

Converting Quark Files to InDesign Just Got Easier

Kevin Slimp, June 2006

For a while, it seemed like every column I penned had something to do with an Adobe product. Over the past few months, I've searched for other products to review, not wanting to favor one vendor over another. It's been five months now, so I feel relatively safe in reviewing a utility related to Adobe once again.

Q2ID is not an Adobe product. It's a utility from Markzware. You might remember *Markzware* as the creators of FlightCheck, a preflight utility that's been used by newspapers and others for quite a while now. Q2ID is a plug-in for Adobe InDesign that allows InDesign to open QuarkXPress files.

OK. I can hear you saying, "I thought InDesign already opened Quark files without a plug-in."

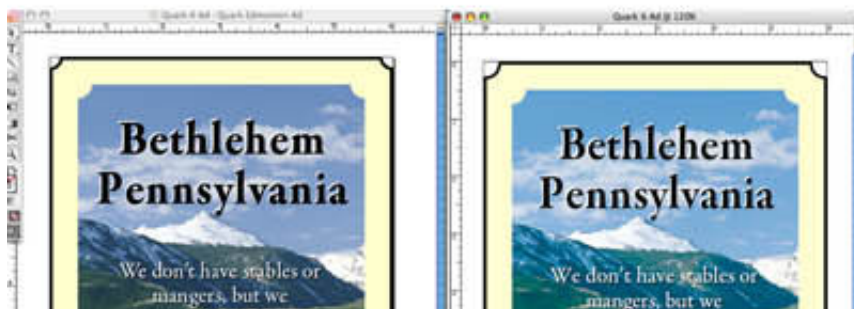
InDesign does open QuarkXPress files as long as they are version 3.x or 4.x files. However, you might not be so lucky with QuarkXPress 5 and 6 files. Sure, you can open these files in Quark and save them down one version at a time until you get a file that will open in InDesign. As you might imagine, this process can get old pretty quickly.

Q2ID allows you to open these files directly into InDesign, without having to save them in a compatible version first. To be precise, Q2ID opens Mac and Windows files saved from QuarkXPress or QuarkXPress Passport 3.3, 4.1, 5, 6 and 6.5.

In my testing, Q2ID worked very nicely. Among newspapers I've interviewed that use Q2ID, there was an overwhelming response in support of using Q2ID. I found that QuarkXPress files (I opened files saved in both version 5 and 6.5)



On the left is the page opened in QuarkX-Press 6.5. On the right is the same file opened in Adobe InDesign CS2 with the help of Q2ID. Notice that the flag is not bolded in the InDesign version. In Quark, the font had been bolded, even though there was no bold version of the font on the system.



opened almost as quickly as native InDesign files with the help of the Q2ID plug-in. Most page elements made it through the conversion perfectly.

Sometimes those related to transparency had to be tweaked to get the expected results. And because InDesign won't let you use fonts that you don't have on your system, fonts that had been bolded in QuarkXPress sometimes opened as non-bold fonts in InDesign.

What's the bottom line? If I have a newspaper converting to InDesign from QuarkXPress, I'm getting Q2ID. In our business, we don't have time to mess around with files that don't open as expected. This is one more tool to help alleviate that possibility.

Q2ID is now available on both Mac and PC platforms. Minimum requirements include OS 10.2 (Mac) and Windows 2000/XP or higher on the PC. \$199 (US) / \$199 (EUR) / \$249 (CAN) / \$299 (AUS). For more information, visit www.markzware.com.



In this case, the Quark file (left) opened in InDesign with no apparent changes. If this had been a QuarkXPress 3 or 4 file, InDesign could have opened it without any assistance. Because the file had been saved in QuarkXPress 6.5, InDesign relied on Q2ID, by Markzware, to open the file.

