

So you think Adobe InDesign has become a about interactive Snickers snack? Think again.

A visual representation of new features introduced since InDesign CS3 based on lists available in the help file for each version at Adobe.com.

CS3

Version 5.0 | April 2007

CS4

Version 6.0 | September 2008

CS5

Version 7.0 | April 2010

Design & Layout

- Multi-file placing**
Import several different files in one step. You can see thumbnail views of the different files and cycle through them until you find the one you want to place.
- Fast frame-fitting**
Set the default fit behavior of frames and assign fit options to object styles so that, as soon as you place a graphic or other content in a frame, it fits perfectly.
- Expanded Quick Apply**
Type a few letters into the Quick Apply panel and be able to access commands, text variables, scripts, and styles instantly without having to rummage around in different panels. You can also customize Quick Apply searches.
- Placed InDesign documents**
Shorten the layout process and collaborate more effectively by reusing Adobe InDesign® CS3 documents. When InDesign files are placed in the document, the Links panel provides notification of updates, eliminating the need to save and reimage interim files.
- Creative effects**
Experiment with designs right on the page layout with Adobe Photoshop®-like effects. You can experiment with blending modes, opacity, and other effects without permanently altering your objects. And you can save effects as part of an object style for easy reuse and sharing.
- Gradient feather** - Fade an object into the background by way of an adjustable linear or radial gradient.
- Directional feather** - Enhance feathering by customizing the feather angle and the amount of feathering on each side.
- Bevel and Emboss** - Add Inner highlights and shadows that create a relief effect.
- Satin** - Apply interior shading that creates a satin-like finish.
- Inner Shadow** - Add a shadow that falls just inside the edges of the object's content, giving the object a recessed appearance.
- Inner Glow and Outer Glow** - Add glows that emanate from the inside and outside edges of an object.
- Finer transparency controls**
Create complex visual effects by applying multiple transparency settings to a single object. You can apply transparency settings independently to an object's fill, stroke, and content.
- Improved text wrap**
Easily flow text around objects, wrap to a side or according to a clipping path or alpha channel.

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- New pages sizes**
New common monitor resolution sizes are available in the Page Size menu in the New Document dialog box. These options make it easier to design a document to a specific monitor size for interactive SWF, XML, and PDF workflows.
- Constrained placement of graphics**
A frame drawn while an image is in the loaded cursor constrains to the proportions of the graphic. The graphic then fits to the frame proportionally and is centered unless frame fitting options have been applied to the frame.
- Multiple artwork placement**
Cycle through multiple artboards created in Adobe Illustrator® CS4 for quick placement in your InDesign document.
- Placing multiple graphics as a contact sheet**
Quickly create a contact sheet by placing multiple images in a grid arrangement.
- Versatile Links panel**
Find, sort, and organize placed content with the redesigned Links panel. Scan link attributes and click to view details such as scale, rotation, and resolution. Customize the Links panel to suit your working preferences. Quickly replace low-resolution images used as placeholders with high-resolution images based on filename. Filename extensions are ignored. Simply re-link to a new folder.
- Smart Guides**
Align, space, rotate, and resize multiple objects in one step. Align to the horizontal, vertical, or center of page edges. The guides, object dimensions, rotation, and X,Y coordinates appear dynamically so you can snap objects in relation to other objects in the layout.
- Smart Dimensions** - When you create, resize, or rotate an object, Smart Dimensions shows the width, height, or rotation of your object, highlighting when the dimensions or rotation values nearly coincide.
- Smart Spacing** - Evenly space multiple items on your page by snapping objects into position without having to use the Align panel.
- Smart Cursors** - When transforming objects, the cursor displays X and Y position, width and height, or rotation information. The Show Transformation Values option in interface preferences lets you turn smart cursors on and off.
- Live preflight**
Preflight while you design for better results, greater time savings, and lower production costs. Continuous preflighting alerts you to potential production problems in real time. The new Preflight panel lets you navigate to and select the objects that are triggering the preflight error. View contextual tips to help you correct errors directly in layout.
- Edit Original flexibility**
Use the Edit With command to choose which application to use to edit a placed item instead of relying on the operating system's default to the appropriate program.
- Free Transform tool improvements**
Resize an object more easily using the Free Transform tool, thanks to new zoom zones around object handles and the ability to resize along object edges.
- Keyboard shortcuts for scaling and sizing**
New keyboard shortcuts for scaling and sizing are included for scaling and keyboard objects.
- New Pathfinder panel buttons**
Use one step to join paths, open paths, or reverse paths by clicking a button in the new Pathfinder panel in the Pathfinder panel.
- Convert Point menu commands**
Convert corner points to smooth or line end points using the Convert Point commands that are now located in the Paths menus.
- Spread view rotation**
Temporarily rotate the spread view without physically turning your monitor. Enjoy full editing capability at 90 and 180 degree angles so that you can work on non-horizontal design elements, such as rotated calendar spreads and tables.
- Quick guide deletion**
Instantly clear all selectable guides on your current spread or master page by right-clicking (Windows) or Ctrl-clicking (Mac OS) a ruler and choosing Delete All Guides.
- Data merge output to PDF**
Run a data merge operation and output directly to PDF in a single pass, thanks to the Export to PDF command now included in the Data Merge panel. An intermediate InDesign document is no longer created.
- Ruler origin on spine**
Correctly place the ruler's zero position of X at the spine of your document so that the X values are positive for right sided pages and negative for left sided pages when Facing Pages is enabled.
- Slug area enhancements**
Move pages and see that your objects in the slug and bleed area also move. Page numbers in the slug area display a number rather than the pastebard index entry (PB).
- Undo improvements**
Viewing actions such as Set Preview and Show Guides are no longer included as Undo items.

