Black Ice Newsletter

Black Ice Software, Inc. **Volume 9, Issue 2** **February, 2004**

NEW - PDF Read using the Document Imaging SDK

Version 10.08 of the Document Imaging SDK/ ActiveX is capable of loading and displaying PDF files that contains the pages stored as images. Using this feature a developer can display PDF files created with the Document Imaging SDK/ActiveX and by the Black Ice PDF printer driver from within their own application.

The Document Imaging SDK/ActiveX enables the conversion of any supported image formats into the popular PDF (Adobe Portable Document Format) file format. Using the PDF SDK/ ActiveX Plug-in, any supported color or monochrome image type can be converted into PDF format. The current release includes 1-bit, 8-bit color, 8-bit grayscale and 24-bit color support.

With the new PDF read functionality, developers can enhance their application to display files created using the PDF write functionality which was previously available. There are an endless number of possibilities for PDF read and write in Document Imaging applications, such as Scan or Fax to PDF

The PDF reading support of the Document Imaging SDK/ActiveX is implemented in both the BiPDF.

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Inside this issue:

Supercharge your fax application with V.34 faxing

Version 10.0 of the Fax C++/ActiveX implements V.34 faxing based on the Class 1.0 fax command set and will send V.34 faxes to any fax modem or board on the market that supports Class 1.0 and V.34 faxing. A fax sent at 33,600 bps is more than twice as fast as a fax sent at 14,400 bps. The increased transmission speed increases performance by drastically reducing training time. The same fax can be sent in half the time as before, saving money on phone bills and allowing more faxes than before to be sent using the same phone line. For example, a fax broadcast application can transmit an average page in around 1 minute without V.34 faxing. This means that it can transmit 60 pages per hour per channel and 1440 pages per channel per day. It would take almost 3 days to transmit 100,000 pages on 24 channels without V.34. Because of the increased transmission speed of a V.34 fax transmission, the same amount of faxes can be sent in half the time or with half the channels, compared to the non V.34 mode.

V.34 faxing will also have a drastic effect on Color Faxing. One of the reasons for color faxing's slow take off is transmission speed. A color page can take several minutes to transmit and that is longer than most users can wait. With V.34 faxing, the transmission time of color

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faxes will be cut in half.

Black Ice Software's fast color printer driver technology and V.34 faxing will give a boost to an array of fax products. Black Ice Software is already in the process of releasing several products based on V.34 and Color Fax technology. The first products that will include V.34 and Color Faxing are the Impact Fax Broadcast and Impact Fax Server. Look for our Impact Fax newsletter for more details.

Database interface for the Document Imaging SDK/ActiveX

The Black Ice Document Imaging SDK/ActiveX has been updated with the new BiDB.DLL and BiDB.OCX control which add support for direct database operations. The purpose of the new functionality is to add a new tool for the developer that can be used to easily store and load images from a database.

Storing images in a database is often required in document archiving applications, dynamic web pages, electronic surveillance systems, etc. The images are stored as BLOBs (Binary Large Objects) in the database. The Document Imaging SDK/ActiveX provides several functions to save and load the images to and from a database. The developer can specify the database, table and record where to store the image, and also operations to traverse the next or previous record in a recordset.

Using the BiDB.DLL and BiDB.OCX components, the developer can directly write (store) a DIB (bitmap) into the database or read and, using the BiDisp.DLL, display images stored in the database.

In addition to DIBs, the Document Imaging SDK/ActiveX can store any supported image file in the database, including TIFF files, which can later be decoded directly from a memory object using the OpenTIFFInMemory() function. Using the OpenTIFFInMemory() function eliminates the time consuming steps of saving the TIFF data to a temporary file before opening it with a TIFF function. The TIFF is created in memory and every operation (conversion, setting or reading TAGs, etc.) is done in memory.

New scanning features in the Black Ice Imaging Toolkits

In the constant effort to improve the products, Black Ice Software is announcing several new features which have been added to the Scanning module of the Document Imaging SDK/ActiveX, Image SDK/ActiveX and TIFF SDK/ActiveX products.

