
Subject: Re: Viewing and Printing PostScript Files
Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Thu, 16 Dec 2010 16:08:41 GMT
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On 12/16/10 7:34 AM, David Fanning wrote:

- > Folks,
- >
- > I'm writing a short section to today on viewing and printing
- > PostScript files (especially on non-PostScript printers).
- > I know about GhostScript and GSView, which I use on Windows,
- > but I'm less familiar with what Macintosh people use, and with
- > alternatives to GhostScript.
- >
- > What do you use to view and print PostScript files?

Preview, which comes with Mac OS X mostly for viewing PDF and image files, will automatically convert a PostScript file to a PDF for viewing/printing.

Mike

--

www.michaelgalloy.com
Research Mathematician
Tech-X Corporation

Subject: Re: Viewing and Printing PostScript Files
Posted by [Carsten Lechte](#) on Thu, 16 Dec 2010 16:46:19 GMT
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On 16/12/10 16:34, David Fanning wrote:

- > What do you use to view and print PostScript files?

I still like to use gv on Unix/Linux to look at eps files, because it is very light-weight and displays the postscript coordinates of the location of the pointer. You can also magnify various areas of the page and view them in additional windows.

I find gv's ancient user interface tolerable for scrutinising eps files, but too taxing for multi-page documents, and you cannot select and copy text.

chl

Subject: Re: Viewing and Printing PostScript Files

Posted by [natha](#) on Thu, 16 Dec 2010 17:51:01 GMT

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On Dec 16, 11:08 am, Michael Galloy <mgal...@gmail.com> wrote:

> On 12/16/10 7:34 AM, David Fanning wrote:

>

>> Folks,

>

>> I'm writing a short section to today on viewing and printing

>> PostScript files (especially on non-PostScript printers).

>> I know about GhostScript and GSView, which I use on Windows,

>> but I'm less familiar with what Macintosh people use, and with

>> alternatives to GhostScript.

>

>> What do you use to view and print PostScript files?

>

> Preview, which comes with Mac OS X mostly for viewing PDF and image

> files, will automatically convert a PostScript file to a PDF for

> viewing/printing.

The only problem with preview is when you have PostScripts with non-standard dimensions, for example 50x20.

It seems that the final conversion to PDF is not correct (or maybe I'm missing something). The final file is cut and you will miss some information.

natha

Subject: Re: Viewing and Printing PostScript Files

Posted by [JM\[1\]](#) on Thu, 16 Dec 2010 17:51:09 GMT

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On the Mac I don't believe there can be many reasons to keep any eps files, unless it's to be compatible with some other software and/or collaborators. I tail all my plotting procedures with a command that SPAWNS epstopdf to convert the postscript graphic to PDF and then delete the postscript. The PDF filesize is always smaller, sometimes by a huge margin, and, of course, the PDF graphic can be used in Pages, Keynote, TeXShop, Omnigraffle, etc.

JM

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Subject: Re: Viewing and Printing PostScript Files
Posted by [penteado](#) on Thu, 16 Dec 2010 18:02:36 GMT
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On Dec 16, 3:51 pm, JM <j...@dmu.ac.uk> wrote:
> On the Mac I don't believe there can be many reasons to keep any eps
> files, unless it's to be compatible with some other software and/or
> collaborators. I tail all my plotting procedures with a command that
> SPAWNS epstopdf to convert the postscript graphic to PDF and then
> delete the postscript. The PDF filesize is always smaller, sometimes
> by a huge margin, and, of course, the PDF graphic can be used in
> Pages, Keynote, TeXShop, Omnigraffle, etc.

PDF, by its nature, is not very amenable to be embedded in other things. That is the whole point of the E in EPS (encapsulated).

Subject: Re: Viewing and Printing PostScript Files
Posted by [JM\[1\]](#) on Thu, 16 Dec 2010 20:09:35 GMT
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> PDF, by its nature, is not very amenable to be embedded in other
> things. That is the whole point of the E in EPS (encapsulated).

Perhaps on other platforms, but definitely not so on Mac OS X. The OS X imaging system has a layer that "correlates well with the PDF object graph". What it means is, you can drop PDF graphics with ease into Pages, Keynote and Omnigraffle. And compiling a TeX document is much, much quicker if the referenced graphics are already PDF - the graphics are just "stitched-in" to the compiled PDF rather than having to be distilled from EPS.