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- Multiple page sizes**
You can now define different page sizes for pages within a single document. This feature is especially useful when you want to manage related designs in one file. For example, you can include business card, postcard, letterhead, and envelope pages in the same document.
- New Layers panel**
The Layers panel is now more similar to the Illustrator Layers panel. Each layer has a disclosure triangle that can be expanded to reveal the objects and their stacking order on that given layer for the active spread.
- Custom page sizes**
Instead of editing a text file to create custom page sizes, you can use the Custom Page Size dialog box to make custom page sizes available when you create documents.
- Simplified transformations**
InDesign includes several new selection and transformation features that simplify manipulating objects.
- Content grabber**
The content grabber appears as a circle when you hover over an image using the Selection tool. This behavior effectively replaces that of the Content Grabber tool, which is removed from InDesign CS5.
- Double-click behavior**
Double-clicking a graphic frame now selects the content of the frame. In a group, double-clicking an item in the group selects the item you double-clicked. This approach gives you a quick and consistent way to select graphic frames and groups.
- Frame edge highlighting**
InDesign now temporarily draws the frame edges as you use the Selection tool to hover over items on a page. This feedback is especially helpful when working in Preview Mode or with Hide Frame Edges selected.
- Path and point highlighting**
When you hover over a path with the Direct Selection tool, InDesign displays the path and display the path points. This feedback makes it easier to view the path points you want to manipulate.
- Rotate**
As in Illustrator, you don't have to switch to the Rotate tool to rotate a selected page item. With the Selection tool, you can simply position the pointer just outside a corner handle, and drag to rotate the item.
- Transform multiple selected items**
InDesign CS5 lets you proportionally resize the selected object. You can simply position the pointer just outside a corner handle, and drag to rotate the item.
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- Live Screen Drawing**
In InDesign CS5, you see the content draw as you drag it. In previous InDesign versions, you pause before dragging to see the content draw.
- Favor the selected object**
If you select one of several overlapping page items and begin dragging, the selected object remains selected. To select a different item, simply click a portion of that different item that is not overlapping or intersecting the currently selected item.
- Live Distribute**
When transforming multiple selected objects, you drag it. In previous InDesign versions, you pause before dragging to see the content draw.
- Reordering of the Transformation Tools**
The Reorder tool is now located in the Tools panel. You can rotate, resize, and scale objects without having to switch from the Selection tool.
- Gap tool**
The Gap tool provides a quick way to adjust the size of a gap between two or more items. The Gap tool is a one-step way to adjust your layout by directly manipulating the whitespace.
- Live corner effects**
Click the yellow square that appears near the upper right corner of a selected frame to apply corner effects to rectangular frames. In addition, you can now apply a different corner effect and a different corner radius to each corner.
- Swatches in Control panel**
You can apply swatches to objects directly in the Control panel. Select an object and choose the swatch from the Fill or Stroke menu in the Control panel. You can also drag the current color swatch displayed in the Control panel and apply it to other objects.
- Grid place enhancements**
When placing multiple files, simply start dragging, and then use the arrow keys to change the number of columns and rows of the placed images.
- Auto-Fit**
Select the Auto-Fit option so that the image is resized automatically whenever you resize the frame.
- Drawing multiple frames in a grid**
When using frame creation tools such as the Rectangle or Type tool, you can press arrow keys to create equally spaced frames.
- Duplicating objects into a grid**
You can create a grid of objects while dragging a copy of a selected object.
- Live captions from metadata**
In InDesign CS5, you can generate captions based on image metadata using a number of methods.
- Specify starting page number**
When you create a document in InDesign CS5, you can make the first page start on a specified page number.
- Edit Original for multiple selected items**
You can choose the Edit Original command to open multiple images in their respective editing applications.
- New options for locking objects**
To lock and unlock objects, you can now choose Object > Lock or Object > Unlock All On Spread. Clicking the lock icon also unlocks a locked object.
- Re-link file extensions**
Re-link files based on file extension. For example, you can replace a set of JPEG files with TIFF files.
- Hide objects**
You can now choose Object > Hide to hide objects on the page. Hidden objects are not printed or exported, and they cannot be selected.
- Place cursor when dragging from Adobe Bridge**
In previous versions, dragging an image from Adobe Bridge or the desktop inserted the image on to the page, creating a frame the size of the image. In InDesign CS5, this action loads the place cursor, letting you drag a proportionally sized frame for your image.
- Round CMYK values to whole numbers**
The Color panel rounds the values for the CMYK sliders to the nearest whole value.
- Delete all guides**
There is now a new Delete All Guides On Spread.
- Fold marks**
If you select Crop Marks while printing spreads, fold marks are printed as solid lines.

