

Adobe Creative Cloud



Classroom in a Book[®]

The official training workbook from Adobe

Joseph Labrecque

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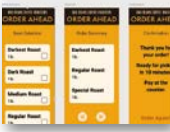




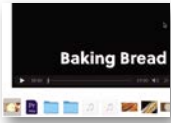
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CREATIVE CLOUD DESKTOP AND MOBILE APPLICATIONS

Lesson overview

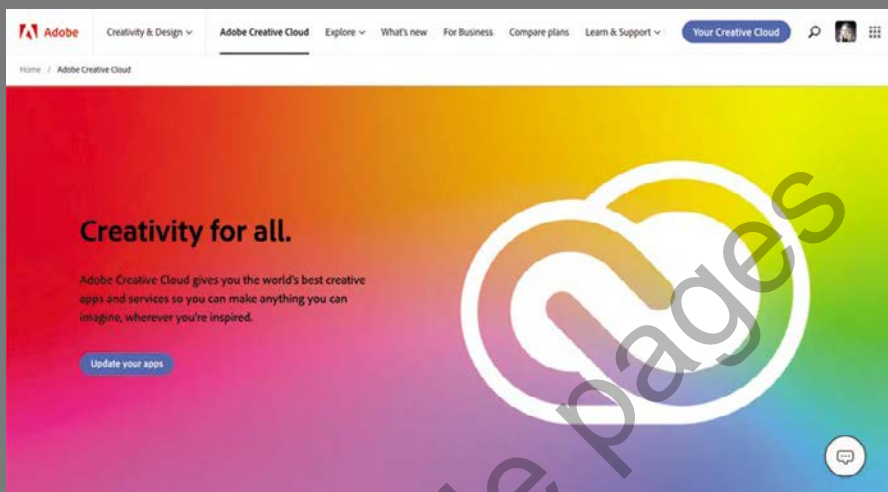
In this lesson, you'll learn how to do the following:

- Understand what Adobe Creative Cloud is and how it is used.
- Navigate the Creative Cloud Desktop application.
- Install, uninstall, update, and manage desktop software versions.
- Access mobile apps, Creative Cloud Libraries, and the sync folder.
- Browse and manage Adobe Fonts.
- Get familiar with the Behance network and Portfolio services.



This lesson will take less than 1 hour to complete.

To get the files used in this lesson, download them from the web page for this book at www.adobepress.com/CreativeCloudCIB. For more information, see “Accessing the lesson files and Web Edition” in the Getting Started section at the beginning of this book.

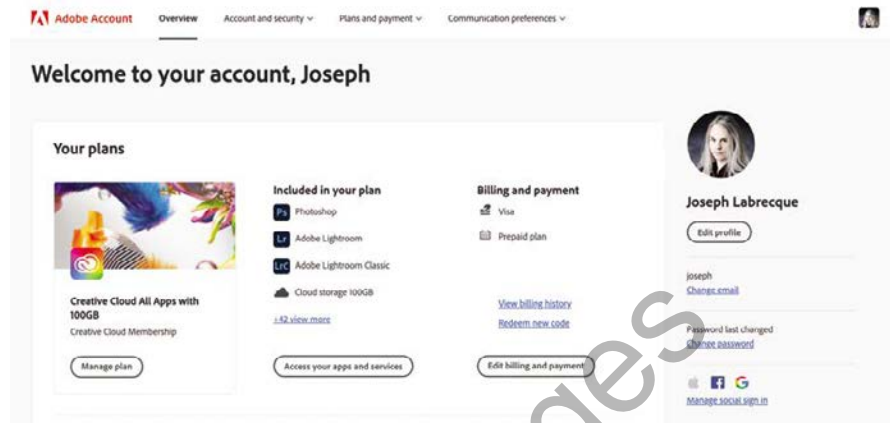


The Adobe Creative Cloud Desktop application functions as a gateway to installing and managing your desktop-based creative applications, accessing related mobile apps, and working with Creative Cloud services, all through a single interface.

Getting started

● **Note** If you have not already downloaded the project files for this book to your computer from your Account page, make sure to do so now, as we'll be using these files in upcoming chapters. See “Getting Started” at the beginning of the book.

Start by ensuring you have an active trial or subscription to Adobe Creative Cloud and have downloaded the exercise files we'll be using later in this book.



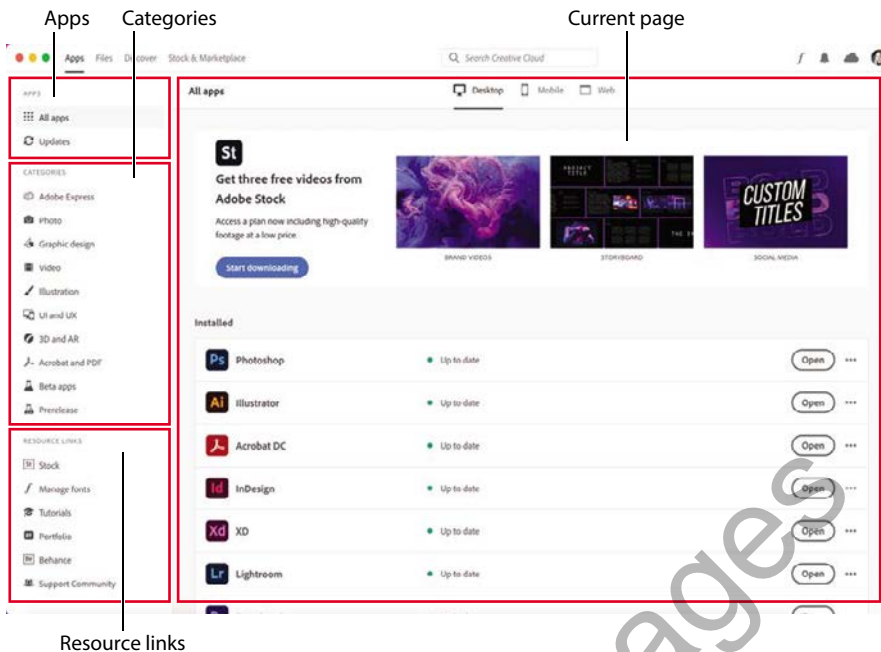
- 1 Log in to your Adobe account using your Adobe ID to be sure you have an active trial or subscription. You can find this information by visiting <https://account.adobe.com>.
- 2 Download the Adobe Creative Cloud Desktop application installer from www.adobe.com/creativecloud/desktop-app.html.

