

Pre-flighting



Checking your own files

Unless you have a specific pre-flight software solution available to you, it is quite difficult to determine how good your files are. It is almost impossible to check PostScript files without purpose-built pre-flight software, but there are some measures that you can take in order to check your PDF files.

When using Acrobat to view your PDF files, unless otherwise specified Acrobat will use fonts available on your computer in order to give your PDF file the correct appearance, even if some or all of the fonts are not embedded. You can avoid this in Acrobat 5 by deselecting the 'Use Local Fonts' option, found in the 'View' menu. By doing this you are restricting Acrobat to using only the font information in the PDF file in order to display fonts. If any fonts are not embedded properly this will be visible as a font substitution.

You can also check the fonts in your PDF by using the 'Document Fonts...' option, located via the 'File' menu: File>Document Properties>Fonts

The information displayed in the resulting window will show the status of the fonts being used on the page you are viewing. To maximise this information, view as many pages as possible on screen. You can put more pages on screen by choosing 'Continuous-Facing' from the view menu and reducing the view magnification to a minimum.

It would normally be impossible to check the quality of your images within a PDF file. Thanks to an option that was included with Acrobat 5, you can now open bitmap images and vector graphics directly in an application of your choice using the 'TouchUp' facility. If you use Photoshop as your 'Bitmap' image editing software, you will be able to check such things as Image Format and Image Size (resolution).

These are a few things that you can do using Acrobat 5 in order to check that your PDF files meet the basic criteria that we specify for fonts and images.

To obtain more detailed information from your PDF files you need to consider using a third party pre-flight software. There are numerous solutions available, some of which will work hand-in-hand with Acrobat.



Pre-flighting



How we check your files

Whether you are supplying native or PDF files, they will always be checked by us. When application files are supplied we carry out a multitude of checks to ensure that they are complete and correct. This is when hard copy printed and approved by you becomes invaluable for checking against.

All PostScript and PDF files, whether created in-house or by you, are checked by our in-line pre-flight software Asura.

Asura is capable of checking many items within a file, from line weights through to image resolution. We have a pre-determined checking criterion that is set within Asura and if any file fails to reach the level of quality determined by this criterion it is rejected.

In the event that any of your files fail, you will be informed of the problem and your job will be put on hold. In our experience most problems are easily solved, therefore not impacting on the schedule. Below are some items that commonly cause file rejection:

Fonts not Embedded!

Type 3 Fonts!

Bitmap Fonts!

Image Resolution too Low!

RGB Elements!

RGB Images!

Lab Colour Images!

Please note that if you supply PostScript or PDF files to us, it is your responsibility to ensure that they are correct. However, should you have any problems creating suitable PostScript or PDF files that you are unable to resolve, please contact our Pre-Press department as we may be able to help.

We thank you for reading our guide and hope that it has provided you with the information that you require. If you are at all unsure about any of the points raised in this guide please contact our Pre-Press department. We are always happy to assist.

The latest version of this guide can also be downloaded from the 'coms' page on our website at anytime.



**YOUR ROUTE TO
GOOD FILE CREATION**

**Hobbs the Printers Ltd.
Brunel Road, Totton,
Hampshire, SO40 3WX**

Tel: 023 8066 4800

Fax: 023 8066 4801/2

ISDN: 023 8066 4803

Email: info@hobbs.uk.com

Web: www.hobbs.uk.com