

802.11B FAST ENOUGH FOR HOME RR ISP SERVICE **by Richard G. Lubinski**

Time Warner RoadRunner's residential broadband service runs (up to) 5 *MPS*. The original wireless 802.11B standard is 11 *MBS* (or about 2X the maximum speed of RoadRunner home ISP service speed). Therefore the original wireless standard 801.11B takes full advantage of the RoadRunner cable modem speed. Anything faster than 11 *MBS* is a waste of money on RR's ISP service.

Faster wireless speed could be useful in a home network but the home RR ISP service will not be improved. The new **802.11G** is 54 *MBS* and reportedly has better network security. The newer SUPER-G or **802.11Super-G** runs at 108 *MBS*. The newest is PRE-N or **Pre-802.11N** runs at 6X the 802.11G (about 648 *MBS*) . . . and offers 8X the range of 802.11G. Unless range is an issue, there does not seem to be any current justification for upgrading beyond the 802.11B standard. If you are buying an 802.11x product you will generally not find the old 'B' equipment being sold and some 'G' components are rated for both the original 'B' standard and 'G'. Some 'G' equipment is only listed for 'G' use. Some older laptops PCs do not work well with the newer 802.11G equipment without the help of a driver and the investment of some time to make it work. Source: Time Warner / RoadRunner national tech support dept.

If you are new to 802.11x wireless networking, you should be also aware that a standard 2.4 Ghz wireless home telephone runs on the same frequency and can interfere with your 801.11x signal. Wireless home phones are also available at 900 MHz and 5.8 Ghz

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REVIEW: ADOBE ACROBAT 7.0 STANDARD EDITION **by Richard G. Lubinski**

Adobe Acrobat has become an indispensable utility for creating and distributing digital documents (Note: distribution information ... not paper).

The new version 7.0 of Adobe Acrobat is recognized to two (2) major improvements. The first and most useful feature in dramatically increased SPEED. The program loads FASTER. The basic PDF creation function is FASTER. The second noteworthy feature expanded capability with more applications directly or via the 'print to' Acrobat 'distiller' option. You can now quickly and painlessly convert Word, Excel and Power Point files with a 'one click' operation from within the original applications. Windows users can also convert to PDF from Access, Internet Explorer (web capture), Outlook and Publisher and graphics. The downside is Adobe Acrobat 7 only runs under Windows XP, Windows 2000 SP2 or Windows Server

2003. Sorry if you are still running Win95, Win98, Win98SE or WinMe Adobe Acrobat will not work for you. (time for a new OS!)

Care must be exercised in reading about the features of Acrobat 7.0 in the STANDARD or PRO versions. A number of the expanded features only exist in the Acrobat 7.0 Pro version. The Acrobat 7.0 Pro version is more of a work-group product in which a group can share comments , etc. on one PDF file that is being developed. Another interesting feature of Acrobat 7 PRO is its ability to generate a PDF that can be sent to people with Acrobat 7 READER (free) so that they also can comment on a PFD file under development.

See table below for the feature matrix

ADOBE ACROBAT 7



| Features | READER | Std | Pro |
|--|--------|-----|-----|
| PDF CREATION | | | |
| Electronic form processing (Saving/exporting form data) | | X | X |
| Electronic form design (Creation of Form Fields) | | | X |
| Adobe LiveCycle Designer | | | X |
| Easily merge multiple document types into a single PDF file | | X | X |
| Convert Web Pages to PDF directly from Internet Explorer (Windows-Only) | | X | X |
| One-button convert from Outlook for outgoing email attachments | | X | X |
| One-button convert from MS Outlook of messages with attachments | | X | X |
| One-button convert from MS Access | | X | X |
| One-button convert from MS Publisher | | X | X |
| Support for PowerPoint Animations | | X | X |
| One-button PDF creation from Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint | | X | X |
| Scan paper documents into searchable PDF file | | X | X |
| Right-click creation of Adobe PDF from Windows Explorer | | X | X |
| One-step screen captures into PDF | | | X |
| Add headers/Footers/Backgrounds and Watermarks | | X | X |
| Reduce File Size | | X | X |
| PDF Optimizer | | | X |
| Link Tool | | X | X |
| Add bookmarks to make a PDF easier to navigate | | | X |
| Engineering Features | | | |
| One-button convert (and email) from AutoCAD (with layers) (Windows-only) | | | X |

| | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| One-button convert (and email) from MS Visio (with layers) (Windows-only) | | | X |
| One-button convert (and email) from MS Project (Windows-only) | | | X |
| | | | |

Creative Professional and Print Publishing

| | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| Preflighting tools | | | X |
| Support for PDF/X creation, preflighting and output support | | | X |
| Color Separations Preview and Printing | | | X |
| Rulers and Guides | | | X |
| Support for auto-tray sensors for high-end printers | | | X |
| Advanced printing controls for color management and job tickets | | | X |
| Output Preview | | | X |
| Preview and flatten transparency | | | X |
| Overview print | | | X |
| Trap presets | | | X |
| Color conversion in viewer | | | X |
| Hairline fixup | | | X |
| Change media box size | | | X |
| Add printer's marks | | | X |
| Ink manager | | | X |
| Convert Color to CMYK in Distiller | | | X |
| | | | |