A neat trick that you can do with any PDF document (or graphic) is, in Preview, select any rectangular region, cmd-C to copy it to the paste buffer. Then, in say, Keynote, cmd-V and the object appears -- full PDF (i.e. vector) character preserved. This also means that graphics are **not** degraded in any way at all. It really is a breeze to produce consistently high-quality PDF copy, and I can't imagine any

one who can freely choose [1] opting for something less.

JM

[1] Stasi-like IT support notwithstanding.

Subject: Re: Viewing and Printing PostScript Files
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Thu, 16 Dec 2010 20:42:47 GMT
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Hello,

JM wrote:

>> PDF, by its nature, is not very amenable to be embedded in other
>> things. That is the whole point of the E in EPS (encapsulated).
>
> Perhaps on other platforms, but definitely not so on Mac OS X. The OS
> X imaging system has a layer that "correlates well with the PDF object
> graph". What it means is, you can drop PDF graphics with ease into
> Pages, Keynote and Omnigraffle. And compiling a TeX document is much,
> much quicker if the referenced graphics are already PDF - the graphics
> are just "stitched-in" to the compiled PDF rather than having to be
> distilled from EPS.

What tex/latex graphics package do you use to include the files in your tex docs? Without changing anything in my document preamble, I just replaced my usual .eps plot file with a .pdf one (generated from v8 "Function Graphics") in my tex file and the quality of the result was terrible. I've obviously done something wrong somewhere.

I'm on linux by the way.

> A neat trick that you can do with any PDF document (or graphic) is, in
> Preview, select any rectangular region, cmd-C to copy it to the paste
> buffer. Then, in say, Keynote, cmd-V and the object appears -- full
> PDF (i.e. vector) character preserved. This also means that graphics
> are **not** degraded in any way at all. It really is a breeze to
> produce consistently high-quality PDF copy, and I can't imagine any
> one who can freely choose [1] opting for something less.

> [1] Stasi-like IT support notwithstanding.

Disregarding the usual inertia, I think the policy makers and bean counters have more to say about it than the IT folks.

Just my opinion of course, and not meant to represent any position of my employer(s).

cheers,

paulv

Subject: Re: Viewing and Printing PostScript Files
Posted by [David Gell](#) on Thu, 16 Dec 2010 22:19:40 GMT
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On Dec 16, 9:34 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Folks,
>
> I'm writing a short section to today on viewing and printing
> PostScript files (especially on non-PostScript printers).
> I know about GhostScript and GSView, which I use on Windows,
> but I'm less familiar with what Macintosh people use, and with
> alternatives to GhostScript.
>
> What do you use to view and print PostScript files?
>
> Cheers,
>
> David
>
> --
> David Fanning, Ph.D.
> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming:<http://www.dfanning.com/>
> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

My choice if I've only one or two files to convert is preview. After opening the files, I can rotate to landscape and save. For lots of files, I've a small applescript script that invokes adobe acrobat to open the files, convert to PDF rotate and save. I use the script because one of my IDL applications is the analysis of calibration data which can generate enormous numbers of plots.

Preview is my first choice because it is free. Acrobat is my second choice because it isn't. I've also used ghostscript on the mac but find preview and Acrobat much more convenient.

David Gell

Subject: Re: Viewing and Printing PostScript Files
Posted by [JM\[1\]](#) on Thu, 16 Dec 2010 22:28:51 GMT
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Paul,

I use TeXShop, which is simply a front-end designed specifically for OS X. Underneath is, I believe, a fairly typical TeX installation. I've rarely found the need to alter any of the defaults, so I'm not too sure what's going on behind the scenes. The default typesetting is 'LaTeX' and the default script is 'Pdftex' (one of the other options being 'TeX + DVI') -- perhaps that's it, do you have a 'Pdftex' option under linux?

Here's a link to a report I compiled using TeXShop where nearly all the figures were PDF graphics (originally produced as EPS):

<http://www.thedaylightsite.com/showarticle.asp?id=166&tp=6>

Figures are absolutely identical to the EPS originals, but PDF has smaller filesizes and near instantaneous on-screen rendering. The OS X Mail application will perfectly render attached PDF graphics, which is handy for quick exchange.