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Text & Tables

- More powerful Find/Change capabilities**
Search and replace more efficiently with new find/change features. You can save searches, search across many documents, enlarge the scope of a search, and use GREP expressions in searches.
- Consistent Glyphs panel**
Use the Glyphs panel to locate recently used glyphs, filter and sort glyphs, and save glyph sets for sharing and reuse.
- Advanced bulleted and numbered lists**
Create sophisticated lists with hierarchical, outline-style number sequences. Set styles, modes, alignment, bullets, and other advanced options for different levels of bulleted and numbered lists. You can interrupt lists and spread them across different pages and stories.
- Text variables**
Automate the use of repeating elements such as headers, footers, product names, and date stamps. Running headers and footers can be generated from the text and dynamically updated as text flows from page to page.
- Nested style looping**
Automatically apply a paragraph with one click instead of manually formatting each style change. With nested style looping, you can repeat a sequence of nested styles until the end of a paragraph.
- Table and cell styles**
As well as applying styles to characters and paragraphs, apply styles to a table or to table cells. With table styles and cell styles, you no longer have to manually format tables or individual table cells.

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- Conditional text**
Use conditional text deliver multiple versions of a document for different users and channels. Create conditions and apply them to text for audience customization.
- All language user dictionary**
Add a custom word, name, or phrase to a user dictionary and all languages treat the term as correctly spelled.
- Smart Text Reflow**
Smart Text Reflow as a word processor. Let InDesign add or remove pages automatically when you type text. Hide conditions, or change or your text flow.
- Autocorrect editing**
Edit entries on your Autocorrect misspelling list without having to delete and add entries.
- Tables enhancements**
Tables in the Story Editor display text in sequential columns and rows for easy editing. See Working with tables in Story Editor. Apply changes to cell and table borders without reflecting the stroke proxy borders.
- Nested list styles**
Use nested lists to apply complex character formatting through the end of a line. Formatting remains unchanged when text is edited.
- Style creation in context**
In dialog boxes where you can select a character or paragraph style, you can create a style without having to exit the dialog box. This ability is especially useful when you're generating a table of contents, modify the styles or GREP styles, or using Find/Change to change text formatting to a style.
- GREP styles**
Apply character styles to any text in a paragraph that matches the GREP expression you specify.
- Book style group management**
Move styles in or out of style groups when synchronizing a book without creating duplicate styles.
- Text stroke control**
Adjust stroke cap, end join, meter, and stroke alignment to text without having to convert characters to outlines. These stroke options are also available in styles.
- Cross-references**
Insert and edit cross-references. Choose among different formats, or create your own. Cross-references are easily updated when pagination changes.
- Leading-based baseline grid increments**
If you specify a different measurement system, such as millimeters or inches, baseline grid values still use points to specify text size and leading.