Creative Cloud Desktop

The Creative Cloud Desktop application is a management console for all of your Adobe desktop applications. It also acts as a gateway for you to access mobile software, web-based services, and learning resources.

The application interface

When you launch the Creative Cloud desktop application, you'll be presented with an easy-to-understand interface that includes application management and links to additional mobile applications and web-based services.



You'll see a set of four views accessible from tabs along the top of the application interface. By default, the Apps view ^{Apps} will be active. If it isn't, click the icon to activate this view.

The software interface is simple to navigate and includes the following primary sections in the Apps view:

- **Apps:** This shows a full list of installed and available applications across three categories: Desktop, Mobile, and Web. You can also access updates from the Apps section.
- **Categories:** Applications are grouped into categories. This is often the more direct way to access Creative Cloud applications for specific purposes rather than listing everything at once.
- **Resource Links:** Web-based services like Adobe Stock, Behance, Portfolio, and Adobe Fonts can be accessed here.
- **Current Page:** When you're exploring the various sections of the desktop application, this area displays the sectional content you've chosen to navigate into.

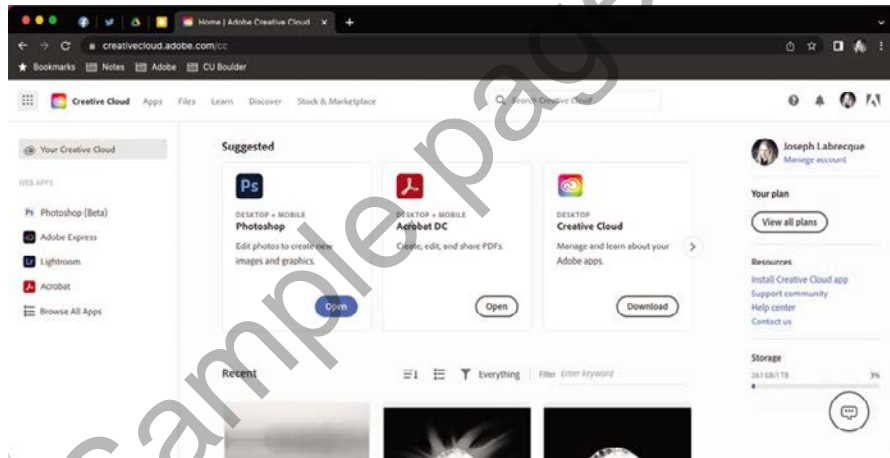
You can also access additional content and services by switching the view along the top of the application interface from the Apps view to another by clicking the desired tab:

- **Files:** Here you'll get direct access to cloud documents and Creative Cloud Libraries.
- **Discover:** Filter by application to discover learning content and other resources.
- **Stock and Marketplace:** This area provides access to Adobe Stock, Adobe Fonts, application plugins, and more.

You will also find quick access to a search, notification, and software preferences in the upper right.

Creative Cloud on the web


You can also access some of these same features on the web by visiting <https://creativecommons.adobe.com> and logging in with your Adobe ID.



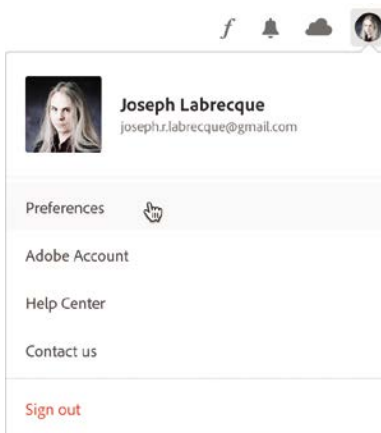
Much of the interface and options are shared with the Creative Cloud Desktop application, but an important distinction is that you are initially taken to a Creative Cloud dashboard. This view presents you with suggested applications, recent files, and direct access to web-based applications like Adobe Express from the left sidebar.

Managing application preferences

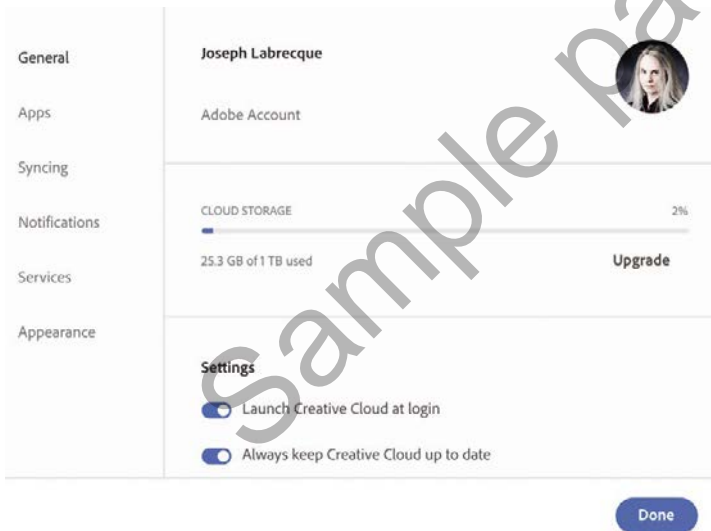
The Creative Cloud Desktop application includes preferences that you can set for application updates, notifications, and syncing.

