



System overview

The Advent Document Composition System is a complete electronic publishing system for in-house preparation of multi-page publications. It is well suited to scientific and technically oriented material. The final output may be produced on either laser printers or phototypesetters after previewing on a high resolution bitmapped screen. The system is implemented on the SUN and PERQ workstations with either a SUN WRITER or CANON CX laser printer. The whole system can be operated in an ordinary office environment.

All parts of a document are typeset and printed, single or double sided, for use as final output or as camera-ready copy for printing. Mathematical text can be entered directly and illustrations in the form of scanned images or line drawings can be included in a document.

Text can be entered directly by the author using a generic markup language reflecting notions such as chapters, sections, enumerated lists, and tables. For more advanced editorial and document design requirements there are many hundreds of commands making virtually any document layout possible.

The system automatically numbers chapters, sections, tables, figures, and footnotes. It also produces an optional table of contents and index, and maintains cross-references to page and section numbers.

Large documents may be split into smaller sections, which may be separately typeset removing the need to re-process the whole document every time a change is made. Cross-references between sections are maintained automatically.

Illustrations may be prepared using either a vector drawing package, a raster editor such as Advent Paint, or by scanning original documents. These are included directly into a document, removing the need for manual cutting and pasting.

Document design

Authors will not usually be involved in the typographically-skilled task of document design, but will use a document style previously constructed by an expert. The system is initially delivered with a set of document styles such as handbooks, reports, manuals, theses, articles and slides. These document styles can be modified by the advanced user, creating either new house styles or 'one offs'.

Input

Manuscripts can be prepared using an ordinary text processing system. The manuscript can then be transferred to the SUN or PERQ workstation through RS232C connections, Ethernet, or on exchangeable magnetic media. On these workstation screens any of the typeset pages can be displayed exactly as it will appear on the printed page, so that any typographical mistakes can be corrected before committing the document to paper.

Output

The typesetting module of the system generates output in the form of Pressfiles and Postscript files. This output (Press or Postscript) can be filed and subsequently printed using the Canon printer interface module, or by any Postscript driven devices (such as the LaserWriter, Linotron 101 or Linotronic 300 typesetters).