

User's Guide

for

MacGhostView Version 4.6

by

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January 2010

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1 Shareware Registration and Warranty

A registered user is entitled to free updates and technical support. When you pay the registration fee, I will send you a password via e-mail that will dismiss those nagging dialog windows.

The shareware registration fee for MacGhostView is US \$20 for a single user and US \$200 for a site license (up to 100 users) if the fee is paid through Kagi Shareware (<https://order.kagi.com/?TK>).

The registration fee is US \$15 for a single user and US \$150 for a site license (up to 100 users) if the fee is paid by any other means. These include PayPal (<http://www.paypal.com>), check, money order, and cash. Checks must be drawn on a US bank and payable to me. Checks, money orders, and cash should be sent to the following address.

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Be sure to include your e-mail address with your remittance.

Tom Kiffe hereby disclaims all warranties relating to this software, either expressed or implied, including without limitation any implied warranties of fitness for a particular purpose. Tom Kiffe will not be liable for any special, incidental, consequential, indirect or similar damages due to loss of data or any other reason, even if Tom Kiffe or an agent of his has been advised of the possibility of such damages. In no event shall Tom Kiffe's liability for any damages ever exceed the price paid for the license to use the software, regardless of the form of the claim. The person using the software bears all risk as to the quality and performance of the software.

Any comments, suggestions, questions, and bug reports may be sent to me via e-mail. My address is tom@kiffe.com.

2 MacGhostView

MacGhostView is a true Postscript viewer, based on ghostscript 7.05, and requires Mac OS 10.4 or latter. Starting with OS 10.3 Apple's Preview can display Postscript files but it first converts the Postscript file to PDF and displays the PDF file. MacGhostView displays the Postscript file directly and is much faster than Preview.

MacGhostView allows the user to view the pages of a Postscript document in any order if the document conforms to Adobe's Document Structuring Conventions (DSC). It draws a complete page in an offscreen bitmap before displaying it on a computer screen. It automatically redisplay an open Postscript file if that file has been modified by another program. The redisplay occurs when MacGhostView is brought to the front. MacGhostView can add a pict preview to an Encapsulated Postscript file.

2.1 Viewing Postscript Files

MacGhostView can display most Postscript files but it works best with Postscript files that conform to Adobe's Document Structuring Conventions. When a file conforms to these Conventions it can be logically divided into individual pages by MacGhostView and the following features are available.

1. The pages of the document can be viewed in any order and the **Page** Menu contains a list of the first 100 pages in the document.
2. A page can be rotated at any time.
3. Any changes to the page size, resolution, or color depth are immediately reflected in the displayed page.
4. A new file can be opened for display at any time by using the "Open" command or dragging a file onto either the console or the display window.

If a file does not conform to these Conventions then MacGhostView is reduced to acting just like a printer. Page size, resolution, color depth, and rotation cannot be changed once a file is opened. Pages may be viewed only in increasing order and the user must either page to the end of a document or interrupt the rendering of the document before a new file can be opened. The most efficient way to preview large Postscript files that do not conform to these Conventions is to convert the Postscript file to a PDF file with macps2pdf and view the PDF file with a dedicated PDF viewer.

When you are creating your own Postscript files and you intend to preview those files you should try to create files that conform to Adobe's Conventions. Your software may have an option for incorporating these Document Structuring Conventions into a Postscript file. If you create Postscript files by "printing to a file" you should use a generic Postscript printer driver. There is no reason to add printer-specific code to a Postscript file if the file is intended for viewing or is being distributing to others.

2.2 Printing Postscript Files

If you have a Postscript printer you should use the operating system to send the actual Postscript code to the printer. If your printer is not a Postscript printer you can use the

“Page Setup” and “Print” commands to print your file. MacGhostView sends a huge bitmap of each page to the printer. An alternative method of printing is to convert your Postscript file to PDF with macps2pdf and print from your PDF viewer.

2.3 Menu Commands

2.3.1 Application Menu

Preferences Set the page size, resolution, and color depth for the Display window. The default resolution is 288 dpi. Setting the resolution too high greatly increases the time required to display a page and increases the size of the off-screen bitmap. You can change the key values for moving around in the Display window.

2.3.2 File Menu

Open Select a Postscript file to view.

Open Recent Select a file for previewing from a list of recently opened files.

Close Close the display window.

Save Save the displayed page as a PICT file or save the console output in a file.

Save a Copy as Save a copy of the displayed file.

Page Setup Set options for printing a rendered Postscript document. These options do not affect the display of Postscript files.

Print This command prints the selected pages. It sends each page to your printer as a bitmap image so it will work with any printer. If you have a Postscript printer you should use the operating system to print Postscript files directly.

Convert to PDF Call macps2pdf to convert the open Postscript file to PDF.

Interrupt Cancel viewing of a non-DSC file.

Run Open a file for previewing, reporting any errors encountered while interpreting the pages. This item for opening a file is the only one that can report any errors. Use it if the **View** command fails to display the document.