In the upper-right corner of the interface, you can access your Adobe account by clicking the circular photo or avatar  shown there. An account overview overlay will appear.

Choose Preferences from the overlay menu to open the application preferences dialog box.



The dialog box has categories along the left side, and details for the selected category are displayed in the wider column to the right.



Here are a few items of note in each category that you will want to consider when setting up your preferences:

- **General:** This section displays how much storage you have remaining in the cloud. You can also choose whether to launch this application at system login and whether to keep the desktop app up to date automatically.

At times, application updates will require that you keep the desktop app updated, so I highly suggest leaving this option activated.

- **Apps:** This is where you determine which applications to keep updated and specify the installation location on your computer for all your applications.
Some applications will have advanced settings that determine whether to retain old versions and whether to import previous settings to newer installations.
- **Syncing:** This determines the location of your Creative Cloud files sync folder on your computer. You can also pause syncing or throttle download and upload transfer speed from this location.
- **Notifications:** This list of several notification types can be activated or deactivated depending on your personal preference.
- **Services:** Here you'll specify the download location for assets and choose whether to enable Adobe Fonts.
If you choose to disable Adobe Fonts, all fonts that have been previously downloaded will deactivate.
- **Appearance:** This changes the user interface appearance for the Creative Cloud Desktop application. You can switch between light and dark themes.

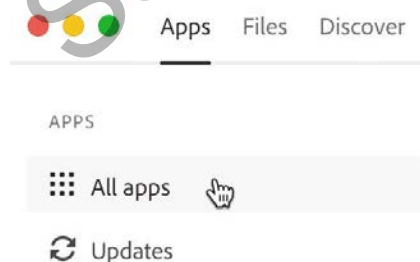
Managing desktop applications

The primary use of Creative Cloud Desktop is to access and manage the various software applications that are part of your subscription.

Installing software applications

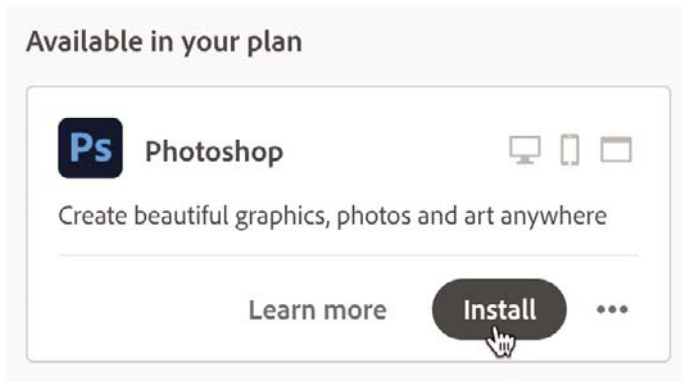
Before you can use any of the Adobe desktop applications like Photoshop, Illustrator, Premiere Pro, and the rest, you must first install them to your computer.

- 1 On the Apps tab, click All Apps in the upper left of the interface.



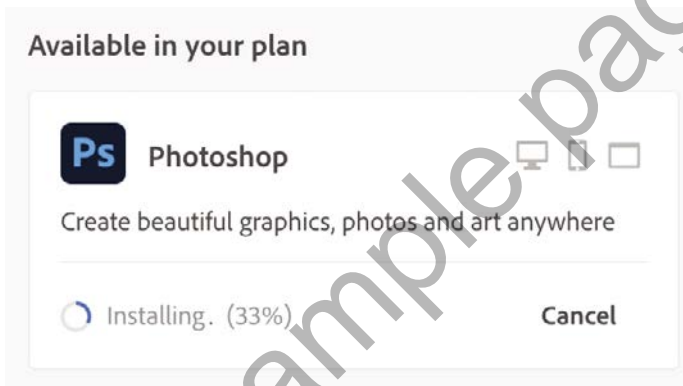
A grid of applications appears.

- 2 Locate the application you want to install and click Install.



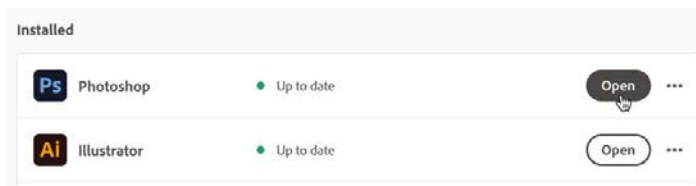
Creative Cloud will download the application and the installation process will begin.


You can monitor the installation progress directly or proceed to install additional applications while this is happening.




Installing multiple applications will not affect the installation procedures at all.

- 3 Once the application is installed, click Open to launch it.



Note If you see a warning icon  when attempting to install an app, clicking the icon will provide detailed information as to why the software cannot be installed. Normally, this is because you must update your operating system for compatibility.

Note You can also locate installed applications in the normal ways in which you locate and launch applications in your operating system of choice. Opening them via the Creative Cloud Desktop application is simply a convenience.

Tip If you can't find a specific piece of software, you can click the search icon  at the top right of the interface to locate and install it.

► **Tip** You will also see an application called Lightroom Classic. That is not the application we will be using in this book.

