

VuePrint User's Guide
Version 1.1
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1.0 Introduction

VuePrint is a program that lets you display and print graphics files that use the GIF, JPEG, and BMP graphics formats. VuePrint supports all graphics displays and printers that operate with the MicroSoft Windows 3.1 operating environment, using a 386 or 486 microprocessor.

The two key features of VuePrint are speed and ease of use. VuePrint is more than twice as fast as most other JPEG viewers, and is able to scale images to full-screen more than five times as fast as other viewers. VuePrint will scale images to fill a window automatically, without distorting the image shape. While VuePrint has dozens of features, all are integrated in an easy to use menu system.

Most printers are only capable of displaying an array of black (or sometimes colored) dots. However, many graphics files contain images with up to 256 different colors. VuePrint uses a very fast error-dispersion algorithm (also called a dithering or half-toning algorithm) to print the image in the graphics file. This error dispersion algorithm takes advantage of the number of colors that a printer supports.

One of the main design goals of VuePrint was to make it quick and inexpensive to download. The size of the file VUEPRINT.ZIP is about 70,000 bytes, which can be downloaded in about 5 minutes at 2400 baud. This costs less than \$1.00. Other programs with comparable functionality take up to ten times as long to download. In order to keep the size of the file small, this User's Guide is deliberately brief and limited to explaining those features of VuePrint which can't be discovered by exploring the various menus.

2.0 Prerequisites

In order to use VuePrint, you will need a personal computer that is capable of running Microsoft Windows version 3.1 or higher. You will also need a 386 or 486 microprocessor.

VuePrint is distributed via CompuServe as shareware, and may be evaluated for 15 days without charge. If you decide you want to register VuePrint, type "GO SWREG" and follow the instructions for registering VuePrint. You can also send e-mail to 71470.3236@compuserve.com to request a mailing address to send the \$35.00 registration fee. The reason the mailing address isn't included is that shareware tends to be distributed through channels that result in an average 1 year time lag between initial release and registration.

When you register VuePrint, you'll receive assistance via e-mail with any problems you may encounter. You'll also receive a Serial Number which enables VuePrint's capabilities past the 15 day evaluation period.

VuePrint is a shareware product like most other shareware software packages. The copyright holder allows the unlimited non-commercial distribution of the software, and a trial period during which the software may be evaluated at no cost. However, the reality is that 99.9% of the shareware that people choose to use after the trial period is never paid for.

VuePrint is different from most shareware in that it has a simple technique for discouraging unlicensed use after the 15 day trial period. Most shareware programs simply state that the program may not be used after the trial period without registration. Since this technique is ineffective, VuePrint simply overlays the display and printout with a checkerboard pattern after the trial period is over. When you register VuePrint, you'll receive a Serial Number that will remove the checkerboard overlay, and re-enable the full use of VuePrint. However, it is still possible to evaluate the speed, functionality, and usability of VuePrint after the 15 day trial period even with the checkerboard overlay.

3.0 Installing and Running VuePrint

To install VuePrint, put the file VUEPRINT.EXE in a directory that's convenient for you. Then use the Windows Program Manager's File->New menu item to install a new program item named VuePrint. To run VuePrint, just double-click on the VuePrint Icon.

All commands are accessible through the menu bar. Each command has a short-cut key which consists of a single keystroke. In addition to the short-cut keys documented in the menu bar, the arrow keys move the image when it is zoomed in. The arrow keys along with the shift-key move the image one full screen at a time.

Pressing the left-hand mouse button causes the image to zoom in by a factor of two at the point the mouse was located. Pressing the right-hand mouse button allows you to move the image around when it is zoomed in.

One feature that's a little bit subtle is the ability to convert JPEG files to GIF files. If you check the JPEG Option "Write GIF", every time you view a JPEG file, a GIF file will be written at the same time. For instance, if you display XYZ.JPG, you'll find a file XYZ.GIF in the same directory.

4.0 Bug Reports and Enhancement Requests

If you have problems running VuePrint, or have an idea for

enhancing VuePrint, please send e-mail to Ed Hamrick on CompuServe at 71470,3236. You can also send e-mail from the Internet to 71470.3236@compuserve.com.

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