2.3.3 Edit Menu

Copy Place the displayed page as a PICT resource on the Clipboard.

Clear Delete the contents of the Console window.

Add PICT preview	Place a pict preview in the resource fork of an opened eps file.
Extract pages	Create a new Postscript file containing just the selected pages. This feature only works with DSC Postscript files.
Console Font	Set the font used in the Console window.
Console Font Size	Set the font size used in the Console window.

2.3.4 View Menu

First Page	View the first page of the document.
Previous Page	View the previous page.
Next Page	View the next page.
Last Page	View the last page of the document.
Go to Page	Select a page for viewing.
Zoom In	Increase magnification.
Zoom Out	Decrease magnification.
Zoom Back	Return to previous magnification.
Rotate Image	Rotate the displayed image of a Postscript file.
Console Window	Bring the console window to the front.
Display Window	Bring the display window to the front.
Redraw Display Window	Due to rounding errors, the displayed page may become distorted while scrolling and this item allows you to redraw the page.

2.3.5 Options Menu

Debug Paths	Print the full pathnames of all files MacGhostView is trying to open.
Dither	Use grayscale imaging when viewing a document at low magnifications.
Ignore DSC Comments	If a Postscript file does not preview correctly with the View command, check this item and view the file again. This option may be necessary for some complex files which contain comments but are not DSC compliant. The pages can only be viewed in strict linear order.
Minimize Console Messages	When this option is checked most messages from the postscript interpreter are not displayed on the console window.

2.3.6 Page Menu

When viewing a DSC Postscript file this menu will appear at the bottom of the Display window and will contain a list of the pages of the document. Selecting an item will display that page number.

2.4 Key Mappings

Pressing various keys while the display window is in front moves you around the page and the document as follows.

n	Go to the next page.
p	Go to the previous page.
f	Go to the first page.
l	Go to the last page.
g	Call the Goto Page Dialog Box.
h	Center the page horizontally.
v	Center the page vertically.
i	Zoom in (increase magnification).
o	Zoom out (decrease magnification).
u	Scroll upward one screen.
d	Scroll downward one screen.

The keys which change pages are activated only if the Postscript document conforms to Adobe's Document Structuring Conventions. The four arrow keys also move you around a page in small increments. The "page up" and "page down" keys work just like the 'u' and 'd' keys respectively. The "home" key takes you to the upper left-hand corner of a page while the "end" key takes you to the lower right-hand corner.

3 Macps2pdf

Macps2pdf is designed as a utility for converting Postscript files to various formats. It is an interface to Unix ghostscript, allowing the user to run ghostscript by making menu selections rather than having to type commands into a Terminal window. Macps2pdf includes a complete installation of ghostscript 8.70 but it can be used with any ghostscript installation.

The default conversion is from Postscript to PDF, so dropping any Postscript file onto the program's icon automatically generates a PDF file. Other conversions can be performed in batches by using Apple Scripts.

Macps2pdf can optimize the PDF files produced by opening a Postscript file in Apple's Preview application under OS 10.3. The PDF files produced in this way are often huge and macps2pdf's pdf2pdf command can greatly reduce the size of such files.

3.1 Menu Commands

3.1.1 Application Menu: Preferences

pdf output	These are the parameters macps2pdf will use when converting a single Postscript file to PDF. If you are running OS X 10.3 or later you can use Apple's pstopdf program to do the conversion. Usually ghostscript converts Postscript to PDF much faster than pstopdf.
ps output	These are additional parameters to pass to macps2pdf when converting PDF to Postscript. Since ghostscript sometimes fails to convert PDF to Postscript correctly, I have included the program pdftops from xpdf for this conversion.
tiff output	Set the resolution of a tiff file when converting an eps file to tiff.
pict output	These are the parameters macps2pdf will use when converting an eps or a one page Postscript or PDF file to a pict file.

3.1.2 File Menu

eps to eps	This command can "fix" some eps files.
eps to pdf	Convert an encapsulated Postscript file to PDF, preserving the bounding box of the original.
eps to tiff	Convert an eps file to a tiff file.
pdf to pdf	Use this command to reduce the size of PDF files created with Apple's Preview application or Apple's pstopdf command.
pdf to ps	Convert a PDF file to Postscript.

ps to ascii	Convert a Postscript file to a text file. Output is written to the console window from which it can be saved to a file.
ps to eps	Convert a one-page Postscript file to encapsulated Postscript.
ps to pdf	Convert a Postscript file to PDF.
merge to pdf	Merge a collection of Postscript or PDF files into one PDF file.
Convert to pict	Convert an eps, ps or pdf file to a pict file.
gs	Run ghostscript with any commands you wish.
Save	Save the console output in a file.

3.1.3 Edit Menu

Clear	Delete the contents of the Console window.
Console Font	Set the font used in the Console window.
Console Font Size	Set the font size used in the Console window.

3.1.4 Options Menu

Debug	Use this option if macps2pdf is not finding the programs which do the actual conversions.
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