● **Note** Creative Cloud will install Media Encoder automatically when you install Premiere Pro, After Effects, Animate, or any other application that relies on it for media output.

Software applications to install

When working through this book, you'll want to install the following desktop applications:

- **Adobe Lightroom:** Photography management and editing
- **Adobe Photoshop:** Raster image design
- **Adobe Illustrator:** Vector graphic design
- **Adobe InDesign:** Multipage layout for digital and print
- **Adobe XD:** Screen layout and prototyping
- **Adobe Dimension:** Scene-based 3D layout design
- **Adobe Audition:** Audio recording, editing, and mixing
- **Adobe Premiere Pro:** Video sequencing
- **Adobe After Effects:** Motion graphics, video compositing, and effects
- **Adobe Character Animator:** Live, performance-based character animation
- **Adobe Animate:** Multiplatform animation, motion graphics, and interaction design
- **Adobe Media Encoder:** File transcoding and conversion

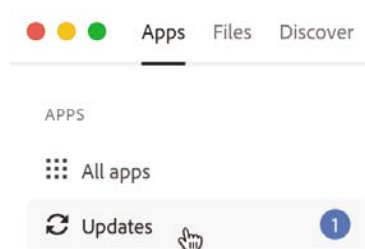
If you don't have room on your computer to install everything at once, you can always install only what you are using at a given time, removing software that you no longer currently need. As you'll see soon, the Creative Cloud Desktop application makes these actions relatively painless.

Updating software applications

One of the major benefits to Adobe's cloud-based distribution model is that it makes updates available on a regular basis. Some provide important new features and UI improvements, and others are more akin to stability and security updates. In either case, it is a good idea to keep your software updated at all times.

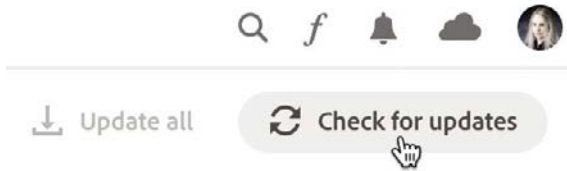
Updates may be installed automatically depending on any preferences you have set. You can also check for updates manually.

- 1 In the left-hand column of the Apps tab view, choose Updates.




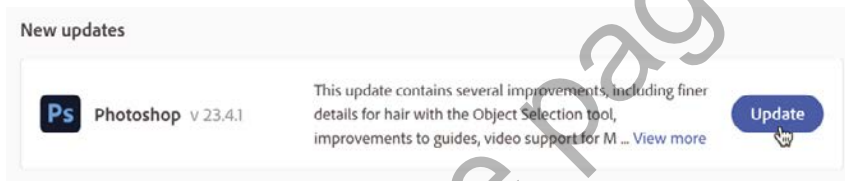
Creative Cloud displays the number of updates currently available in a badge to the right.

- 2 On the Updates screen, click Check For Updates.

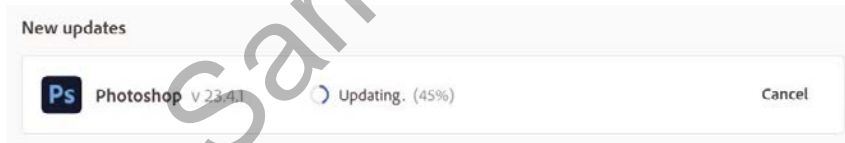


Creative Cloud Desktop will check for any available updates to your installed software applications.

- 3 If updates are available, they will be listed below, and they often include information detailing what the update contains.
- 4 Click the Update button to download the update and install it to your system. You can also choose Update All  to update everything with a single click.



- 5 Monitor the update process. Sometimes you will receive a prompt that asks you whether you'd like to import settings to the updated version, depending on your chosen preferences.



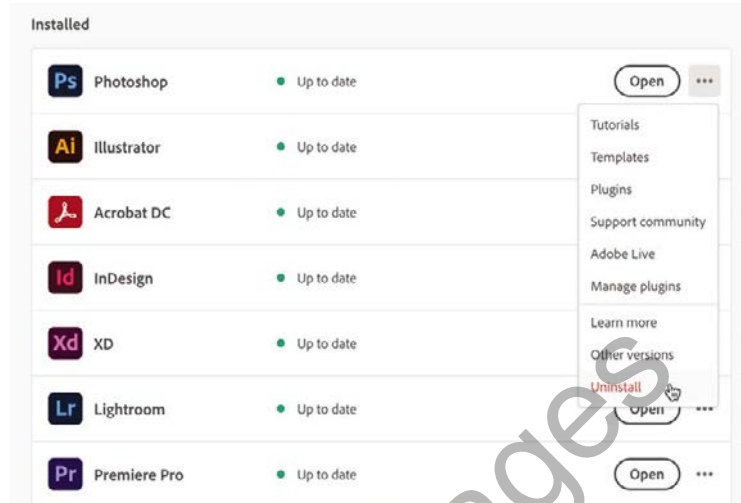
Once the update completes, you can launch the application and make use of the updated version.

Uninstalling software applications

From time to time, you may need to completely uninstall an application if you no longer use it regularly, or perhaps if you want to free up space on your computer.

