphics. This allows for more interesting backgrounds, permitting one or more small graphics to cover the entire background, instead of having images overlaid or using only part of the background. This option can also be incorporated with other graphics options in the program, like the blended background button.

To create a "classic checkerboard" look use solid colored boxes. Simply create a box, with a blend or solid color, and add the quilt option. Right click on the square and select the *Quilted Background* option. Once selected the image will be quilted. For easier editing it is best to keep the original image separate from its duplicate others. This is why the quilt will not appear directly on the editing screen. For a preview of the effect use the View button. Any other additional material (i.e., text) will appear over the background as usual when viewed. Create a more professional look by using graphics and adding special effects to the image.

Open the graphic you wish to quilt on your new page. Select the quilting background option. If your image is cut off on the top portion of the screen, it is because the placing and size of the graphic affect the outcome of the quilt design. These things can be changed without removing the quilting option.

To size and move the image, just select size/move on the drop down menu and adjust the graphic with the handlebars on the edges of your graphic. Placing the graphic in the far left-hand corner will help to eliminate an incomplete image on the screen. Also, resizing the image can allow for a full checker effect without cutting off a replicated image.

Quilting is versatile with other creation options, such as effects. Effects such as a *blend*, *make 3D*, *sharpen*, *blur* and others can be found in the 'Effects' selection at the top of the page or the scroll down menu. Clicking on the 'Effects' option brings up a list of effects to choose from. Try using each one, to become more familiar with the variety of choices, as each option is unique. For example, a blend will enable extra colors to be added to the existing image and allow for directional changes in color to be applied. Try the transparency adjustments in the Blend option. The transparency allows images to be placed behind a layer of color, producing an underwater, layered effect. Simply adjust the transparency level and click "move images to back", in the scroll down menu. This is a nice finishing touch to pages. Changes made to the image are automatically applied to each of the quilt squares. These can be modified at any time and only one effect per graphic can be exercised.

Text Animation is another impressive effect available for use with quilted backgrounds. This feature can be used with one graphic image for quilting the background. It will operate as usual, for text and/or overlaid graphics. If needing a detailed explanation of the Text Animation option, see the manual, or the Spring issue of the Monitor. All issues of the Monitor are posted on the Internet. D

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 it. Please call us at 306.934.6884 and ask for Tanya. D

**One day a man runs into a friend and notices his friend's car is a total loss covered with blood, grass, dirt, leaves and branches. He asks his friend, "What happened to your car?"**

**"Well," responds the friend, "I ran into a lawyer".**

**"That explains the blood," comments the man, "But what about the leaves, dirt, grass and branches?"**

**"I had to chase him through the park," the friend replies. D**

**Biography Corner**

**M**s. Rachel Lemke has been a valuable employee of DSI for six months now. During that time, she has worked in our administrative department.

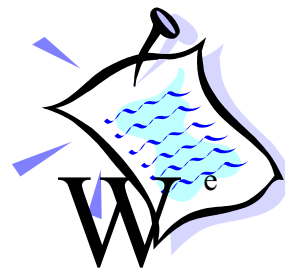
*Born:* Saskatoon, SK

*Education:* Two years at University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, studying Biology and Classics.

*Interests:* Reading, pottery, cooking, gardening.

*Career Goal:* In the future, she would like to pursue a career in Traditional Chinese Medicine.

*DSI Responsibilities:* Secretary: answering phones, public relations, filing, recycling management, data entry among other things. D



**Don't Forget...**

would like to remind everyone about some of DSI's great deals and services, such as the Spitfire Controller - DSI's newest, most affordable VCR controller. This controller is available for control of many different consumer VCRs.

Remember to review the "downloads page" on DSI's web site as there are free graphics available for use with the DSI software. These .gbp files are updated on a monthly basis. Also, version 6.0 is ready to download for anyone needing an update. D

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, but when they lit a fire in the craft it sank, proving once and for all that you can't have your kayak and heat it, too.

Two boll weevils grew up in South Carolina. One went to Hollywood and became a famous actor. The other stayed behind in the cotton fields and never amounted to much. The second one, naturally, became known as the lesser of two weevils.

A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. "But why?" they asked, as they moved off. "Because," he said, "I can't stand chess nuts boasting in an open foyer." D

**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 add my friend to the DSI mailing list.
- I would like to be removed from the DSI mailing list.

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

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Company:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_

**State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone#:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Joke of the Day**

Mahatma Ghandi walked barefoot everywhere, to the point that his feet became quite thick and hard. He was also a spiritual person. Even when he was not on a hunger strike, he ate very little and became frail.

Furthermore, due to his diet, he wound up with very bad breath. Therefore, he came to be known as a:  
"Super calloused fragile mystic plagued with halitosis." D

**Summer in Saskatoon**

As most of you know, the DSI office is located in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in Canada. Saskatchewan is the sunniest province in all of Canada. We hit temperatures of over 100°F in the summertime, but usually average the mid 70's and 80's.

During the summer months, Saskatoon boasts many exciting events. Among these are The Saskatoon Jazz Festival, The Fringe Festival, The Ex, Folkfest, Cruise Night, Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan, and The River Roar.

The Saskatoon Jazz Festival marks the beginning of summer. Jazz performers from all around the world congregate in the downtown area for a week long celebration.

River Roar, an international speed boat race, also features a variety of other interesting events, such as the Taste of Saskatchewan (festivities for Saskatoon's Ethnic and popular restaurants).

Cruise Night boasts an automobile competition, with cars from all over the province; ranging from muscle cars of the 40's and the 70's to a 1915 Model T.

Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan features musical and drama performances nightly throughout the summer months with special emphasis on Shakespearean plays.



Every August the Exhibition carnival (fried food and fast rides) commences alongside The Fringe Festival. Drama productions, handmade villages, street vendors, buskers and farmer's markets create a warm atmosphere at the Fringe.

Folkfest is another of Saskatoon's fine ethnic events. Venues spread across the city give people a chance to experience cultures from around the world, in the forms of dance, music and cuisine. D

Computer Error Message Haikus

You step in the stream,  
But the water has moved on.  
This page is not here.

First snow, then silence.  
This thousand dollar screen dies  
So beautifully. D

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