

Re: undesirable picture changes

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Word/microsoft.public.word.drawing.graphics/2007-10/msg00117.html>

- *From:* CyberTaz <onlygeneraltaz1@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 31 Oct 2007 11:00:20 -0400
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No problem on the double post – stuff happens:) It's just that many people seem to suffer from Immediate Gratification Syndrome:–)

Once again see the in line comments below:

On 10/31/07 10:10 AM, in article
B36FF37D-E240-4DC1-BBCC-E6710C45EE6F@xxxxxxxxxxxxx, "cayce"
<cayce@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Thanks Bob for giving me this update. First, my apologies on posting twice, I had a computer glitch on my end at the time of the 1st post and thought it went into la la land.

I have a couple follow up questions. You mentioned "The Insert command (IMHO) is generally ?." What does IMHO mean?

In My Humble Opinion – a self-effacing acronym often used to imply humility or avoid sounding pompous:–)

You also mentioned that pasting instead of inserting bypasses Word's import filters. Can you please expand on these import filters, their purpose and usefulness?

Without going into technical detail, Word includes import filters that interpret foreign file content (graphics as well as others) & allow it to store the data accurately within the doc. In the case of images Word only displays the screen version but stores the graphic file data for printing. Separate filters are also available for other formats. For more info see:

<<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/word/HP051893461033.aspx?pid=CH063444061033>>

Re: undesirable picture changes

You also mentioned you often are getting a low-res screen image when copying, but that it depends on where you are copying from. Can you elaborate on the "depends on where you are copying from"?

Perhaps I should have written "what" rather than "where". If the image being copied is a low res image in the first place it isn't so much of a problem. However, the typical monitor displays only 96 ppi, so that's all the clipboard "sees" 7 that's what you get – even if the underlying graphic file is 300, 600, even 1200 ppi or higher.

I have gotten in the habit of inserting .png instead of .jpg for pictures. Do you see any hazards in my approach? As I understand it, .png files do not use the compression that can cause image quality loss the way .jpps do. Another question that comes to mind is whether the very act of working in a Word file that has inserted .jpg pictures in any way causes any image quality loss to those pictures when your edits are to text only.

Lossiness of jpeg is most commonly a problem if the actual image file is repeatedly edited & re-saved. The file loses data each time the save takes place and eventually degrades to the point of being unusable. The more common concern with jpegs is that they often include artifacts ("speckles") that may be noticeable. PNGs can be a viable alternative, but they are limited to 256 colors (PNG8), so they're best used in place of GIFs (such as in logos). For full color photographs where detail requires millions of colors jpeg will render a better locally printed result – provided the file is properly prepared in a graphics app first.

I am producing customer facing documents and want to proceed with the most prudent approach. Further, the engineering team I support look to me for guidance on these types of documentation processes for their activities. I do not want to steer them wrong.

There's tons of information out there if you Google for it & the MS site provides some as well. I don't claim to be an authority – especially since much of the data appears to be contradictory from one authoritative source to another:–)

Thanks for the mentoring.

Regards |:>)

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Bob Jones
[MVP] Office:Mac

"CyberTaz" wrote:

The only honest answer to all of your questions is a definite "it depends":)

Keeping in mind that there are different image file types & that some are better for raster graphics (photographic images) whereas some are better for vector graphics (drawings), see the comments below:

On 10/30/07 2:06 PM, in article
3656BA0A-0B7D-454E-B8C6-9775E742679B@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx, "cayce"
<cayce@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Is there a preferred or recommended file type to use in Word?

Word can effectively display & print most of the more common graphics file formats – the question is whether the image has been saved in the appropriate file type based on the nature of the image. Generally, JPEG, TIFF & EPS are better for photos (the latter 2 for higher quality output/commercial printing). GIF & PNG (as well as WMF & EMF, although I'm not crazy about them) for vector graphics. Others (such as SGI, TGA) are for more specialized types of graphics files.

What is the preferred method for placing that picture: can you simply paste from the clipboard, or is there an advantage to using insert> picture> from file.

The Insert command (IMHO) is generally the way to go – especially for pictures. They are more complex than most drawings and pasting bypasses Word's import filters. I prefer to avoid copy/paste for images unless print quality is of absolutely *no* concern. When you copy you're typically copying the content displayed on screen which is a low resolution "thumbnail" of the actual image (but this varies depending on where you're copying *from*).

I would like to understand what Word does to an image that is just pasted into it. Here's the scenario:

I had no original art file to draw from for a picture placed in a Word file. So, I copied and pasted the picture from Word into the clipboard, then pasted into Paint and Photoshop. The pasted image in both applications had strange changes in coloration and became pixelated, making them unacceptable to use.

Does anyone know why?

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This is the result of what I mentioned above. What you copied was the low res displayed thumbnail so that's what got pasted. Word didn't really have anything to do with it. The pasted version was lower res & fewer colors than the original which is what caused it to print poorly – the printer can only ink the paper based on the info it receives. You can use Photoshop to enhance the image, Save As whatever file type is appropriate, then Insert the new version into your doc.

I'm sure you'll get other opinions, so weigh them all:-)

HTH |:>)
Bob Jones
[MVP] Office:Mac