

## Graphic Placeholder For ICS



I take great pleasure in discovering how to use things in IntelliTools Classroom Suite™ in ways the programmers never intended. Page buttons make handy graphics placeholders, for example.

The placeholder determines the position of the graphic and its maximum width or height. If you are setting up a template page for an activity, something you plan to duplicate and perhaps share with others, this is a great time-saver.

### Start With A New Page Button

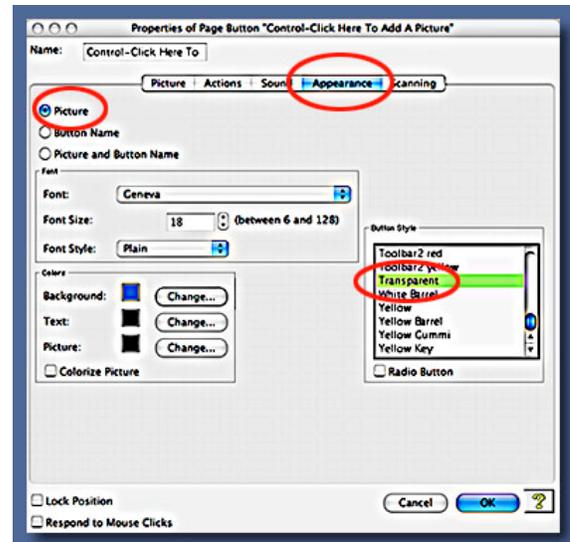
On a blank page, get the **Page Button** tool and make a button of the size and shape you want as a placeholder. Position it where it needs to be on the page. Give the button a name something like this: **Control-Click Here To Add A Picture.**

### Set The Button To Do Nothing

Open **Button Properties**, click the **Actions** tab, and remove the default **Button Action**, since you don't want this button to have any actions. Under the **Scanning** tab, take off the checkmarks from **Automatic Scan** and **Step Scan**. Also take the checkmark off **Respond To Mouse**.

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Under the **Appearance** tab, make sure **Picture** is marked. If you want the graphic to have no frame, set **Transparent** for the **Button Style**. Alternately, choose **Flat** or **Beveled** as the **Button Style** and choose a **Background** color if you want the graphic to have a frame. Make sure the button is **Locked**, and click **OK**.



## Using The Graphics Placeholder

What you now have is a button that does nothing except save a place for an image. When you **Control-Click** the placeholder and load a graphic, it will automatically re-size the graphic to fit into the button space, keeping its original proportions.

Go ahead and add the other elements to the page, such as a textbox or two, maybe a second picture holder, and perhaps some normal buttons, if needed.

You can, of course, duplicate a page with a graphic placeholder as many times as you want. Add other items that need to display on every page before you duplicate, for maximum time savings.

## Optional Adjustments

You can unlock and tweak the placeholder's size, shape, and/or position on any page. You might need to do that if you want a narrow frame exactly the same width all around. You might also re-size and reshape if you have loaded a vertical picture into a horizontal placeholder.

Making the shape taller than wide will give you a larger displayed image.  
**Be sure to re-lock the button.**

To save a bit more on the file size, you could use **Fix To Background** on the placeholder and its image, once you are absolutely sure it will not need further editing. But beware--this will replace the current background picture.

A placeholder image behaves like part of the background. Students don't interact with it, and it does not add to the interface burden on students who use special access. Yet you can still unlock, edit, and move it if necessary. It's a great way to make a template that preserves the layout from page to page and relieves the user of the task of sizing and positioning graphics.

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