

## Re: Font size across platform

**Source:** <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Mac/microsoft.public.mac.office/2004-08/0055.html>

---

**From:** Phillip M. Jones, CE.T. ([pjones\\_at\\_kimbanet.com](mailto:pjones_at_kimbanet.com))

**Date:** 08/04/04

Date: Wed, 04 Aug 2004 14:09:28 -0400

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 began to explain, the problems. Pc and Mac Draw their fonts differently.

Finally Arial was MS crude attempt to come up with an equivent 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 intead 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, "CvT"*  
> *<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.*  
>>  
>> *Many thanks and apologies for the multiple group posting – I didn't know*  
>> *which would be appropriate.*  
>>  
>  
>  
>  
>  
> *Panther 10.3.4*  
> *Office 2004*  
>

--

-----  
Phillip M. Jones, CET | MEMBER:VPEA (LIFE) ETA-I, NESDA,ISCET, Sterling  
616 Liberty Street | Who's Who. PHONE:276-632-5045, FAX:276-632-0868  
Martinsville Va 24112-1809 | pjones@kimbanet.com, ICQ11269732, AIM pjonescet  
-----

If it's "fixed", don't "break it"!  
mailto:pjones@kimbanet.com  
<<http://www.kimbanet.com/~pjones/default.htm>>  
<<http://home.kimbanet.com/~pjones/birthday/index.htm>>  
<<http://vpea.exis.net>>