Tech Info Library

CLW 12/600 PS: Windows Color Management Software (3/97)

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TOPIC -------------------------------------------------------------

I am using the Apple Color LaserWriter 1200/600 PS printer with a Microsoft
Windows 3.1 computer. When I print using RGB, blue prints a purple, red a
magenta, and green a pea green color. Since Windows 3.1 does not include any
color management software, is there any way to get the colors I see on my
computer screen to match those of the Color LaserWriter printer?


DISCUSSION --------------------------------------------------------

Color management technology is just starting to become a mature and rich
technology. Although this technology is more prevalent on the Macintosh platform
because of its desktop publishing/graphics marketshare and ColorSync software,
color management systems (CMSs) are making their way into the PC/Windows
platform.

You may be able to find a very small handful of CMSs that work with Windows 3.1,
though the industry is heading towards color management solutions using Windows
95 since it has a built-in CMS called ICM (Image Color Matching).  ICM adopts
the platform independent ICC (International Color Consortium) device profiles
which the industry has accepted.

The basics of color management are to have an ICC profile of the input device
(which characterizes the color range of that device), and an ICC profile of the
output device (again which characterizes its own color range).  The CMS then is
responsible for "matching" as close as possible the two different ranges so that
you get WYSIWYG color. Below is how the Macintosh CMS works.

Macintosh Color Management System
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The Macintosh uses ColorSync as its CMS. All of the ICC profiles for Macintosh
devices reside in the ColorSync Profiles folder. You select the appropriate
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monitor the ColorSync Profile control panel, then select the appropriate output
color device profile in the Print Options. For the Color LaserWriter 12/600 PS
printer or Color LaserWriter 12/660 PS, you would select ColorSync Color
Matching and the Color LaserWriter 12/600 PS or Color LaserWriter 12/660 PS as
your output device. ColorSync automatically performs color matching for you.

Microsoft Window CMS Options
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Since you are using Microsoft Windows, you should contact the vendors below to
obtain additional information on their Color Management Systems for Windows.
Some of these products are only available when you use Windows 95.

Vendor	Product/CMS
Adobe Systems, Inc.	PageMaker 6.0 (includes Kodak's Precision CMS)
Agfa Division, Bayer Corporation	FotoTune
Canon USA, Inc.	Calibration for CLCs (for Canon Color Laser Copiers.)
Microsoft Corp.	Windows 95 (includes Image Color Matching engine and ICC device profiles)
Pantone Inc.	ColorDrive 1.5

End_Table

This article also pertains to the Color LaserWriter 12/660 PS printer.

This article provides information about a non-Apple product. Apple Computer,
Inc. is not responsible for its content. Please contact the vendor for
additional information.

The Tech Info Library article titled "Locating Vendor Information" can help you
search for a particular vendor's address and phone number.

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Article Change History:
10 Mar 1997 - Made minor typographical correction.
23 Oct 1996 - Added Color LaserWriter 12/660 PS to the discussion.
24 Jun 1996 - Made minor typographical correction.

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