

## Re: Font size across platform

**Source:** <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Mac/microsoft.public.mac.office.word/2004-08/0119.html>

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**From:** Bill Weylock (*bill\_at\_nospam.net*)

**Date:** 08/04/04

Date: Wed, 04 Aug 2004 15:42:00 -0700

Major blush!

Of course.

On 8/4/04 11:09 AM, in article O13bw4keEHA.1604@TK2MSFTNGP11.phx.gbl, "Phillip M. Jones, CE.T." <pjones@kimbanet.com> wrote:

- > *Bill, you have "bass ackwards" At no time in PC history has a PC ever, ever*
- > *used*
- > *72dpi. and the reverse is true as well at no time in Mac's history has a Mac*
- > *ever*
- > *used 96dpi.*
- >
- > *The formula for figuring what the font size will look like from computer is:*
- >
- > *a word written in 12pt type on a PC will look 72/96 (3/4) as large on a Mac.*
- > *So 12*
- > *point type will look like 9 point type on a Mac.*
- >
- > *On the other hand the formula for figuring the font size for Mac type on a PC*
- > *is*
- > *96/72 that 1-1/3 as large. so the same word on a Mac written in 12 pt will*
- > *appear*
- > *1.33334 as large on a PC roughly 16 point.*
- >
- > *And that doesn't begin to explain, the problems. Pc and Mac Draw their fonts*
- > *differently.*
- >
- > *Finally Arial was MS crude attempt to come up with an equivalent to Helvetica.*
- > *It was poorly done but the PC folk liked it.*
- >
- > *Then Apple saw the style Arial and decide to create their on version of Arial*
- > *(more*
- > *realistic) to be platform Compatible. But its not exactly the same.*
- >
- > *NOW MS has a version helvetica which doesn't look like Mac's and Mac has it*
- > *version*
- > *of Arial which almost looks like MS version but not quite.*

>  
> *This is 20 years worth of history and until both apple and MS agree to use*  
> *exactly*  
> *the same version (it ain't gonna happen). then there will always be*  
> *differences.*  
>  
> *The only way you can get Mac and PC documents to look exactly the same is*  
> *convert*  
> *them to pdf's in which case they are now special types of drawings instead of*  
> *true text.*  
>  
>  
> *Bill Weylock wrote:*  
>> *You're not imagining this.*  
>>  
>> *The Mac displays graphics at 96dpi, while WinTel displays graphics at 72dpi.*  
>>  
>> *That's why. Great for detail work on graphics and video, but a pain in*  
>> *the monitor for designing web pages across platforms and for sharing files.*  
>>  
>> *I do not know about saving zooms. I'll be interested to read what*  
>> *someone else says about that.*  
>>  
>>  
>> *Best,*  
>>  
>>  
>> *– Bill*  
>>  
>>  
>> *On 8/4/04 9:22 AM, in article*  
>> *BD36CBC5.5DE9%anonymous@discussions.microsoft.com, "CyT"*  
>> *<anonymous@discussions.microsoft.com> wrote:*  
>>  
>>> *Hello,*  
>>>  
>>> *Why do documents when opened in Macintosh are rendered a lot smaller*  
>>> *(visually) than when opened on a PC?*  
>>>  
>>> *For example – if an excel document is created using 12pt Times New*  
>> *Roman, it*  
>>> *is perfectly legible when opened on a PC. When done under osx, it is tiny*  
>>> *and so you have to zoom in to view it (to 125–130%). If you save any*  
>>> *changes, then the zoom is saved.*  
>>>  
>>> *So what? I am an independent consultant and work in teams that*  
>> *primarily use*  
>>> *PC and there is constant filesharing between team members. It is a real*  
>>> *nuisance when transferring files, especially clients who sometimes reduce*  
>>> *the font rather than zoom out.*  
>>>

microsoft.public.mac.office.word: Re: Font size across platform

>>> *Many thanks and apologies for the multiple group posting – I didn't know*

>>> *which would be appropriate.*

>>>

>>

>>

>>

>> *Panther 10.3.4*

>> *Office 2004*

>>

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Panther 10.3.4

Office 2004