

How to prevent the image quality of a graphic from being reduced when you print a graphic from Report Writer in Microsoft Dynamics GP

CONFIDENTIAL ARTICLE

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INTRODUCTION

This article describes how to prevent the image quality of a graphic from being reduced when you print a graphic from Report Writer in Microsoft Dynamics GP and in Microsoft Business Solutions - Great Plains.

Partner Only Article

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MORE INFORMATION

The imaging model that is used to capture graphics in Report Writer in Microsoft Dynamics GP is based on the number of dots per inch (DPI). The DPI is equal to the number of pixels per inch.

By default, when a graphic is pasted into the **Layout** area in Report Writer, the graphic is pasted by using the size 72 DPI. This size is also used to print a graphic from Report Writer. Therefore, when Report Writer prints a graphic, the pixels per inch that are in the Report Writer **Layout** area do not represent the pixels per inch of the original graphic. Typically, the original graphic has a larger DPI.

When a graphic is printed from Report Writer, pixels must be added to make up the difference between the DPI of the graphic and the DPI of the printer. The difference in DPI is calculated automatically in Microsoft Windows. Windows adds pixels to keep the original image intact. However, when pixels are added, the image quality of the graphic is reduced.

For example, you paste a logo into the **Layout** area in Report Writer that contains 144 pixels. Because graphics are pasted into the **Layout** area by using 72 pixels per inch, the logo is pasted in a rectangle that is two inches by two inches. The printer that you print to is a laser printer that prints 300 DPI. The logo has only 144 pixels. But, because the printer uses 300 DPI, the two inch by two inch logo is printed by using 600 pixels. Windows creates the additional pixels. However, the image quality is reduced in the process.

To prevent the image quality of a graphic from being reduced when you print a graphic from Report Writer, follow these steps:

1. Paste the graphic in the Layout window. Do not modify the size of the graphic.
2. Determine the DPI of the printer. To do this, click **Start**, point to **Control Panel**, point to **Printers and Faxes**, right-click the printer, and then click **Properties**. On the **General** tab, note the value in the **Maximum resolution** field.
3. Determine the current size of the graphic. To do this, click the graphic in the Layout window. In the **Toolbox** window, note the value in the **Size** field. The size is displayed in the "(width,height)" format. For example, the size of a logo that is (400,500) is 400 pixels wide and 500 pixels high.
4. Determine the reduced size of the logo. To do this, use the following formula:

$$\begin{aligned}(\text{width of graphic} * (72/\text{dpi of printer})) &= \text{value of reduced width} \\ (\text{height of graphic} * (72/\text{dpi of printer})) &= \text{value of reduced height}\end{aligned}$$

For example, the reduced size of the logo that has the size (400, 500) and will be printed on a printer that uses 300 DPI is calculated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}(400 * (72/300)) &= 96 \\ (500 * (72/300)) &= 120\end{aligned}$$

5. On the **Layout** menu, click to clear the **Grid** check box.
6. In the Layout window, drag one of the corners of the graphic to resize the graphic to the size that you determined in step 4. In the example, the logo graphic is resized to (96,120).

The graphic is now the correct size so that it will print clearly. Be aware that the graphic does not display clearly in the Layout window.

Note You must exactly calculate the size of the resized image. For example, if you miscalculate by only two pixels, the image will be distorted when it is printed.

If you want the graphic to print larger, multiply the reduced width and height values by the percentage that you want to increase the graphic. For example, to increase the size of the logo by 30%, use the following formula:

$$96 * 1.30 = 124$$
$$120 * 1.30 = 156$$

The new size of (124,156) will print a larger graphic that has the same quality as the smaller graphic.

APPLIES TO

- Report Writer
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