

# Selecting a Desktop Publishing Program

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While there are many factors that go into choosing a program, here are just some of the issues that you may want to consider. One should assume that if I listed a feature under the “Pros” category for one program, the feature is not available or has limited implementation in the other programs. For more details, please email me at [DCreamer@IDEAstraining.com](mailto:DCreamer@IDEAstraining.com).

## Adobe InDesign

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- Pros: The *most* advanced page-layout program available for typography , (Adobe Paragraph Composer), best Paragraph and Character Style features available; the most advanced graphics features in a page-layout program (drop shadows, feathering, object transparency, direct Photoshop and Illustrator import and layer support); high-quality graphics preview; advanced Table formatting; standard Adobe interface (similar to Illustrator); OpenType support; third-party plug-ins available to extend features; available in Adobe Creative Suite at greatly reduced cost
- Cons: No Table Styles (without third-party plug-in)

## FrameMaker

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- Pros: Excellent long-document features; built-in equation maker; Footnotes; Table Styles and continued-on headers; Run-in paragraphs; Heads and Subheads can extend across multi-column layout; advanced Bullet and Number lists options; advanced editorial functions, including change bars and version compare; advanced spell check options; best XML formatting features; advanced variable data options; conditional text/graphics options
- Cons: Harder to learn than other programs; no “based-on” styles; no layers; very limited graphically (i.e., cannot create a box with a different color rule); no gradient tints; no service bureau collection features; no OS X version; no direct PDF export (comes with Distiller)

## QuarkXPress

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- Pros: Good, capable program; currently industry standard (however, this is *not* based on the latest version, but older versions); many third-party XTensions to extend features; multiple layouts saved as one file, or Project (may not be a “Pro” if entire Project becomes corrupt); synchronized text across Projects; good web page features; Photoshop import and layer control (but no transparency support)
- Cons: Limited Tables, limited Gradient Tints; limited graphics import options; limited advanced graphics capabilities (drop-shadows, etc.); standard version is not multi-lingual; no built-in preflighting

## Adobe PageMaker

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- Pros: Easy to use (partially due to lack of advanced features)
- Cons: No Character Styles; no Tables; no Gradient Tints; no direct PDF export (uses Distiller) may not be upgraded again; single undo; no OS X version