As an enhancement to the existing batch scanning feature, additional functionality has been added which allows developers to query the state of the scanner's feeder. When batch scanning is performed and the feeder becomes empty, a callback function specified by the developer can be called to handle the situation.

Also, when a new page is successfully scanned, a callback function is called to allow the developer to implement his own saving method if it is needed. The developer now has the option to scan and save all of the pages into file(s), or they can intercept each page as it is scanned and process/store/etc. the file as their application requires. An additional new feature is that the progress bar can be displayed or hidden during the scanning process.

Printer Driver Tips: Multiple Printer Settings, Part II

In the last issue of our developer newsletter we discussed how to use multiple printer settings by installing more than one printer. Developers who integrate the Black Ice printer drivers into their application often need two or more different sets of settings for the printer driver. The following article continues our description of the possible solutions available to application developers who use the Black Ice printer drivers.

2. Use the "Profile Manager", new in the Black Ice printer drivers

Beginning with version 8.12 of the Black Ice printer drivers, the Profile Manager has been available to developers. The Profile Manager enables

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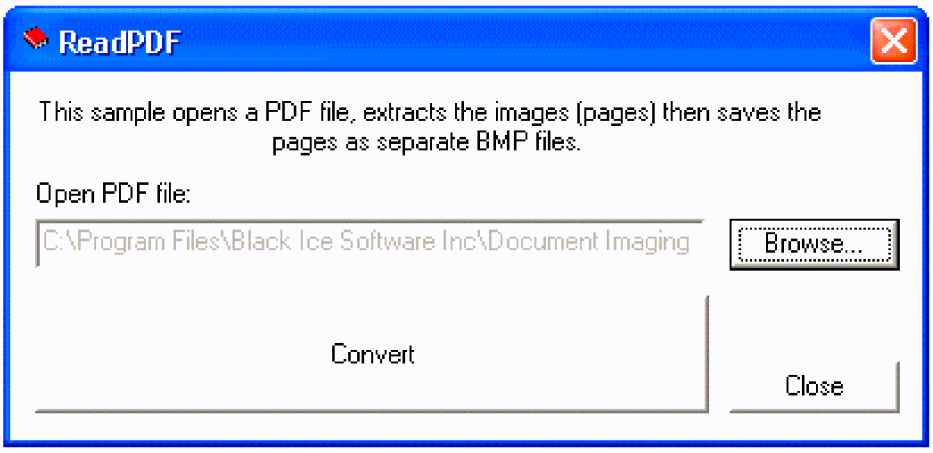
(PDF Read Support... - Continued from page 1)

DLL and BiPDF.OCX control to provide support for every programming language including C/C++, VB, VB.NET, C#, Delphi and more.



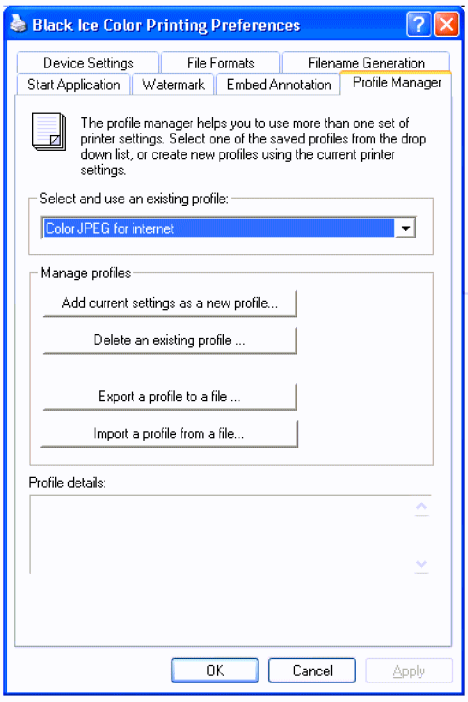
The new ReadPDF sample application demonstrates how to read and decode a PDF file, and it will save each page of the PDF file as a separate bitmap. Additionally, the existing sample applications have been enhanced to display PDF files on the screen

How it works:

The new LoadPDFIntoDIB() function returns a handle to a DIB created from the contents of the specified page of the PDF file. Then your application can display, save or further process the image (DIB) depending on the application requirements.