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- Paragraphs that span or split columns**
In InDesign CS5, you can make a paragraph span multiple columns without creating separate text frames. You can also split a paragraph into multiple columns within the same text frame.
- Keep with previous**
The Keep Options dialog box now has a Keep With Previous option that keeps the first line of the current paragraph with the last line of the previous paragraph.
- Balanced columns**
The Balance Columns setting in the Text Frame Options dialog box lets you automatically balance text across columns in a multiple column text frame.
- Vertical justification in non-rectangular frames**
In previous versions of InDesign, applying a non-rectangular text frame causes vertical justification settings to be ignored. In InDesign CS5, you can apply both vertical justification and other effects and other irregular-shaped frames.
- New default font**
The default font is changed from Times (Mac) and Helvetica (Windows) to the cross-platform OpenType version of Minion Pro Regular.
- Remember Story Editor window location**
When you close and reopen a Story Editor window, InDesign remembers the window to its previous width, height, and location on the screen.
- Track text changes**
When the Track Text Changes feature is turned on, changes made to the text are tracked on a per user basis. Use the Track Changes panel to accept and reject changes in the document.
- Document installed fonts**
Any fonts in a Document Fonts folder that's in the same location as an InDesign document are available when the document is opened.
- Buzzword integration**
Buzzword is a web-based text editor that lets users create and store text files on a web server. In InDesign CS5, you can import and export text from Buzzword documents.

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User Interface

- Customized workspaces**
Save your panel and menu changes as a workspace and be able to call up your personalized workspaces any time. You can create different workspaces for different projects and tasks.
- Customized menus**
Get direct access to commonly used commands or simplify training on new workflows by color-coding or hiding individual menu items. Save customized menus as part of a workspace.
- Enhanced Control panel**
Rely on the context-sensitive Control panel to show you the most useful settings based on the objects you selected and the type of work you are doing. You can also customize the Control panel to show only your most frequently used options.
- Flexible compact panels**
Make more room for viewing your document while preserving instant access to your favorite features. View docked panels as icons to keep them accessible and easily recognizable.
- Agate measurement units**
Take advantage of agate measurement units for newspaper publishing.
- Visual Pages panel**
Quickly navigate a document and arrange its pages using thumbnail previews in the Pages panel.

6

- Page transitions in PDF and SWF files**
Apply page transitions directly in InDesign to individual pages or all spreads at once with a single click. See previews of all available transitions. Search for files using metadata that specifies your transitions for output to SWF and PDF files.
- Enhanced On-Target**
Build interactive buttons using the updated Button panel. Design custom buttons or select a button from the integrated button library. Create buttons that let you navigate within a dynamic document, launch a movie, or play a sound.
- Redesigned Hyperlinks panel**
Use the redesigned Hyperlinks panel to easily create hyperlinks that navigate to external URLs, link to files with supplemental information, launch an e-mail client, or jump to a page or section of a page within the same or even a different document. Verify your hyperlinks directly in InDesign CS4 with no need to export the document to a PDF or SWF file for testing.
- Export to Flash (SWF)**
Export SWF files directly from within InDesign, complete with page transitions, interactive buttons, rollovers, and hyperlinks.
- Export to Flash (XML)**
Export your InDesign document in the new XML file format for opening in Adobe Flash® CS4 Professional. Use the Flash authoring environment to add video, audio, animation, and complex interactivity.
- Interactive PDF documents**
Author interactive PDF documents by adding SWF files, Quicktime movies, and sound clips to your page layouts. Create interactive buttons, apply page transitions, and embed hyperlinks, cross-references, and bookmarks to create an immersive reading experience.

