

Choosing a graphics package

Introduction

There are many packages available at Durham that are capable of producing graphics. The diagram overleaf has been designed to help you to choose an appropriate software package for your graphics work.

The three levels of support shown on the diagram refer to the level of help provided by the ITS through the IT Service Desk:

- Full support including commitment to solving problems, training materials and courses where appropriate.
- One or more staff able to answer questions, but no guarantee that problems will be solved.
- Support limited to the installation of the package only.

Hints

- If you are already familiar with a package, check whether it is capable of producing the graphic you require before learning another.
- Some specialist packages also have useful graphics capabilities, for example, SPSS (*statistical*), Maple (*mathematical*), MATLAB (*mathematical*), ARC/INFO, ArcView and ArcGIS (*GIS/mapping*).

Filesizes

Each user has limited filespace available on the Networked PC service and UNIX service. Filling up this space is a common cause of errors. If you get an error message check your remaining disk space using Windows Explorer on a PC, or use the command **quota -v** on UNIX.

Printing

Many different printers are provided by the ITS. Some of these printers cannot be accessed directly from PC packages and require a UNIX account. Refer to the ITS documentation on individual software for details. Users wishing to print on the **A0 printer** should consult ITS *Guide 141: Printing to the A0 printer before beginning* their project.

A full list of printers and charges is included on the ITS WWW pages at:

<http://www.dur.ac.uk/its/services/printing>

Documentation

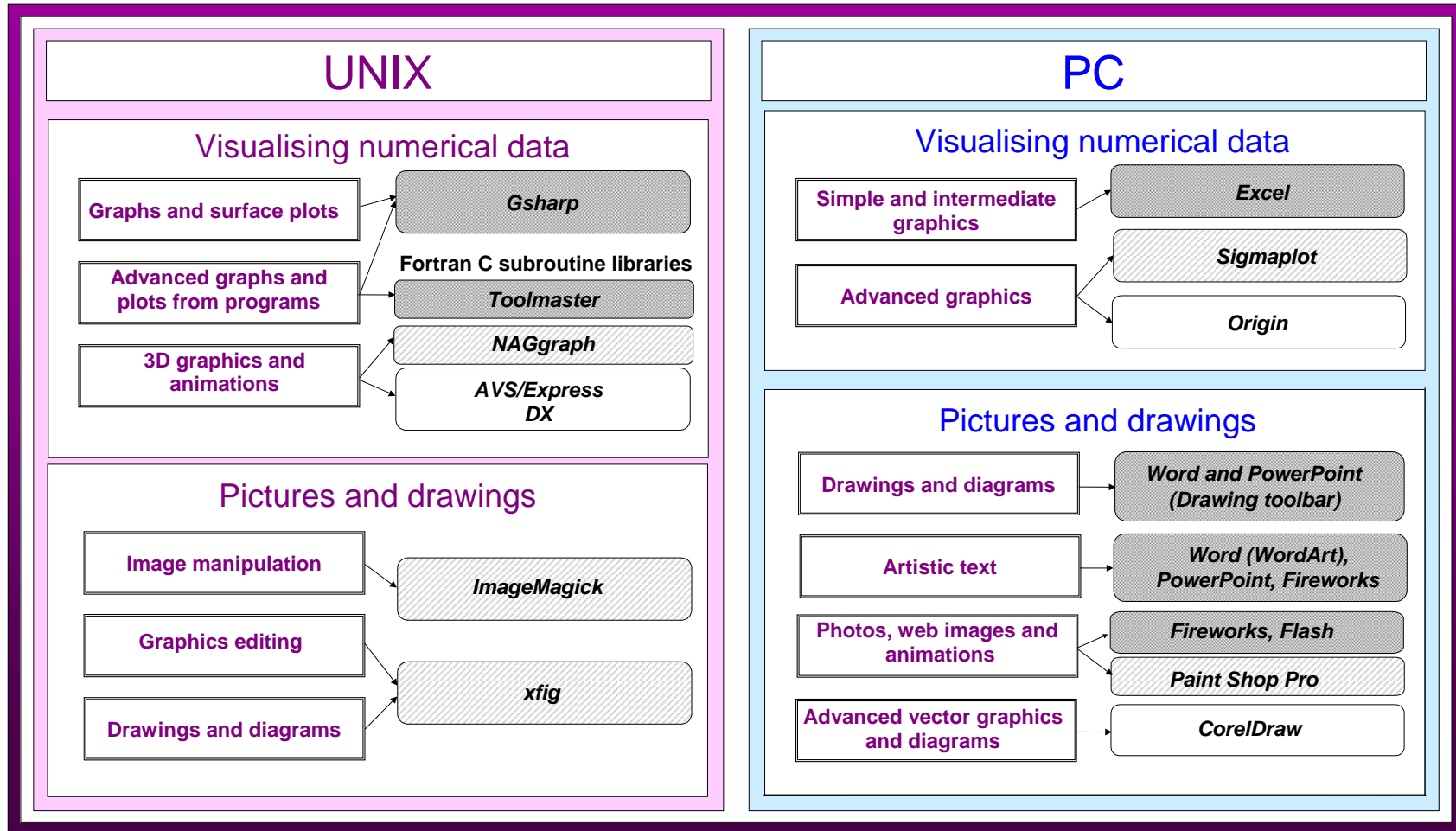
The IT Service Desk has a collection of software manuals that provide detailed information on the packages – you are strongly encouraged to read them.

Further information

For further help and information, including documentation on specific packages and details of ITS courses, please contact the IT Service Desk (its servicedesk@durham.ac.uk or telephone 41515.)

Platform	File type	Suggested uses
PC/UNIX	JPEG	Photographs (<i>lossy format</i>)
	GIF	Text, line drawings and transparent images (<i>loss-less format</i>)
	PNG	Text and line drawings (<i>loss-less format</i>) (PNG is only available in more recent applications)
UNIX	PS/EPS	Suitable for printing and e-mail (<i>loss-less format</i>)
	TIFF	Transferring high quality images to a PC or Mac (<i>loss-less format</i>)

Choosing a Graphics Package



Full support

Some support

No support