Review and Commenting

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Initiate email-based and Web-based reviews | | X | X |
| Review tracker to manage incoming/outgoing status for email/web commenting review workflows | | X | X |
| Import PDF comments back into source Word file (Word for Windows XP only) | | X | X |
| Insert/delete text markup tool | + | X | X |
| Measuring toolbar | | | X |
| Comment summary pane | X | X | X |
| Rich Text Formatting in Notes | + | X | X |
| Support for Custom Stamps | + | X | X |
| Japanese Standard Business Stamps (J version only) | + | X | X |
| Polygon and Polyline tool | + | X | X |
| Clouding Tool | + | | X |
| Arrow Tool | + | | X |
| Enable Adobe Reader 7.0 users to add comments | | | X |
| Export comments into source AutoCAD file | | | X |

Viewing and Navigating Documents

| | | | |
|-------------------|--|---|---|
| Loupe Tool | | | X |
| Split-Window View | | X | X |

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|---|---|
| Dynamic Zoom | X | X | X |
| Pan and Zoom | | | X |
| Viewing Layers | | X | X |
| Managing Layers | | | X |
| New Window | | X | X |

Accessibility

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| Keyboard Accessibility | | | X |
| International language support, including Japanese | | X | X |
| Enhanced Accessibility Checker | | | X |
| Enhanced Make Accessible | | X | X |
| Accessibility Quick Check | X | X | X |
| Accessibility Full Check | | | X |
| Read Aloud | X | X | X |
| Add tags to document | | X | X |
| Touch Up Reading Order | | | X |
| Accessibility Set Up Assistant | X | X | X |
| | | | |

Search

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| PDF index searching | X | X | X |
| PDF index generation (Catalog) | | | X |
| One-step searching across multiple PDF files | X | X | X |
| Search more of the PDF document, including annotations, bookmarks, structure and metadata | X | X | X |
| Search for PDFs on web | X | X | X |
| Support for searching Chinese, Japanese and Korean text | | X | X |
| Search for Object data | X | X | X |
| Organizer | | X | X |

IT and Administration Tools

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|--|---|---|---|
| Update manager | | X | X |
| Self-healing - Automatically detect problems within Acrobat (such as missing files) and easily repair them | X | X | X |
| Installer - lock down preferences | | X | X |
| Enhancements for customizing the Acrobat application prior to deployment (for IT Managers) | | X | X |
| Customizable installer | X | X | X |
| Support SMS and Tivoli | X | X | X |
| Support Citrix and WTS | X | X | X |

Security and Digital Signatures

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|---|--|---|---|
| Enhanced usability for applying and validating digital signatures | | X | X |
| LDAP Integration (Windows-only) | | X | X |
| MSCAPI Support (Windows-only) | | X | X |

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|--|--|---|---|
| Protect a PDF using a password to restrict access/printing/editing | | X | X |
| Digitally sign PDFs | | X | X |
| Save as certified document | | X | X |
| Create, manage, and apply security policies from within Acrobat | | X | X |
| Encrypt a PDF using public key certificates | | X | X |
| eBook Support | | | |
| EBX support | | X | X |
| eBook library | | X | X |
| Giving and lending eBooks | | X | X |
| Bookstore URL manager | | X | X |
| Search web dictionary (English only) | | X | X |
| Multimedia | | | |
| Real Media Support(Windows Only) | | X | X |
| Windows Media Support | | X | X |
| MP3 Support | | X | X |
| Flash Support | | X | X |
| Embed Multimedia content within PDF | | X | X |

Another useful tool in Acrobat 7 Standard Edition or Pro is the ability to combine several files into one PDF. Here you can use your imagination to combine Word , Excel , Emails from Outlook, etc. into one file. Both versions can also create BINDERS (folders) to better manage the PDFs you have created. While all of these features work, you will be surprised at the SPEED in which each part of Acrobat 7.0 runs. This increased SPEED appears to be better Adobe Acrobat code and better coordination with the Windows operating system code of Windows XP, Windows 2000 SP2 and Windows Server 2003. Regardless of how it is done, the SPEED increase is an obvious product improvement.

Starting back in Acrobat 4, the WEB CAPTURE has been a favorite tool. It captures 99% of the Web Pages you define and nicely tucks everything into a nice, tight, small file.

For the Power Point users you will find Acrobat does a nice job a reducing the size of PPT files into much smaller and manageable PDFs. While a 50% size reduction is common, I have often found a 90% reduction is file size via Acrobat. A 5 MB file that is too large to email via AOL and other ISPs, works fine when converted into a small PDF. If you view the Power point file after conversion to an Acrobat PDF in the Acrobat's 'full screen mode', it looks and feels like a standard Power Point presentation (including PageUp and PageDn). Take your PPT converted to a smaller PDF then save it to your thumb drive for EZ transport to conference or a visit to a client.

The ACCESSIBILITY function has been greatly expanded including a simple feature that *READS the page out loud* to you using your computer speakers. This is a perfect feature for

those visually handicapped or blind. While the voice is computer like, this feature works and seems to recognize most fonts.

An overview of Adobe Acrobat and the free Adobe Acrobat 7 READER are available at www.adobe.com. Another useful place to check out PDFs is www.planetpdf.com . This site addresses every major aspect of PDF files including a few on-line services that run the file conversion for you without having Adobe Acrobat on the PC you are using. Some of these on-line services are only available on trial basis (i.e. 30 days) . If you are in a pinch or on the road without access to Adobe Acrobat , then it might be a temporary solution for you.

Adobe Acrobat 7 Standard Edition will be demonstrated at the March 2005 ACPCUG meeting.