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- FLV and MP3 import**
You can now import video files in Flash Video format (FLV and F4V), H.264-encoded files (such as MP4), and SWF files. You can import audio files in MP3 format.
- Media panel**
The Media panel lets you preview SWF, FLV, F4V, MP4, and MP3 files directly in InDesign. For FLV, F4V, and MP4 files, you can choose any frame in the video as the placeholder poster image. You can choose which video playback controls you want the viewer of your interactive document to have.
- Motion presets**
The Animation panel lets you assign a motion preset to any placed image in a way to quickly create an animation. These motion presets are the same motion presets found in Adobe Flash CS5 Professional.
- Animation panel**
Use the Animation panel to create or edit animation effects. You can edit supported animation attributes such as Position, Scale, Rotate, and Opacity.
- Timing panel**
Use the Timing panel to change the order of when animated objects play.
- Object States panel**
Use the Object States panel to create multiple versions of an object.
- Preview panel**
In InDesign, you can preview interactivity and animation out of an InDesign document, the current spread, or the entire document using the Preview panel.
- Pixels as unit of measurement**
You can now also specify Pixels for your unit of measure.
- Automatically convert URLs to hyperlinks**
Use the Convert URLs to Hyperlinks command to search the current selection, story, or document for URL strings and convert them to hyperlinks.
- Improved export to Flash Player**
SWF file export can now include animation, video, audio, and remotes rollovers. In addition, several new options let you control the final SWF file output.
- Improved export to Flash Professional**
InDesign CS5 exports to FLA format rather than XML format for editing the file in Flash Professional. FLA export options let you choose the media content and offer more ways to handle text.
- Improved export to Interactive PDF**
InDesign CS5 includes separate commands for exporting print and interactive PDF files.
- Improved XHTML export**
Exporting to XHTML is a way to extract your content out of an InDesign document and hand it over to a web developer who can re-purpose it using a web application such as Dreamweaver.
- Improved JPEG export**
The Export JPEG dialog box includes several new options, including the ability to specify the color space, use document bleed settings, and simulate overprinting.

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Integration & Collaboration

- Customized workspace enhancements**
Select a task-based workspace that unclutters your screen and presents only the menu commands and panel arrangements best for the current task. Customize your own menus and workspaces that can be shared and saved.
- Tabbed documents**
Manage and work across multiple documents by tabbing through open documents to find the one you need without having to maximize each document individually.
- N-up view**
Arrange viewing multiple documents in a single window so that you can compare content and drag objects across documents. Use a button to switch your views side by side, top and bottom, or however you want.
- Application frame (Mac OS)**
For Mac OS users, you have the option to work with documents and panels in a single window. Move or resize the window without losing access to panels or other opened documents.
- Application bar**
Use a new control buttons in the menu bar to switch to a new workspace, modify the view of a document, perform a search, or quickly access elements such as Adobe Bridge CS4.
- Reactive panels**
Drag related content from one panel to another without first opening the receiving panel. For example, drag a swatch from the Swatch panel into the Color panel without opening it first.
- More nudge buttons**
Use the up and down arrows to nudge and value for paragraph and character styles, find/change formats, object styles, object corner options, and more.
- Dialog box positioning**
Dialog boxes open in the same screen location in which they were closed.
- Command bar removed**
The Command Bar (also called PageMaker Toolbar) that appears in InDesign CS3 is no longer available in InDesign CS4.
- Mouse scroll wheel support**
Navigate through document pages using the mouse scroll wheel. The longer you hold the mouse at the top or bottom of the application window, the faster the pages scroll.
- Power zoom**
Use the Hand tool to zoom out by holding down your mouse button. Continue to hold, and you can move the zoom area marquee across pages. Release, and the view returns to your original zoom level in your new location. Increase or decrease the size of the zoom area marquee using the up and down arrows or scroll wheel on the mouse.
- Visual Pages panel**
See thumbnails of all pages in the Pages panel for easy navigation and page arrangement. If transparency page transitions, or spread rotation have been applied to pages, you can turn off their associated icons for a cleaner Pages panel.

