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Creating a Graphical Front-End for a Book or DVD Using Photoshop

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Bachelor of Technology (Computing) DT036-3 Graphics & Multimedia

Creating a Graphical Front-End for a Book or DVD using Photoshop

A graphical front-end is typically used as a background in a CD-ROM or DVD menu page. In the case of the DVD buttons are then placed on this page leading the user to other chapters on the disc. The screenshot shows a red and blue graphical front-end which was created in *Photoshop* and imported to *Encore DVD* to create the Main Menu for the DVD.



In this evening's lab session I want you to recreate the graphical front-end shown below for a book – cover publication. We will later use this as the front-end for a CD-ROM to accompany the book. We will use *Photoshop*.

The image shows the front cover of a book titled '3D Digital Engineering with Prototyping'. The cover is primarily blue and white. On the left side, there is a vertical yellow banner with the text '3D Digital Engineering with Prototyping' and 'Jerome Casey and David Copperwhite'. The main title '3D Digital Engineering with Prototyping' is printed in yellow at the top right. The central image is a 3D wireframe model of a mechanical part, possibly a gun barrel or a similar component, rendered in a light blue color. Below the title, there is a 'Contact Information' section with the following text: 'School of Civil & Building Services Engineering, D.I.T., Bolton St., Dublin 1.' and contact details for David Copperwhite and Jerome Casey. At the bottom, there is a small image of a building and the text 'In conjunction with Staff Training and Development'. Logos for 'CD-ROM Included' and 'DIT' are also present. The authors' names, 'Jerome Casey and David Copperwhite', are printed at the bottom right.

Create the Background:

Use the **File| New** command to create a new file. You will be asked to select size of image etc. Set your canvas for an A5 size book i.e. when the book is folded out its dimensions are of an A4 sized page placed on its side. Allow a little extra for the book edge, say x cm. This will be found by trial and error. Input the following:

Name: cover design, Image size: Height 21.0 Width 29.7+ x cm, (A4 size) Resolution: 300 pixels/inch, Mode: RGB Color, Contents: White. Hit Ok.

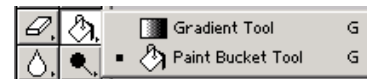


Resolution: The value you choose here should be determined by what you want to do with the image. On-screen viewing for web graphics looks fine at 72 pixels/inch. Most printers operate at 300 or 600 pixels/inch. Images such as book covers that you will print on top quality printers will require 1200 pixels/inch. Keep in mind that the greater the resolution, the greater will be the file size.

Go to the Toolbox and select the **Foreground** colour. The Colour picker window appears. Select a light blue colour with the Hex value **1D4D8D**. Change the **Background** colour to a light blue colour with the Hex value **AABBD2**.



Now select the **Gradient Tool** from the Toolbox and draw a vertical line down the canvas. If the tool is not immediately obvious, it could be hidden underneath the *Paint Bucket Tool*, located to the right of the *Eraser tool*.



Rename this layer *Background*.

Select **File| Save as**

Save the file as *cover design.psd*



A **gradient** is a smooth wash of colour moving from one colour to another so smoothly that the eye cannot detect where one colour stops and the other begins. Natural examples of colour gradients include rainbows and sunsets.

Converting a Colour Image to Grayscale:

Open the *model.gif* image. Convert it to grayscale by selecting:

Image| Mode| Grayscale... Hit Ok.

Select the layer in the **Layer Palette** and drag and drop it into the *cover design.psd* workspace. Move it into the correct position using the **Move Tool**, while making sure its layer is selected.



Create the Book Spine:

Select the **Rectangle Tool** from the *Toolbox*. Choose a yellow color, Hex value **E9D000** and draw the rectangle to divide the front and back covers.

Adding Text Layers:

The Back Cover

Select the **Text tool** from the Toolbox. From the **Options bar**, make the following adjustments:

T



Click and drag a box in the canvas area. Try typing the sample text:

Contact Information:

*Text color: Blue
0C2F5D*

A text layer will appear in the **Layers Palette**. Rename it *Back Contact*

Repeat by creating another text Layer for the School. From the **Options bar**, make the following adjustments:



Click and drag a box in the canvas area. Try typing the sample text:

**School of Civil & Building Services Engineering,
D.I.T., Bolton St., Dublin 1.**

A text layer will appear in the **Layers Palette**. Rename it *Back School*

Repeat by creating another 2 text Layers for both the Authors. From the **Options bar**, make the following adjustments: *Text color: Blue 0C2F5D*



Click and drag a box in the canvas area. Try typing the sample text:

David Copperwhite Tel :+402 3769 E-mail : david.copperwhite@dit.ie

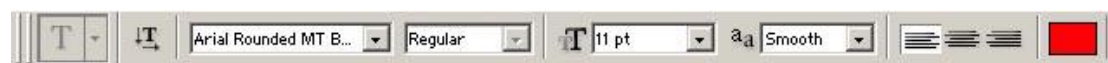
A text layer will appear in the **Layers Palette**. Rename it *Back David*

Repeat to add another text Layer with:

Jerome Casey Tel :+402 3769 E-mail : jerome.casey@dit.ie

A text layer will appear in the **Layers Palette**. Rename it *Back Jerome*

Repeat by creating another text Layer. From the **Options bar**, make the following adjustments:



Click and drag a box in the canvas area. Try typing the sample text:

In conjunction with Staff Training and Development

*Text color: Red
FF0006*

A text layer will appear in the **Layers Palette**. Rename it *Back Staff*

Finally add another Text layer with the following adjustments:



Click and drag a box in the canvas area. Try typing the sample text:

CD - ROM Included

*Text color: Blue
0C2F5C*

A text layer will appear in the **Layers Palette**. Rename it *Back CD ROM*

The Front Cover

Repeat by creating another text Layer for the Book Title. From the **Options bar**, make the following adjustments:



Click and drag a box in the canvas area. Try typing the sample text:

3D Digital Engineering with Prototyping

*Text color: Yellow
FFD800*

A text layer will appear in the **Layers Palette**. Rename it *front 3D Digital*

Repeat by creating another text Layer for the authors' names. From the **Options bar**, make the following adjustments:



Try typing the sample text:

Jerome Casey & David Copperwhite

*Text color: Blue
0C2F5D*

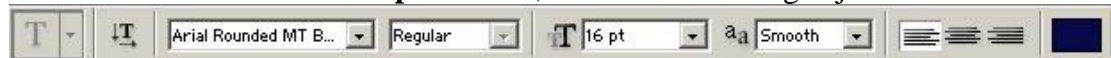
A text layer will appear in the **Layers Palette**. Rename it *front Authors*

The Book Spine

Now make a duplicate layer copy of the *front 3D Digital* layer by selecting the Text layer and then click on the flyout icon to find *Duplicate Layer*.

A text layer will appear in the **Layers Palette**. Rename it *Edge 3D Digital*

Select the text and from the **Options bar**, make the following adjustments:



*Text color: Dark
Blue 07094B*

Click on the **Select Tool** to drag it into view (it is on top of the original)

Make it the active layer, then select **Edit| Transform| Rotate 90° CW...** from the menu. Move it into position.

Now make a duplicate layer copy of the *front Authors* .

A text layer will appear in the **Layers Palette**. Rename it *Edge Authors*

Select the text and from the **Options bar**, make the following adjustments:



*Text color: Dark
Blue 0C2F5D*

Repeat as above.

Cropping an Image:

Open the *BoltonSt.jpg* image. Select the **Crop tool** from the Toolbox, then click and drag a box around the area you want to retain. Hit return.

In the **Layers Palette** rename the layer *Back Bolton*.

A *Gradient Map* could also be applied here. Select **Image| Adjust**

Select the layer in the **Layer Palette** and drag and drop it into the *cover design.psd* workspace. Move it into the correct position using the **Move Tool**, while making sure its layer is selected.

Resizing an Image:

1. Use **File| open** to open *DIT Logo.gif*
When a file is locked here's what to do:
Select| All then **Edit| Copy**. The image is now in the clipboard.
Select **File| New** then **Edit| Paste**. You can now work on this unlocked layer.



Use the **Magic Wand** tool to select the white pixels. Hit the delete key.
Now resize the image. Make it the active layer, then from the menu select **Edit| Transform| Scale....** Hold down the SHIFT key while re-sizing to keep the aspect ratio constant while dragging the handles from any corner and shrink the Layer. Hit return to accept the resizing.

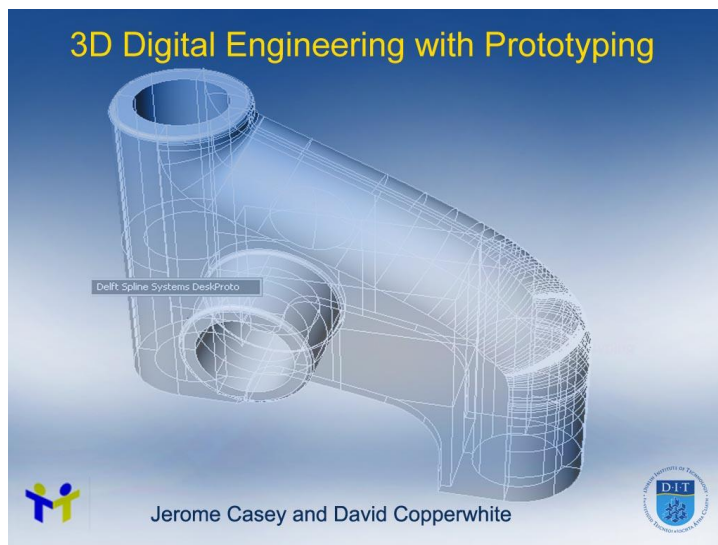
2. Select the layer in the **Layer Palette** and drag and drop it into the *cover design.psd* workspace. Ensure the layer is the active layer and move it into the correct position using the **Move Tool**, together with your arrow keys to more precisely nudge the Layer to its desired location.
3. Repeat the process by opening the *Staff Training.jpg* image. Remove unwanted pixels using the **Magic Wand** and resize as necessary. Rename its layer *Back Staff Training*. Make a duplicate layer to position on the Book edge, move into position and rename it *Edge Staff Training*.

Using the Eraser:

Finally open the *cd.gif* image. Use the **Navigator Palette** or **CTL +** to zoom in approximately 800%. Remove unwanted pixels using the **Eraser** tool with a size 3. Rename its layer *Back CD ROM*. Move into position.



Now resave your file as *cover design.psd* This file can later be used as the front-end for a CD-ROM to accompany the book as shown below by editing and moving the layers into place as practiced above.



Printing the Book Cover

I used HP, grade 170, semi-glossy paper when printing the Book Cover. You also need to use a printer that can print to the edge. You should have a paper size greater than A4 to account for the book edge. You can then print the full cover and do a wrap-around. If however you have just A4-size paper you can crop the front and back covers independently to A5-size and print the sides separately. Then use a guillotine to trim the edges. Select

File| Print Options. Click on **Page Setup** and select A5 paper (width 21cm, height 14.8cm). Make sure the *Scale To Fit Media* box is checked. You will see a preview of how the cover will look. Check the *Show Bounding Box* if desired.

Select **File| Print.** In the *Print Space* section ensure the *Profile* is *Same As Source*.