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LaserWriter and Word 3.02: Driver 5.1 Versus 5.2

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While running Microsoft Word 3.02 and LaserWriter Driver 5.1, some users find that the London and Venice fonts print fine -- but that after they upgrade to LaserWriter Driver 5.2, the fonts print jaggedly.

LaserWriter Driver 5.2 added a feature to allow smoothing on text, graphics, or both. This was different from previous versions where smoothing was a global option. Driver 5.2 provides greater control over the document by letting the user choose among three options.

Venice and London are bitmapped screen fonts and require smoothing when printing. Because Microsoft Word uses its own Page Setup and Print dialogs, it does not properly select the two different smoothing options. It selects smoothing for graphics only.

You can test this by cutting and pasting a PICT of Venice text from MacPaint into Microsoft Word. The picture of the text will be smoothed, but some Venice text in the same Microsoft Word document will not be.

The problem could have been worked around by letting the user select and print with the system's Print dialog. Microsoft Word lets the user display the system dialogs by holding the Shift key when selecting Page Setup or when selecting Print. However, with Microsoft Word, the system's Print dialog command is ignored, and the Microsoft Word dialog must be used.

Products like MacWrite, that use the standard system Print dialogs, smooth correctly with the new driver.

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