

Changes in Paint Shop Pro 8.1

We've made a number of significant changes in Paint Shop Pro 8.1 to address issues reported to us by our customers, enhance the general performance of the program, and improve output quality and various other aspects of the product. The lists below highlight some of the most significant changes in this version of the program.

Fixes and Issues Addressed

- Fixed several issues with saving JPEG files from several digital camera models, including the Sony Cybershot DSC-717.
- Fixed several issues that caused the Browser and other parts of the program that read files from disk to crash or become unresponsive.
- Fixed several issues related to TWAIN and scanning.
- Fixed issue affecting certain Windows 98x and Windows ME systems in which the Print dialog failed to initialize properly. Systems using Epson and HP color printers were most likely to exhibit this problem.
- Fixed crash caused by scrolling the style ruler in the Styled Lines dialog box.
- Fixed crash caused when cancelling an import of PostScript files.
- Fixed crash caused by repeatedly applying the Warp brush to a selection boundary.
- Fixed issue that could cause a crash when pressing the Enter key on the Materials palette.
- Fixed issue that caused the program to save a *.psimage file it cannot open.
- Fixed crash caused by switching between an image and the Browser with the Background Eraser tool active.
- Fixed crashes caused by consecutively running a script multiple times.
- Fixed issue with Undo that caused a Warp brush deformation map to be destroyed.
- Fixed issue that could cause a crash when activating screen capture.
- Fixed issue that could cause a crash when deleting a layer with text or a vector path.
- Fixed crash caused by dismissing the Pen tool context menu via left mouse click.
- Fixed crash caused by putting new lines at the beginning of a text object.
- Fixed number of other issues related to creating and editing multiple-line text objects.
- Fixed issue that could cause a crash when using the Image Slicer.
- Fixed issue that could cause a crash when using brush tips with pressure-sensitive size settings.
- Fixed crash caused by maximizing the application window while the program was still loading.
- Fixed issue with the Warp brush that could cause a crash on exiting the program.
- Fixed problem with browser thumbnails of small images not refreshing correctly.
- Fixed error when renaming a layer group containing a text object.
- Fixed issue with Canvas size dialog not properly applying color changes made with eyedropper.
- Images with open vector strokes in Paint Shop Pro 7 no longer appear with closed vector strokes in Paint Shop Pro 8.
- Addressed issue that could cause the right pane of the Layers palette to appear hidden when the palette is docked on the right side of the application window (default position).
- Fixed issue that could cause the JPEG Optimizer to default to one (1) byte file size.
- Fixed issue where a vector layer with a selection could not be deformed.
- Fixed scripting issue where Close All command does not prompt to save all when needed.
- Fixed issue where tools did not work after opening Paint Shop Pro through an embedded object in another document.
- Fixed issue with Resize Canvas dialog where values were not properly applied.
- Resolved improper handling of invalid Picture Tubes.
- Fixed issue where Curves Adjustment Layer did not apply to all channels when editing.
- Fixed issue where copied text did not render properly.
- Addressed issues with big TIFF files saved with LZW compression.
- Fixed issue where Text tool would duplicate text when editing.

- Fixed issue where Text tool could not uncheck the Remember Text checkbox.
- Resolved rendering issue with extreme anti-aliasing.
- Resolved issue with partial loading of multi-page TIFF files.
- Addressed issue reading and writing EXIF GPS metadata.
- Fixed an issue with the Preset Converter script to correctly rename textures. If you have already converted your Paint Shop Pro 7 presets to Paint Shop Pro 8 files and are having difficulty with presets that reference textures, you may want to re-run the Preset Converter script.
- Addressed many other functional issues that affected overall product stability and consistency.

Performance Improvements

- Addressed significant performance issues with Undo operations and Windows 2000. Most users will need to update to Windows 2000 Service Pack 4 to take advantage of this fix.
- Significantly reduced overall memory consumption of artistic effects and filters.
- Significantly reduced time needed to write Undo data to disk.
- Improved overall performance when using the Text tool.
- Fixed performance issues with the Flip and Mirror commands.
- Improved performance when running One Step Photo Fix, especially on larger images.
- Improved overall performance when using vector objects and layers.
- Improved overall performance when working with multiple layers.
- Addressed many other issues to improve overall product performance.

Feature Enhancements

- Significantly improved rendered quality of lines and shapes created with small line widths and anti-aliasing turned off.
- Added new "Animation Shop" file type. Use this file type to save images and layered files for use in Animation Shop 3. You may also save your image using the "Paint Shop Pro Image" file type, but be sure to set the Options to "PSP 7 Compatible".
- Added a right-click context menu to the Text Entry dialog for standard Cut/Copy/Paste clipboard operations.
- Added a "Paint Behind" blend mode to the Paint Brush. When used on a raster layer (not Background layer), this blend mode will cause new brush strokes to be painted behind existing content on the layer.
- Added support for viewing the "Makernotes" information created by various digital cameras.
- Improved the accuracy of the manual mode of the Background Eraser tool.
- Custom or Favorite folders will now be consistent between all the File/Open and File/Save dialogs (including the optimizers).
- Added Copy/Cut/Paste clipboard operation support in numerical edit fields.
- Can now use Ctrl+Tab to move to the next section of the Tool Options palette. Ctrl+Shift+Tab will move you back one section.
- Choosing "Custom selection" from the Selection tool's Tool Options palette now gives you the option to use coordinates from an existing selection. Your selection will become a rectangular selection.
- Resource files such as Plugins or Picture Tubes will now load in the order the folders are specified in File Locations.
- The Windows > Duplicate command will now maintain the zoom level of the original image.
- You can now select multiple text objects and edit properties for all simultaneously.
- Added a new script, "VectorMergedSelected", that allows you to merge multiple vector objects into one path. Select the objects in your image then run the script.
- Added functionality where holding the Shift key down when clicking on File > Close will close the image without prompting to save changes.
- Added option to JPEG Optimizer to remove EXIF data from images for further file size reduction. This is also available as a new script command: DeleteEXIF. See scripting documentation for more details.
- Changed default values of GIF Optimizer dialog to use Optimized Octree color reduction and no dithering.

- Added option to PNG Optimizer and File Format Preferences to save transparency data as an alpha channel or image transparency.
- Added option to PNG Optimizer to set the value of PNG gAMA chunk.
- Increased upper limit of gradient repeat control to 999.
- Increased upper limit of available Alpha Channels to 99. Images with up to 99 channels can be saved in the *.pspimage format.
- Updated Animation Shop to version 3.1. There are no functional updates associated with this release.
- Made corrections and additions to the electronic Help files.
- Made numerous other enhancements throughout the program.