+12

- Mini Bridge**
Mini Bridge is a subset of Adobe InDesign that is available as a panel within InDesign. Mini Bridge lets you navigate your file system and preview files as visual thumbnails without having to leave InDesign.
- Improved Adobe Bridge integration**
InDesign CS5 and Adobe Bridge CS5 are more integrated in two ways.
- Integrated comment and review**
CS Review is an online service that provides a simple way to share designs on the web so others can provide feedback.
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Integration & Collaboration

- E-mail-based assignments for InCopy workflow**
Use new e-mail-based assignments to send stories and graphics as a single assignment package to any contributor in your small workgroup via e-mail. The e-mail package contains all of the information needed to update the layout with the added or edited content, so it's easy to assign tasks and integrate contributions without the need for a shared server.
- Automatically generated layouts from XML**
Automate the creation and formatting of documents by integrating InDesign content into XML workflows by way of XML rules. The conditional rules automatically adapt formatting and layout rendering on content.
- Support for XSLT and CALS tables with XML**
Apply XSLT style sheets when importing XML into InDesign pages easier.

3

- Integration with Adobe Bridge CS4**
Browse, organize, label, and preview graphics and InDesign documents, templates, and snippets from Adobe Bridge. Drag and drop assets from Bridge into layouts easily and efficiently. Search for files using metadata that specifies keywords, fonts, colors, and more.
- InDesign Markup Language (IDML)**
Design and create a language-based file format that allows developers to assemble and disassemble InDesign documents using standard XML tools and without having to open InDesign files.
- Assignments improvements**
New assignment operations in InCopy workflows are now enabled for unsaved InDesign documents.
- Adobe services**
Adobe community help - Get help from the biggest talent pool out there, quickly, with targeted searches.
Collaborate - Collaborate with clients, colleagues, and vendors by sharing your desktop so that you can quickly complete group reviews and show your work with ease.
Adobe Kuler - Explore, create, and share colors using Adobe Kuler, a web-hosted application for experimenting with color and sharing themes with the online Kuler community.

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Mini Bridge is a subset of Adobe InDesign that is available as a panel within InDesign. Mini Bridge lets you navigate your file system and preview files as visual thumbnails without having to leave InDesign.
- Improved Adobe Bridge integration**
InDesign CS5 and Adobe Bridge CS5 are more integrated in two ways.
- Integrated comment and review**
CS Review is an online service that provides a simple way to share designs on the web so others can provide feedback.

+3

Integration & Collaboration

- E-mail-based assignments for InCopy workflow**
Use new e-mail-based assignments to send stories and graphics as a single assignment package to any contributor in your small workgroup via e-mail. The e-mail package contains all of the information needed to update the layout with the added or edited content, so it's easy to assign tasks and integrate contributions without the need for a shared server.
- Automatically generated layouts from XML**
Automate the creation and formatting of documents by integrating InDesign content into XML workflows by way of XML rules. The conditional rules automatically adapt formatting and layout rendering on content.
- Support for XSLT and CALS tables with XML**
Apply XSLT style sheets when importing XML into InDesign pages easier.

3

- Integration with Adobe Bridge CS4**
Browse, organize, label, and preview graphics and InDesign documents, templates, and snippets from Adobe Bridge. Drag and drop assets from Bridge into layouts easily and efficiently. Search for files using metadata that specifies keywords, fonts, colors, and more.
- InDesign Markup Language (IDML)**
Design and create a language-based file format that allows developers to assemble and disassemble InDesign documents using standard XML tools and without having to open InDesign files.
- Assignments improvements**
New assignment operations in InCopy workflows are now enabled for unsaved InDesign documents.
- Adobe services**
Adobe community help - Get help from the biggest talent pool out there, quickly, with targeted searches.
Collaborate - Collaborate with clients, colleagues, and vendors by sharing your desktop so that you can quickly complete group reviews and show your work with ease.
Adobe Kuler - Explore, create, and share colors using Adobe Kuler, a web-hosted application for experimenting with color and sharing themes with the online Kuler community.

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