Subject: Re: output
Posted by Mark Hadfield on Wed, 19 Mar 2003 04:40:38 GMT

"David Fanning" <david@dfanning.com> wrote in message
news:MPG.18e185a6879e5d3a989b24@news.frii.com...
> tomson (tom2959@21cn.com) writes:
>
>> SO the best way is to upgrade to word2002.
>
> Well, personally, I would spend the money on a PostScript
> printer. :-)
>
> Encapsulated PostScript is kind of like that cold capsule
> that is half sinus relief and half cold medicine....

I think what David is trying to say is this: -:)

When Word 2000 or earlier imports an EPS file it stores the Postscript code
inside the file but doesn't try to interpret it. On the screen it shows a
very boring box, perhaps with some information from the file header. However
it is possible to add a preview graphic to an EPS file. This is usually a
coarse-resolution image. For some tips on attaching a preview to an EPS file
see the following page on Doc Fanning's site:

  http://www.dfanning.com/tips/postscript_preview.html

(But I'm sure you've already looked there, haven't you.)

If Word finds a suitable preview graphic (TIFF or WMF format) then it
displays that.

What you get when you print depends on the type of printer. If it's a
Postscript printer, Word sends the Postscript info that it stored; quality
is usually good. If it's a non-Postscript printer, Word prints what it shows
on the screen, either the boring box or the preview; quality is usually bad.

David has suggested that Word 2002 automatically generates an on-screen
graphic from a plain EPS file. I can't give an informed opinion without
seeing this for myself, but I am guessing that the on-screen graphic is a
coarse-resolution image. If so, then this is a cool trick, but not a major
advance. Then again, maybe I'm wrong.

So it seems that to print embedded EPS files with good quality you still
need a Postscript printer. If you can't afford one of those, you might
achieve a similar effect with Ghostcript. This is a software Postscript
interpreter: it turns Postscript into (usually) images. You can print from
Word via a Postscript printer driver to generate yet another Postscript

file. Then use Ghostscript to turn this into a honking big image of the page and send that to your printer. Well, something like that, anyway. I've never had to do this so I can't comment on how easy or successful it is.

For info on Ghostscript and its Windows front end, GSview, see

  http://www.cs.wisc.edu/~ghost/

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