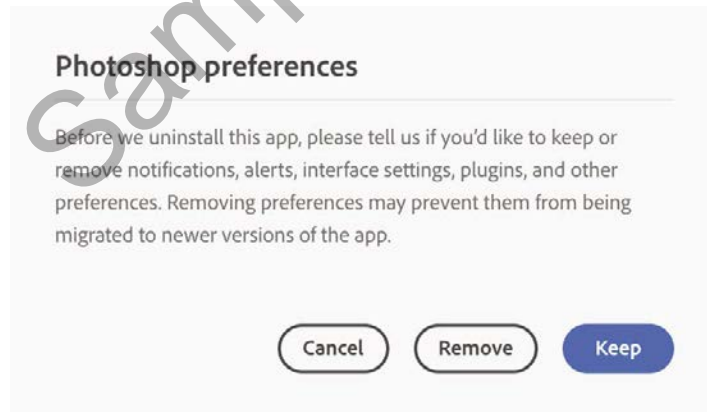
While you can do this on the operating system level, it is best to uninstall through the Creative Cloud Desktop application.

- 1 On the Apps tab, your installed applications are listed in the All Apps sidebar. Click the More Actions *** option at the right of any installed application to access an overlay menu and select Uninstall.



This menu will show more or fewer actions reflecting the chosen application and what is available.

- 2 Depending on the application being uninstalled, you may get an overlay asking whether you would like to keep or remove preferences during the uninstall process. If you think you might reinstall the application in the future, click Keep to retain your preferences.

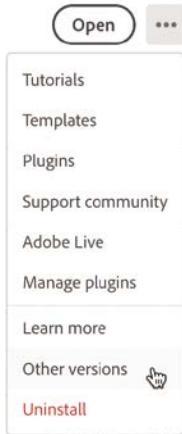


Creative Cloud removes the application from your computer, but you can reinstall it whenever you like.

Installing other versions

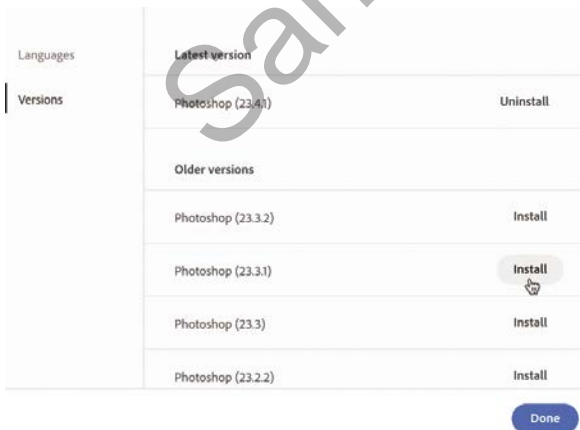
By default, installing a software application will install the latest version. If you want to install a specific version of most applications, you have to access them through the More Actions menu.

- 1 On the Apps tab, under All Apps, click the More Actions *** option at the right of any installed application to access an overlay menu and choose Other Versions.



An additional overlay appears. Here you can choose specific versions of the software to install.

- 2 In the overlay, you can see the latest version highlighted at the top and older versions listed below. Locate the version you want to install and click the Install button associated with that version of the software.



Note For most applications, you can install full-release versions side by side and they will coexist just fine. For instance, Photoshop version 23.4 and Photoshop 22.1 can exist together but versions 23.4 and 23.1 cannot. Other applications do not allow for this.

The version you selected is downloaded and installed.

- 3 Click Done to exit the overlay.

Desktop software not covered in this book

While this book does cover the major desktop applications available in Creative Cloud, it doesn't include everything that's available.

Here are some applications we will not be detailing in this book:

- **Adobe Lightroom Classic:** Manage and edit photographs in a desktop application.
- **Adobe Bridge:** Preview, organize, edit, and publish your creative assets.
- **Adobe Acrobat:** View, create, manipulate, print, and manage PDF files.
- **Adobe Dreamweaver:** Design web pages using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript workflows.
- **Adobe InCopy:** Provide feedback and edits to InDesign documents.
- **Adobe Substance 3D Collection:** Create 3D art and augmented reality (AR) experiences using an entirely separate suite of software that isn't included in a Creative Cloud subscription but that is available separately.

We will touch upon this collection in more detail in Lesson 7.

Even though we will not be addressing these applications, that doesn't mean they are not important. Of course, you are free to install and use any application that is available as part of your subscription.

Accessing mobile applications

While the Creative Cloud desktop applications are generally the main focus for subscribers—and they are certainly the focus of this book—some of the mobile apps are valuable and should not be dismissed. In fact, you can use many of them effectively in tandem with their desktop counterparts.

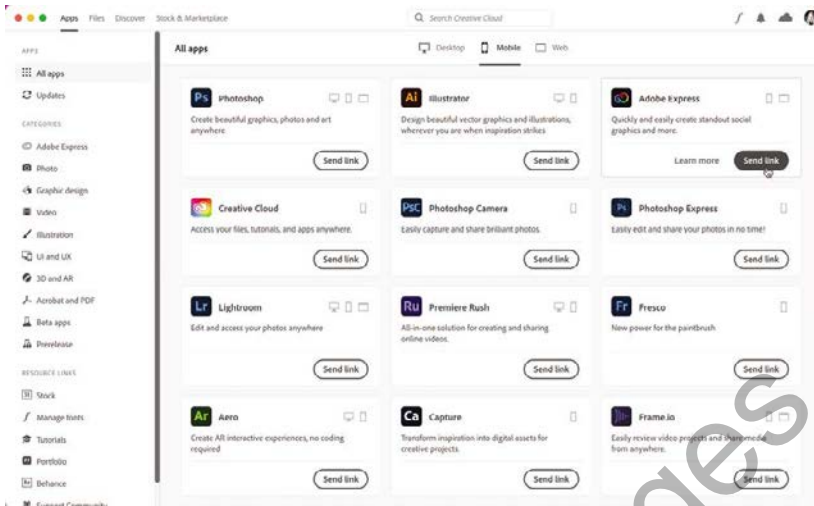
Installing mobile applications

The Creative Cloud Desktop application allows you to easily browse and install Creative Cloud apps to your mobile device.

