Color LaserWriter 12/600 PS: Text is Icky Green Color(8/95)

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TOPIC ---

The following are cases where text comes out very dark green instead of black on the Color LaserWriter 12/600 PS printer.

Caller is using WordPerfect 6.0 for Windows with watermark and is getting dark green text. The document, comprised of mostly black text and some colorized words, would print dark green up to first colorized work, then print black after that. If they printed without colormark, then it would print fine. Other callers have reported this in similar situations.

Another caller reports that text come out "icky green," when trying to print a color graphic, with text wrapping around it.

DISCUSSION ---

This issue is related to how the printer processes blacks and sometimes uses the CMY cartridges to "create" black. There are some instances where the printer's I/O controller is unable to determine that the data in the PostScript input stream (in this case graphics & text) is purely black. With this uncertainty, the printer defaults to using the Cyan, Magenta, and Yellow toner cartridges to create black.

Here are the two situations we know of where the printer will use CMY for black:

• The text to be printed is part of a bitmapped image (that is, if the PostScript "image" operator is used).

This is because it would take an enormous amount of printer "processing" time to look at each bit of bitmapped data to check for any color information, so the controller defaults to using CMY to print the bitmap.

• An application generates its own PostScript (like PageMaker) and uses anything other than the PostScript "setgray" operator for adjusting the gray level of text. In this case, the "setgray" PostScript operator defines the level of pure

black in an object or text. There are other PostScript operators that can achieve varying levels of black-like color using cyan, magenta, and yellow.

In the customer's scenario, text is coming out "icky green" because Cyan, Magenta, and Yellow is being used to create black since their text is part of a bitmapped image. There is also the slight chance that the customer may be using an application that generates its own PostScript output and has intentionally used CMY for text.

For a related TIL article, see "Color LaserWriter 12/600: 1-pass vs. 4-pass."

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