John

Subject: Re: Viewing and Printing PostScript Files
Posted by [Jeremy Bailin](#) on Fri, 17 Dec 2010 02:14:07 GMT
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On Dec 16, 5:28 pm, JM <j...@dmu.ac.uk> wrote:

> Paul,
>
> I use TeXShop, which is simply a front-end designed specifically for
> OS X. Underneath is, I believe, a fairly typical TeX installation.
> I've rarely found the need to alter any of the defaults, so I'm not
> too sure what's going on behind the scenes. The default typesetting is
> 'LaTeX' and the default script is 'Pdftex' (one of the other options
> being 'TeX + DVI') -- perhaps that's it, do you have a 'Pdftex' option
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> Here's a link to a report I compiled using TeXShop where nearly all
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> <http://www.thedaylightsite.com/showarticle.asp?id=166&tp=6>
>
> Figures are absolutely identical to the EPS originals, but PDF has
> smaller filesizes and near instantaneous on-screen rendering. The OS X
> Mail application will perfectly render attached PDF graphics, which
> is handy for quick exchange.
>

> John

Well, this is what my journal guidelines say:

Authors using LaTeX need to have their figure files in EPS format

-Jeremy.

Subject: Re: Viewing and Printing PostScript Files
Posted by [penteado](#) on Fri, 17 Dec 2010 02:34:15 GMT
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On Dec 17, 12:14 am, Jeremy Bailin <astroco...@gmail.com> wrote:

> Well, this is what my journal guidelines say:

>

> Authors using LaTeX need to have their figure files in EPS format

I agree. In general, among the most common formats more associated with LaTeX, it is the most appropriate for things to be embedded in others.

Subject: Re: Viewing and Printing PostScript Files
Posted by [JM\[1\]](#) on Fri, 17 Dec 2010 08:42:41 GMT
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> Well, this is what my journal guidelines say:

>

>> Authors using LaTeX need to have their figure files in EPS format

Same here. When I queried it however it turned out that, yes, they could accept PDF. I suspect that the published guidelines are often out of date (e.g. DPI for images), and it seems that most DTP systems now handle PDF graphics with ease.

By the way, this isn't a general 'call to PDF' - rather, it's a suggestion for those using OS X to consider:

(a) if they ever really need to keep EPS files at all; and,
(b) what might be the advantages of a PDF workflow for vector graphics (e.g. integration with Keynote etc.).

John

Subject: Re: Viewing and Printing PostScript Files
Posted by [Maarten\[1\]](#) on Fri, 17 Dec 2010 09:51:42 GMT
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On Dec 16, 9:42 pm, Paul van Delst <paul.vande...@noaa.gov> wrote:

- > What tex/latex graphics package do you use to include the files in your tex
- > docs? Without changing anything in my document preamble, I just replaced my
- > usual .eps plot file with a .pdf one (generated from v8 "Function Graphics")
- > in my tex file and the quality of the result was terrible. I've obviously
- > done something wrong somewhere.
- >
- > I'm on linux by the way.

Which distro? Some linux distribution include a genuinely ancient tex setup. Especially with handling pdf the good changes have happened in the last few years. Best advice I have is to use texlive - <http://tug.org/texlive/>

Before you muck about with new software, make sure you call pdflatex, rather than (plain) latex. The actual binary is the same, but the in- and output filters are different. Most packages (including the standard graphicx and graphics) will autodetect which variant you use, and set things up correctly.

I've been using pdf(la)tex for years, and the result is always good. Some of the newer typographic trickery (optical right margins) is only available in pdftex. But I digress into another hobby I have.

Maarten

Subject: Re: Viewing and Printing PostScript Files
Posted by [Kenneth P. Bowman](#) on Mon, 20 Dec 2010 15:27:46 GMT
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In article
<335199ad-8169-40c4-85e4-047064178330@o4g2000yqd.googlegroups.com>,
Paulo Penteado <pp.penteado@gmail.com> wrote:

- > PDF, by its nature, is not very amenable to be embedded in other
- > things. That is the whole point of the E in EPS (encapsulated).

To follow up on this discussion for Mac users, I wholeheartedly endorse converting from PS to PDF for direct graphics, and directly to PDF for new graphics. You can use Preview to view PS or PDF files and extract individual pages from multipage PDF files for editing.

For TeX users, the TeXShop front end works very well with PDF files.

Illustrator is also essential for tweaking files and for converting back to PS or EPS if required.

Ken Bowman