- 1 On the Apps tab, under All Apps, you may have noticed a set of three choices along the top center of the Current Page view: Desktop, Mobile, and Web. Switch to the Mobile view by clicking Mobile.



- 2 Choose a mobile app you would like to install, such as Adobe Express, and click Send Link.

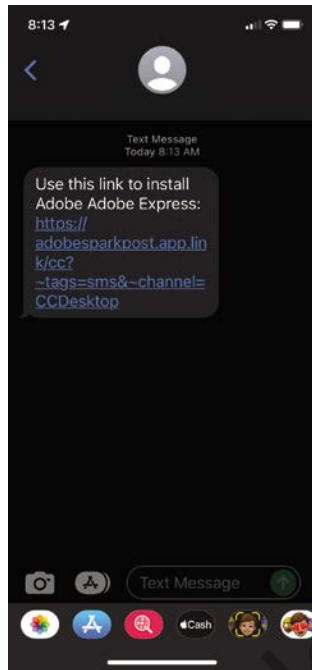


An overlay appears asking that you enter a mobile phone number. This is because Adobe will send a link to install the mobile app to that phone in a text message.

- 3 Enter your mobile phone number, confirm it, and click Send Link.

Note You can choose to send the link over email by clicking the Email radio button.

- 4 Check your mobile device text messages and you will find a new message that includes a link to download and install the mobile app you've chosen from your mobile platform's app store. Click this link.



Follow the instructions presented by the Apple App Store or Google Play Store to complete the installation.

Recommended mobile applications

When viewing the list of mobile apps available, you may feel a bit overwhelmed, since many are named similarly and not every app is as useful as some others.

Here are the mobile apps that I believe are worth looking into for readers of this book:

- **Adobe Express:** Accessible graphic design for digital and print (iOS & Android).
- **Adobe Capture:** Used to capture colors, looks, shapes, materials, and more for use in other software through Creative Cloud Libraries (iOS & Android).
- **Adobe Fresco:** Cloud-based painting, sketching, and drawing application (iOS & Windows).
- **Adobe Lightroom:** Photograph management and editing across devices (iOS & Android).
- **Adobe Aero:** Augmented reality for creating and viewing AR experiences (iOS & Android).

- **Adobe Photoshop:** Cloud-based raster design for the iPad (iPadOS).
- **Adobe Illustrator:** Cloud-based vector design for the iPad (iPadOS).
- **Adobe Premiere Rush:** Cloud-based, short-form video editing and production (iOS & Android).
- **Adobe Photoshop Camera:** A camera app with specialized filters designed in the spirit of Photoshop compositional effects (iOS & Android).
- **Adobe Creative Cloud:** Access your Creative Cloud files and assets on mobile. Includes a set of useful quick actions to remove the background from an image, convert between file types, and so on (iOS & Android).
- **Adobe XD:** Companion app to view and interact with cloud-based prototypes on real hardware as opposed to software-only previews (iOS & Android).
- **Behance:** Access community content and creative livestreams on the Behance social network (iOS & Android).

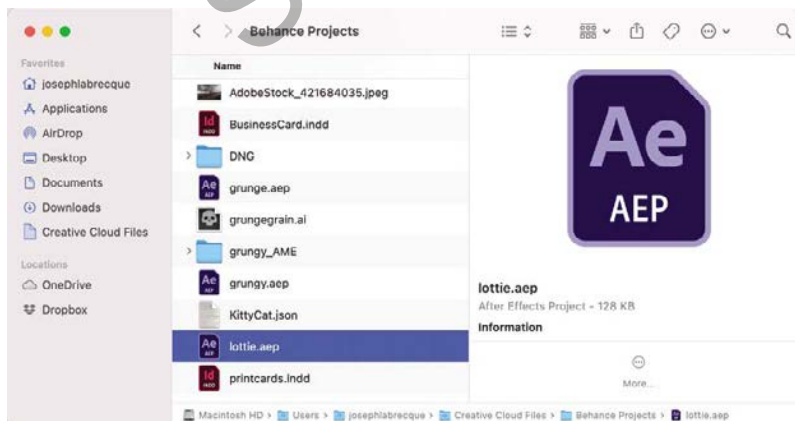
● **Note** For simplicity, if iOS compatibility is indicated above, this will generally mean iPadOS is also supported.

Creative Cloud services

A Creative Cloud subscription isn't just about installed applications. You'll get access to a number of useful services as well. Many of these work alongside the desktop and mobile software to improve your experience and workflows while others offer complementary services.


Creative Cloud sync folder

When you install the Creative Cloud Desktop application, it creates a folder on your computer named **Creative Cloud Files**. When you place files in this folder, Creative Cloud will sync them to the cloud and across other computers that you are signed into using your Adobe ID.



Note You can change sync settings and the location of this folder in the Creative Cloud Desktop application preferences.

