What is Adobe Illustrator

Adobe Illustrator is the industry standard tool for vector drawing and illustration, used by a wide variety of creative professionals including editorial illustrators, identity designers, textile and pattern designers, UI designers, motion artists and many others. It's always been an incredibly versatile tool, thanks to a broad feature set, and of course the fact that vector graphics are infinitely scalable and in most cases relatively lightweight.

- Work fast and with rock-solid stability—Handle the most complex artwork with speed and stability. The new Mercury Performance System includes native 64-bit support for Mac OS and Windows® to power tasks that were often impossible previously, such as opening, saving, and exporting large files and previewing elaborate designs.
- Efficiently drive daily tasks and favorite features—Work more efficiently and intuitively with a modern user interface. Familiar tasks are now streamlined, from inline editing of layer names to precise color sampling from the Color panel. User interface brightness is smoothly adjustable to match other Adobe applications or your personal preference.
- Design intuitively and with precise control—Express your vision fully and more easily with refined creative features. Designing and editing seamless patterns, once difficult, is now direct and intuitive. A new image-tracing engine delivers clean, accurate vectors with easy-to-use controls. You can even apply gradients to strokes.

Adobe Illustrator CS6 sees the end of Live Trace, bringing in a new tracing tool and engine housed in the Image Trace panel. And what a panel it is.

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