

Dark Horse Unveils Digital Comics

Dark Horse is the latest to make digital comic book downloads available. Founded in 1986 by comic book store owner Mike Richardson, Dark Horse continues to give Marvel and DC a run for their money. While they are not leading the charge with digital comics, maybe revealing later has given them the time to work out the bugs the others have experienced.

Digital comics that are downloadable to your computer are not new. Marvel and DC already have that technology in place. Marvel unveiled its iOS-friendly digital comics last April, but the reviews were none too happy: people already subscribing to Marvel's digital comics online could not transfer their already downloaded titles to their iPad or iTouch.

While the actual technology is not available yet for Dark Horse, fans were able to test drive the iOS technology at the Chicago Comic & Entertainment Expo this past weekend. Dark Horse had staff on hand to answer questions and demonstrate the technology for fans. The launch was originally scheduled for January, but Apple is apparently very strict about what can be purchased outside of the iTunes store and this forced a later reveal. Again, this was just an unveiling of the beta version—this is not yet available on any platform.

While this is exciting, I was kind of disappointed. I subscribe to the digital newsletter and thought everything was ready...but no. Their online store is still not ready, although they are promoting the site Digital Dark Horse. Once you get there, you can sign up for the newsletter, but that's it. Downloads will be available for the iOS platforms soon, but again, not quite yet. The press release still didn't give a firm release date and attempts to contact Dark Horse went unanswered.

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