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MacDraw: Precision Bitmap Alignment

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TOPIC -----

If a rectangle is created in MacDraw and two copies are printed to a LaserWriter, one may measure 150mm x 200mm, yet the other may measure 151mm x 201mm. There is a variation in both dimensions. Sometimes, however, they may match perfectly.

I'm using the LaserWriter in a four-layer printing process and find this inconsistency very annoying to work with.

Since the variation is in both dimensions and the age of the LaserWriter is relatively new, I believe that the paper weight (which is within specification), the paper finish, and the age of the LaserWriter are unlikely to be possible causes of the problem.

I would be satisfied if the LaserWriter fell within a specification, but since there is no specification outlining the acceptable variations, I am having problems.

Can you help?

DISCUSSION -----

The size variance described is a result of PostScript interpretation of the bitmapped image. This results from attempts to change a 72-dpi image into a 300-dpi image. This is not an exact ratio. There may be as much as a 4% variance in PostScript's interpretation. PostScript's attempts at correction may vary slightly during each pass.

To compensate for this difference, choose Page Setup from the File menu. On the right side of the Page Setup dialog box there is an Options button. Click this button, and an additional dialog box appears. The fourth checkbox is labeled Precision Bitmap Alignment (4% reduction). Be sure this checkbox is marked. Using this option increases the printing time; however, the printouts will be consistent during each pass.

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