

PrintToPDF

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What it Does

PrintToPDF is a shareware Macintosh printer driver that creates PDF (Adobe Acrobat™) files from within your application programs. You can create PDF bookmarks to your section and subsection headings, and URLs will become hot links. PrintToPDF is not as powerful as the full Acrobat package, but it creates simple PDFs for a much lower price (\$20).

Installation

Drop the PrintToPDF file into your Extensions folder inside your System Folder. Then select it with the Chooser, and use the Page Setup and Print commands within your applications as usual.

Available Fonts

PrintToPDF knows the names and metrics of a limited number of PostScript fonts, most of which are available in plain, bold, italic, or bold-italic style. The underline style is simulated. The built-in fonts substitute for the Mac fonts used in your document. Any Mac font not listed below will be replaced with Times.

- AvantGarde, substituted for Avant Garde.
- Bookman
- Courier, substituted for Courier, Courier New, and Monaco
- Helvetica, substituted for Geneva, Helvetica, and Arial
- Helvetica-Condensed, substituted for Helvetica Compressed
- Helvetica-Narrow, substituted for N Helvetica Narrow
- NewCenturySchlbk, substituted for New Century Schlbk
- Palatino
- Symbol
- Times, substituted for New York, Times, and Times New Roman

- ZapfChancery-MediumItalic, substituted for Zapf Chancery
- ZapfDingbats, substituted for Zapf Dingbats
- HeiseiMin-W3 will substitute for most Japanese fonts

Making Pictures Magnify and Print Well

To make images in your PDFs look good when magnified and printed, you can take one of two approaches. First, you can use vector graphics (also known as “draw” type pictures), which look sharp at any resolution. Second, if you need to use bitmapped graphics (also known as pixmaps or “paint” type pictures), you can start with a large image and then scale it down.

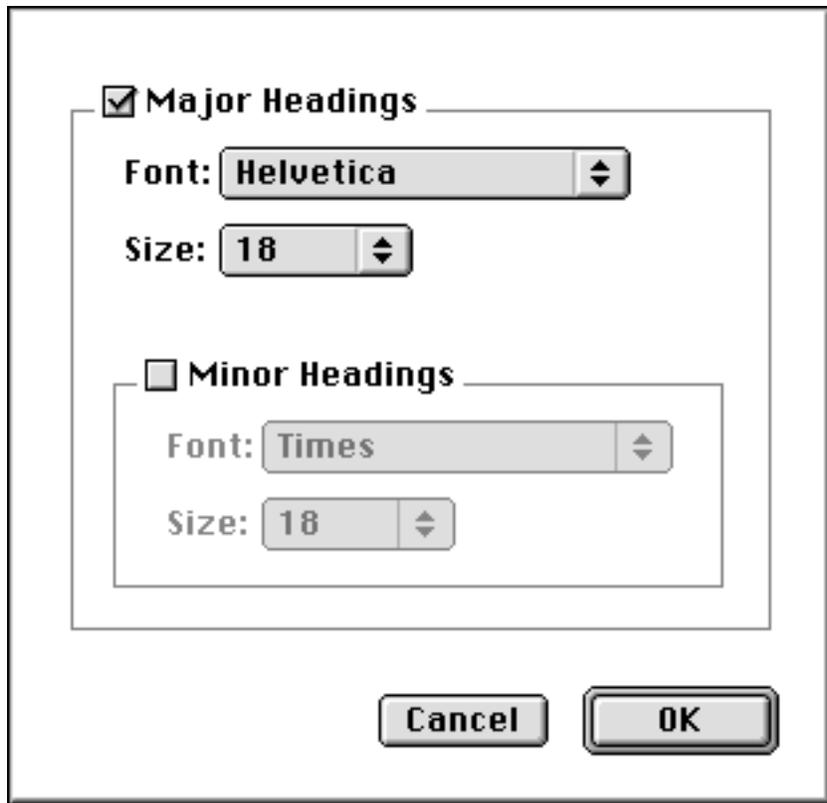


The first of the examples above is a vector graphic. You’ll find that it remains reasonably sharp however much you magnify it in Acrobat Reader. The second, a bitmapped picture, starts getting jagged at greater than 100% magnification. To make the third example, I made a bitmap twice as big as the others, pasted it into the word-processing layer of AppleWorks, and then scaled it down by 50%. This picture looks pretty good up to 200% magnification. I’m not sure if this scaling technique will work with all word processors, but it seems to work with AppleWorks, WordPerfect, and Microsoft Word.

Bookmarks

PrintToPDF can turn your section and subsection headings into PDF bookmarks. To do this, you must choose a unique combination of font and size for section headings, and likewise for subsection headings. For example, in this document, each section heading is set in Helvetica 18, and nothing else is in Helvetica 18.

In the Page Setup dialog, you should see a button titled Bookmark Setup. Clicking this button will make another dialog appear, as shown below.



If you don't want to put any bookmarks in your PDF file, uncheck Major Headings. If you want to make two levels of bookmarks, check both boxes.

Embedding Live URLs

PrintToPDF will look for URLs in your text and turn them into links. When you click such a link, Acrobat Reader will attempt to open it in an appropriate helper application, such as a web browser. In order for this to work:

- You must have Internet Config 2.0 or later installed when printing, to help PrintToPDF identify URLs. This free extension comes with recent versions of the Mac OS and various Internet-related software.
- The URL must belong to one of these common schemes: http, https, ftp, mailto, news, nntp, file.
- The URL must not be broken across lines.
- The URL must be all one style run. That is, there must be no changes of font, size, style, or color within the URL text.

Limitations

- Vector graphic pictures will not reproduce patterns or regions.
- Pictures in EPS (Encapsulated PostScript) form, or which otherwise rely on PostScript code, will not be rendered faithfully.
- Only certain fonts may be used. See the earlier section on Available Fonts. In particular, languages using non-Roman alphabets cannot be used, except for Japanese.
- Ironically enough, PrintToPDF does not work well within Acrobat Reader, since Acrobat Reader does not draw text using normal Macintosh methods.
- I have been told that PrintToPDF does not work in Quark.
- Acrobat Reader 3.0 or later is needed to view the PDFs created by PrintToPDF.

Shareware Fee

After trying PrintToPDF for a couple of weeks, you should either register PrintToPDF or stop using it. Registration costs US \$20 per person. Site license rates are also available. Benefits of registration:

- I will tell you how to remove the word “Unregistered” from the Page Setup and Print dialogs.
- I will have your e-mail address for notification of updates. However I will not sell or give your e-mail address to anyone else.
- You will probably feel better.
- I will certainly feel better.

My shareware payments are processed through the Kagi service. You can pay on the web at <<http://order.kagi.com/?JW>>, or you can use the Register-JW program to generate a form to e-mail, FAX, or mail.

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Warranty

This program should work as described in this document. If it does not, you can simply stop using it. If you pay me, and within a year find that it does not do what I have described here, or bugs or conflicts prevent you from using it, then you can notify me and I will refund your money and cancel your license.

I will attempt to fix any bug that I can duplicate on my own machines, but will not buy other people's software for compatibility testing.

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Also, drop by my Web site, <<http://www.jwwalker.com/>>. This will be the first place that new versions appear.

Hard mail (do not send Kagi forms to this address!):
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