(Printer Driver Tips... - Continued from page 2)

saving a specific group of settings as a profile which can be recalled later .



If a developer's application needs to produce two distinct file types (TIFF 204 x198 DPI for faxing) and JPEG (100 x 100 DPI for internet), 2 profiles should be created, each of which will contain the desired settings..

All of the Black Ice printer setting dialogs can then be hidden from the end user by utilizing the INI file settings (BiCiniNT.ini for the color driver) leaving only the Profile Manager available to the user. The user can be restricted so they can only select one of the available profiles, and they cannot change any other settings. This approach ensures that the application that integrates the Black Ice printer driver will only handle supported file formats, and the user cannot generate (print) unsupported image formats.

3. Programmatically change the printer settings.

Usually the user changes the printer settings manually from the User Interface (Printers -> Printing Preferences), by selecting different options. However in some case the developer may need to change the printer settings to match their application's requirements. The most common changes are the page size, orientation, output directory and file name generation method, all of which are supported in the Black Ice printer driver to be changed programmatically as necessary.

The Black Ice printer driver comes with a Resource Toolkit which among other things, contains the BlackIceDEVMODE.OCX and BlackIceDEVMODE.DLL controls which provide developers with a tool allowing them to easily change any of the printer settings using VB, C/C++, Delphi, VB.NET, C#, etc. Using the BlackIceDEVMODE controls the developer simply has to call the appropriate function to change any printer setting to the desired setting.

For example, in order to change the output directory, the developer's application should load the devmode using the LoadBlackIceDEVMODE () function, specify the new desired path using the SetOutputDirectory() function , and then save the settings to the printer using the SaveBlackIceDEVMODE() function. It is as simple as that. When a user opens the user interface or prints from an application, he will see and use the new output folder which was programmatically set by the application.

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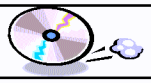
Inside

New PDF Read for Document Imaging, Enhanced Scanning Support and more!

Time to upgrade?



Latest Version Numbers

Programming Tools

Product	Version	Date
Fax C++/ActiveX/COM	10.02	01/07/04
Voice C++/ActiveX/COM	10.02	01/07/04
ColorPrinter Driver for Win95/98/ME	5.57	09/17/03
Metafile Printer Driver for Win95/98/ME	5.57	09/17/03
Mono Printer Driver for Win95/98/ME	5.57	09/17/03
PDF Printer Driver for Win95/98/ME	5.57	09/17/03
Mono Printer Driver for NT/Win2000/XP	8.52	01/12/04
Color Printer Driver for NT/Win2000/XP	8.52	01/12/04
Mono Printer Driver for NT/W2K/XP	8.52	01/12/04
Metafile Printer Driver for NT/W2K/XP	8.52	01/12/04
PDF Printer Driver for NT/W2K/XP	8.52	01/12/04
Terminal Server Printer Driver Win2003	8.52	01/12/04
Tiff SDK/ActiveX/COM	10.08	01/15/04
Annotation SDK/ActiveX/COM	10.08	01/15/04
Fax Cover Page Generator SDK/ActiveX	10.08	01/15/04
Image SDK/ActiveX	10.08	01/15/04
Document Imaging SDK/ActiveX	10.08	01/15/04

Impact Products

Product	Version	Date
Impact Fax Server	4.36	12/18/02
Impact Fax on Demand	4.06	12/01/00
Impact Fax Broadcast	3.04	08/01/03
Impact ColorFax	5.01	02/21/03
Drag and Drop Printing	2.00	12/24/02

Internet Tools

Print2Email	3.01	01/20/03
Tiff Viewer Plug-in - Complete	5.01	06/26/03
Print Monitoring Server	2.20	09/05/03

Free Software

Impact ColorFax Lite	5.01	02/21/03
Tiff Viewer Plug-in - Free Version	5.00	03/26/03
ModemWeasel	2.00	08/01/02