Font Substitution Disabled with Fractional Widths On

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TOPIC ---

My PostScript printer won't print using Font Substitution when printing
from a Macintosh Plus. "Fractional Widths" are set to on, thus preventing
Font Substitution from occurring.

I need a way to turn off Fractional Widths without using some program like
Microsoft Word. Our office uses MacWrite versions 4.5 and 5.0. We want to
compose documents in Geneva and print with a PostScript font (Helvetica).

Is there some INIT or small program that turns off Fractional Widths to
allow Font Substitution? Alternatively, is there a good, readable,
public-domain, bit-mapped Font that will substitute for the bit-mapped
Helvetica? With it, can I create documents in this font and print them in
Helvetica with Fractional Widths on?

DISCUSSION --

You raise a couple of issues we'll attempt to address below.

You mention a problem that your print job won't "print" when you use Font
Substitution. During our experimentation, we encountered an intermittent
bug with MacWrite. Text imported to it via the Clipboard (copy and paste)
didn't always print, regardless of whether font substitution is on or off.

The print job would appear to download to the printer OK, but the job would
flush without printing (blank paper comes out of the printer). This is a
problem Claris is aware of, and they recommend saving the document to a
text format from whatever application you are using, then opening the file
from within MacWrite.

You state that when Fractional Widths is enabled, font substitution will
not occur. This is a correct response. Font substitution is disabled in
all cases where fractional pixel widths are enabled. The default for
Fractional Widths is disabled. It is the domain of the application to
enable it if desired.

We don't recall ever seeing a utility that will toggle SetFractEnable on and off, but such a program doesn't make a lot of sense to us, as each program needs to call SetFractEnable in the Macintosh ROM. One application's setting will have no effect on another program's setting.

We don't think substituting a bitmapped LaserWriter font will help here. Aside from the printing problem you report, one possible workaround is to select Helvetica as a screen font, so no font substitution will be required at all when printing. To this end, Claris made Helvetica the default font in MacWrite II. MacWrite has no provision for turning off fractional widths. However, MacWrite II does have this ability. Upgrading to MacWrite II may be another option.

Another alternative is to change the document's font to Helvetica prior to printing, perhaps using a program like QuicKeys to streamline the operation if desired.

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