

System and hardware recommendations: Beyond the minimum



Ideal system setup	Why it matters with CS6	Good	Better	Best
New computer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new computer isn't required for most customers to run CS6, but 69% of creative pros upgrade software and hardware at the same time. 38 % of creative pros plan to purchase a new computer in the next year. A majority of creative pros work with one laptop and two desktop computers. CS6 does not run on Mac computers with PowerPC® processors. 	Dual-core Intel® processor	Dual quad-core Intel processor	Dual 8-core Intel processor
New OS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best experience with Windows® 7 and Mac OS X v10.7. Only 12% of creative pro Windows users are on Windows Vista®; most have skipped it and plan to move directly to Windows 7. 	Windows XP SP3 Mac OS v10.6.8, v10.7.3 or higher required for OpenCL support	Windows 7 SP1 Mac OS v10.7.4 or higher	Windows 7 SP1 (64 bit) Mac OS v10.7.4 or higher
RAM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CS6 components, such as Adobe Photoshop®, Adobe Illustrator®, Adobe Premiere® Pro, and Adobe After Effects®, are 64-bit applications, which can access more RAM than ever before. Creative pros average 3–8GB of RAM per computer; video and photography pros often use 16GB or more. 	4GB	8GB	16GB PP/MC*: 24GB
Hard-drive storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creative pros have a lot of content to store and back up, including large images and lots of video. Creative pros average 450–800GB of hard-disk space. 	500GB PP/MC*: additional hard drives necessary	750GB PP/MC*: additional hard drives necessary	1TB PP/MC*: additional hard drives necessary
Video card	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NVIDIA for GPU acceleration, which boosts performance of video applications up to 70% and brings realtime editing to Photoshop. GeForce GTX 470, 570, 580 (Windows); Quadro 2000 (Windows); Quadro 4000 (Windows and Mac OS) Quadro 5000 (Windows); Quadro 6000 (Windows) 	Standard video card PP/MC*: Quadro 2000 (Windows)	Standard video card PP/MC*: Quadro 4000 (Windows and Mac OS)	Quadro 5000 PP/MC*: NVIDIA Telsa C2075 (Windows only)

Hardware options with Creative Suite 6

Printer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 50% of creative pros use B&W or color laser printers. Customers using CS6 Design Standard or Design & Web Premium have the most use for high-quality printers because they work on projects that require high-end printing and accurate color proofing. Always consider printers that include true Adobe PostScript® technology.
Blu-ray DVD burner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customers using CS6 Production Premium or Master Collection use DVD burners for their HD video projects.
Digital SLR camera	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 68% of creative pros use digital cameras (Canon, Nikon, Sony, and so on). More designers capture their own images and video for their creative projects. Photographers who use Photoshop and Adobe Photoshop Lightroom® are good candidates for high-end DSLR cameras. Because many high-end DSLR cameras now shoot video, this is an additional option for photographers and video specialists who use CS6 Production Premium.
Digital video camera	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tapeless video cameras, such as Canon, Panasonic, JVC, Sony, ARRIRAW and RED EPIC® 5K are all supported by CS6 Production Premium. Corporate marketing, events, and communications departments often have video groups and may be using these camera formats.
Large or multiple displays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designers tend to use large or multiple displays to interact with large files and multiple applications at the same time.
Wacom tablet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many tools in Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, Flash® Professional, and After Effects take advantage of a pressure-sensitive Wacom tablet.

* Unless otherwise specified, assumes usage of CS6 Design Standard or Design & Web Premium. Production Premium and Master Collection requirements, which might be higher for certain items, are designated with PP/MC.

Design Standard or Design & Web Premium	Apple	HP	Lenovo
Good: Designer works with two CS6 components and a browser at once. Could be a knowledge worker or print or web designer.	27-inch iMac, quad-core 2.7GHz Intel Core™ i5 6GB of RAM	Z210 Dual-core 3.1GHz Core i3 processor 6GB of RAM	ThinkCentre M91 2.7GHz Intel Core® i5 4GB of RAM
Better: Interactive designer does work in print and web. Usually has four CS6 components open at once.	Mac Pro, quad-core 3.1GHz Intel Xeon® 8GB of RAM	Z210 Two quad-core 2.4GHz processors 8GB of RAM	ThinkStation E30 3.1GHz Intel Xeon 8GB of RAM
Best: Print designers, commercial printers, and production departments work with large Photoshop files. They need to get maximum work done in shortest time frame. Willing to invest in the best hardware to be more productive.	Mac Pro, 8-core Two 2.66GHz quad-core Intel Xeon "Westmere" processors 16GB of RAM NVIDIA Quadro 4000 for Mac	Z620 Workstation Two six-core 2GHz processors 16GB of RAM NVIDIA Quadro 2000	ThinkStation S20 Two quad-core 2.4GHz processors 16GB of RAM NVIDIA Quadro 4000

Notebook	Apple	HP	Lenovo
Mobile user: Many designers use a notebook as their primary computer. They need to work with many applications and large files on the go.	MacBook Pro (15-inch or 17-inch) 2.4GHz quad-core Intel Core i7 8GB of RAM	EliteBook 8760w 2.8GHz quad-core Intel Core i7 8GB of RAM	ThinkPad W520 2.4GHz quad-core Intel Core i7 8GB of RAM

Most hardware manufacturers offer laptops that can be used with CS6 Design Standard and Design & Web Premium. Configure laptops with similar processors and RAM as desktop hardware. Laptops are not typically used with Production Premium or Master Collection but might meet the minimum system requirements.

Production Premium and Master Collection	Apple	HP	Lenovo
Good: If using only video, most likely event or wedding videographer or hobbyist MC user works with at least four CS6 components open at once and does some video.	27-inch iMac, quad-core 3.4GHz Intel Core i5 8GB of RAM	Z210 Minitower Dual-core 3.1GHz processor 8GB of RAM NVIDIA Quadro 2000	ThinkStation S20 Two quad-core 2.4GHz processors 8GB of RAM NVIDIA Quadro 2000
Better: Video-broadcast customer MC user works with 6–8 apps open at once, with moderate video and Photoshop usage.	Mac Pro, 8-core Two 2.66GHz quad-core Intel Xeon "Westmere" processors 16GB of RAM NVIDIA Quadro 4000 for Mac	Z620 Workstation Two six-core 2GHz processors 16GB of RAM NVIDIA Quadro 2000	ThinkStation S20 Two quad-core 2.4GHz processors 16GB of RAM NVIDIA Quadro 4000
Best: Video film customer MC users are jacks of all trades; they do it all and work with lots of video and big Photoshop files and use many applications simultaneously.	Mac Pro: 12-core Two 2.93GHz 8-core Intel Xeon "Westmere" processors 32GB of RAM NVIDIA Quadro 4000 for Mac	Z820 Workstation Two quad-core 3.30GHz processors 32GB of RAM NVIDIA Quadro 4000	ThinkStation D30 Two 8-core 2.9GHz processors 32GB of RAM NVIDIA Quadro 5000



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