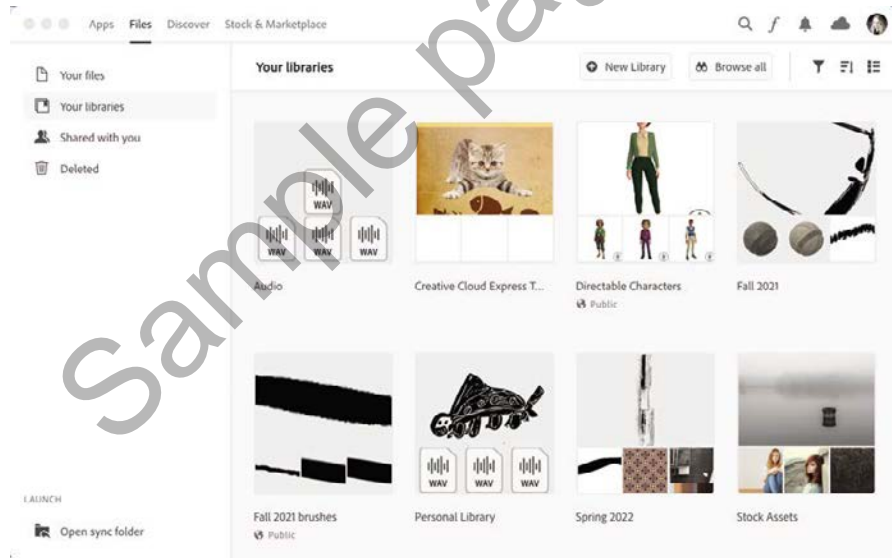
This sync folder functions similarly to other file syncing services such as Dropbox, Microsoft OneDrive, or Google Drive. You add files to one machine, and they are synced to others that are connected by your Adobe ID.

You can access your local sync folder directly from the Creative Cloud Desktop application by switching to the Files tab view along the top of the interface and clicking the Open Sync Folder  button at the bottom left of the interface.

Creative Cloud Libraries

Creative Cloud Libraries are organized repositories of creative assets that you can access from anywhere. The types of assets you can add to a Creative Cloud Library include colors, color themes, shapes, images, templates, stock photos, audio recordings, looks, materials, and even certain assets particular to specific desktop applications.


You can access your Creative Cloud Libraries directly through the Creative Cloud Desktop application by switching to the Files tab view along the top of the interface and choosing Your Libraries in the left column, or through individual applications that support Creative Cloud Libraries through their own interfaces.

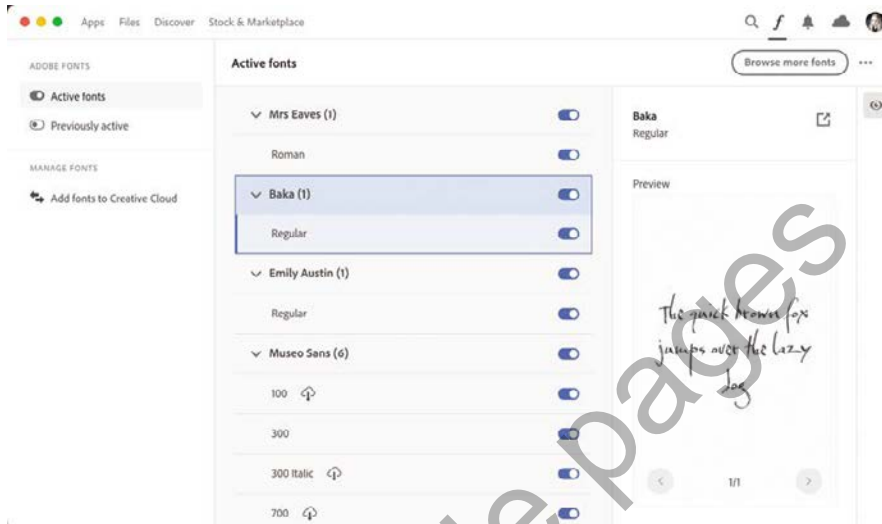


You can gather most assets into a Creative Cloud Library by using the Capture mobile app to capture and organize assets from the world around you. You can also add assets to a Creative Cloud Library from the various desktop applications that directly support them. This is a great way to work with the same assets across multiple applications.

Adobe Fonts

One of the most useful aspects of a Creative Cloud subscription is the ability to browse through and activate thousands of professional typefaces through Adobe Fonts.

You can access Adobe Fonts directly through the Creative Cloud Desktop application by clicking the Adobe Fonts  button in the upper right, or via a web browser by visiting <https://fonts.adobe.com>.



► **Tip** The Creative Cloud Desktop application does a good job of managing activated fonts. If you want to browse and activate new fonts, you will do so through the web interface, which includes a set of filters to locate fonts that match specific criteria.

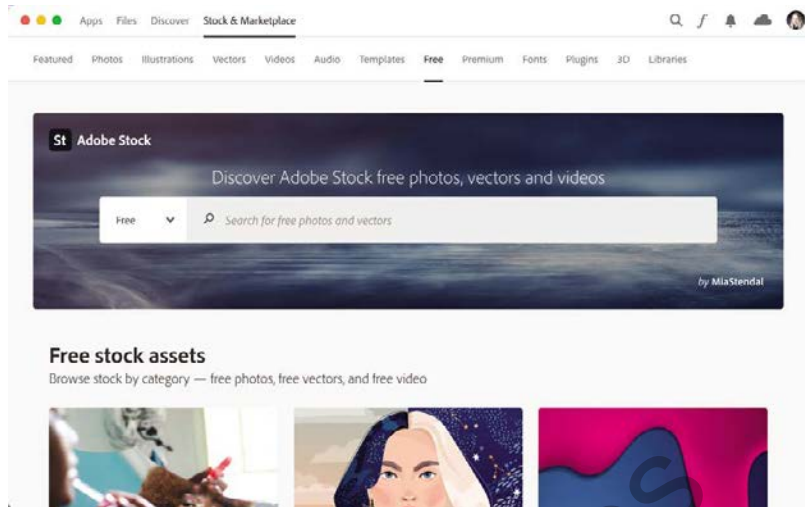
When you activate a font, it will sync across all computers that you are signed into with your Adobe ID and become available for use in any application on your computer—even those that are not part of Creative Cloud.

