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PostScript: Macintosh and Sun Codes Are Different

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TOPIC -----

Does Sun use the same version of PostScript as the Macintosh for printing? If yes, is there a way to use Sun documents on a Macintosh?

DISCUSSION -----

There are differences between the actual PostScript code generated on the two different computers.

On the Macintosh, the PostScript code created relies on the Laser Prep dictionary. This means that there are many short codes in a Macintosh PostScript file that relate the Laser Prep dictionary. On the Sun machines, PostScript is generated as complete (sometimes called "raw") PostScript.

However, it is possible to move an EPS (Encapsulated PostScript) file from the Sun environment to the Macintosh environment. The ability to create and read an EPS file is application-dependent. An EPS file created in a Sun application can be moved to a Macintosh and read by a Macintosh application supporting the EPS file format.

Generally, a Sun EPS file will not display on the Macintosh screen but will print fine on PostScript printers. Most Macintosh applications present such a screen display as an empty area with a border. However, Macintosh application, like LaserTalk, can display the image defined by PostScript because the image is only a screen representation of PostScript code.

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