

Appendix D

Working with other Applications

By their very nature, equations are rarely presented by themselves. They are nearly always part of some larger document or presentation. With this in mind, we have made every effort to ensure that EquationBuilder works seamlessly with other applications running under NeXTSTEP.

All compatibility information in this chapter is based on the latest available release of the mentioned applications at the time this manual went to press. It can only serve as a guide based on our own experiences, and should not be taken as the final word. Your best bet is to try yourself and see if things work.

Drag-and-drop

Because EquationBuilder's native file format is Encapsulated PostScript, in principle it should be possible to drag-and-drop .eqn files into other applications. Applications like Concurrency™, FrameMaker™, PasteUp™, and Mesa™ all recognize .eqn files and properly image them.

Other applications, like Adobe Illustrator™, Create™, and PresentationBuilder™ will only accept .eqn files via drag-and-drop if their file extensions are changed to .eps.

Some applications like Diagram!™ and Mail accept the .eqn file, but do not image the file as an equation. If the file extension is changed to .eps, the equations will image properly.

In general, if you are having trouble getting equations into another application, change the file extension to .eps and try again. Chances are that things will then work properly.

Copy and Paste

As mentioned in Chapter 13, EquationBuilder can provide both Encapsulated PostScript and TeX to other applications. Because the receiving application may not know which form you prefer, you may end up with the wrong one. If this happens, use one of the **Copy As** options to explicitly specify which form of the equation you want.

- **Note**

There is a bug in FrameMaker for the NeXT Computer (version 3.0) that corrupts Encapsulated PostScript when pasting. This sometimes leads to PostScript errors when printing. The workaround is to **Import** $\frac{1}{4}$.eqn files, rather than paste them in.

Although many applications allow you to paste EPS files in, only a handful allow you to copy and paste them out again. Among these are WriteNow™, Adobe Illustrator, and Create. Edit allows you to copy EPS files using **Edit ±> Copy PS**.

If you are able to copy an equation as EPS, you will then be able to paste it back into EquationBuilder for editing.

Working with TeX is much easier since nearly all applications support copy/paste of ASCII (which is what makes up TeX documents).

Embedded equations

A third alternative, which is currently supported by FrameMaker, Concurrence, and PasteUp, allows you to embed an EqB equation within a document. After importing an .eqn file, such as by drag-and-drop, you can just double click on its image to re-edit it in EquationBuilder. (Note that with FrameMaker, you will need to specify EquationBuilder as an inset editor. See the

FrameMaker manual for details).

In-line equations

Unfortunately, there are currently no applications that automatically position equations within lines of text so that the baseline of the equation exactly matches the baseline of the text. Until very recently, there has been no way for an application to know how far to automatically shift the equation to properly align with the base of the text.

However, very recently, there has been an extension made to the EPS specification that stipulates how such information can be included. EquationBuilder already supports this new extension. Unfortunately, it may take some time for support of this new standard to spread to other applications. If in-line equations are important to your work, you should consider contacting the developers of the applications you most often use to inform them of the utility of the new standard. Please contact us if you (or they) would like more information.