Activated fonts will even appear in certain web-based services that support them, such as Adobe Express.

Adobe Stock

By browsing the thousands of assets available on Adobe Stock, you can access royalty-free photos, vector illustrations, 3D assets, videos, audio recordings, templates, and more.

Generally considered a separate cost, Adobe Stock works on either a monthly credit pack plan or with a separate subscription plan. Most plans include access to all content capped at a certain number of assets a month, whereas credit packs are best for inconsistent stock needs as more of a pay-as-you-go model. Check out the Adobe Stock FAQ for more details: <https://stock.adobe.com/plans#plans-faq>.

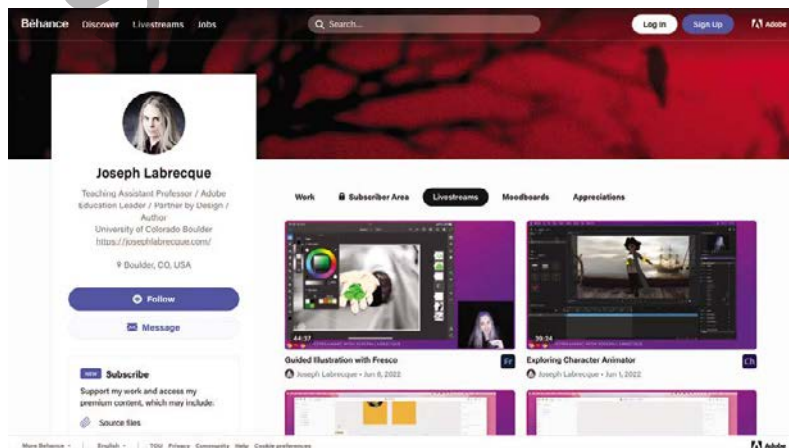



Adobe has also introduced a free collection of assets through Adobe Stock that anyone with a standard Creative Cloud subscription can access and use without paying any additional cost. To access the free collection, simply choose the **Free** option from the search menu before performing a search for assets.

You can further refine your search in the results page to only search for free assets of a certain type, such as free images or free videos. It's a great resource for inspiration or for actual use in your creative projects.

Behance

Behance is a social media platform maintained by Adobe expressly for creatives. Using Behance, members can share their creative work, get feedback from other members, appreciate the work of others, and participate in active livestreams. There is also a job-seeking component for those looking for work. It is a very engaging community!



You can access Behance directly from the Creative Cloud Desktop application by switching to the Apps tab view along the top of the interface and choosing the Behance  option listed in the Resource Links in the lower-left corner or through the web browser directly at www.behance.net.

Note You do not need an active Creative Cloud subscription to use this service.

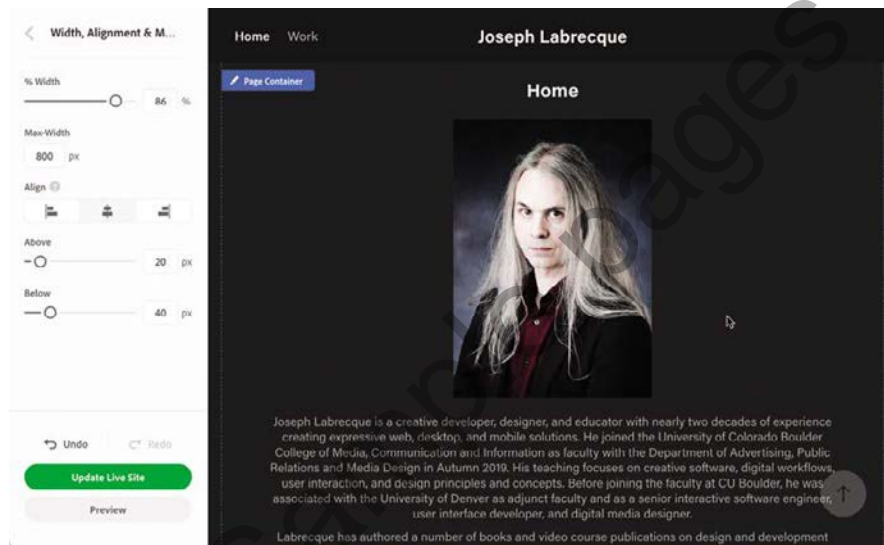
Adobe Portfolio


Portfolio is a professional portfolio website creation and publishing tool that makes it easy for creatives to build a public portfolio showcasing their work. You start with one of the many themes available and then customize it to your liking. You can create up to five multipage Portfolio websites and can even integrate your own domain name.

Note Purchase of a domain name is a separate process and not part of Adobe Portfolio.

The Portfolio editor also has connections to Behance, enabling creatives to easily pull in work from their Behance profile to showcase as part of their portfolio of work.

Note Unlike with Behance, in order to make use of Portfolio, you must have an active Creative Cloud subscription.



You can access Portfolio directly from the Creative Cloud Desktop application by switching to the Apps tab view along the top of the interface and choosing the Portfolio  option listed in the Resource Links in the lower-left sidebar or through the web browser directly at <https://portfolio.adobe.com>.

Next steps with Creative Cloud

To further explore the creative options that Creative Cloud has to offer, you can make use of Adobe's help resources available at <https://helpx.adobe.com/creative-cloud/user-guide.html>.