Adobe Production Suite is rock solid
12 June 2006

Adobe seeks to reclaim the title of best of breed PC Video application with the release of their new Adobe Production Studio Premium -- an almost dream suite of applications, but at a stratospheric price. The old adage you get what you pay for certainly applies in this case.

With an application this large and diverse, it's hard to kick the tires on everything, so the application that I spent the most amount of time with was Premiere Pro 2.0, and it's almost worth $1,700 admission price, alone. Oh Premiere, how much do I love thee?

Beyond finally adding support for Mpeg editing, Premiere 2.0's performance has increased 100 fold, the product is now rock steady and not bug infested like the previous version. It also features software based live timeline previewing. On my Pentium 1.8 machine I was able to easily and consistently watch my project on the fly, with almost no stutters or jerkiness. This meant that when I went to do the final render, I didn't have to worry about mistakes getting into the final output.

Premiere 2.0 now features multi-camera editing so you can view different angles and switch between multiple tracks on the fly. It now supports complete native HD editing along with HD capturing, support for Macromedia flash files (which the entire package now supports) and includes a few minor other enhancements. Beyond the major MPEG support upgrade and performance improvements this version is essentially the same as the previous, but these two new enhancements makes 2.0 the editing app to get.

I was a little disappointed that it includes the same text templates and lower 3rds as before; I love how Premiere makes creating themes easier. I just wish they would improve the quality of them. Most of them are fairly simplistic and cheesy, but with the integrated theme editor, you are really only limited by your imagination.

Using any Adobe product isn't for the weak at heart. It's very intimidating, not a tool for novices and the learning curve is steep, but once you invest the time and pick up on the Adobe way of doing things then migrating and learning new and other tools from Adobe becomes fairly simple and easy. The trick is finding the time to sit down and learn that first application. Once you do you are in for...
powerful and fairly simple tools -- again, it's only "simple" once you figure out Adobe's icon based interface, which is standard across all of Adobe's product line. To help you along the way, Adobe includes very nice tutorials, easy to follow manuals that include big images, step by step instructions, and videos.

Adobe's Creative Production Studio is probably the best video production suite you can purchase for a Windows based machine or any machine really. It's available for both Windows and Macs.

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