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Graphic Conversions: PICT to/from CGM

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Article Change History

- 11/03/92 - CORRECTED
- The vendor search string information

TOPIC -----

Can you recommend software for converting MS-DOS PC graphics output to Macintosh applications (PICT format) and back?

DISCUSSION -----

Typically, MS-DOS PC graphics standards are of competing standards and legally nonconforming variations. Some PC packages can do bitmap conversions through screencaptures (Hijak, Graphics-Link Plus) and write MacPaint format files, but these translations lose color information and are bitmapped versus object-oriented.

There is one standard, however, that some PC programs can support: Computer Graphics Metafile (CGM). CGM files are produced by many GKS-type applications (from mainframes to micros) and many PC graphic packages (Harvard Graphics, SAS, Freelance Plus, and so on). Genigraphic workstations also support CGM, as do a whole host of other boxes.

There are three approaches to converting a PICT file into a CGM file: 1) Use a translation application, such as CADMover 3.2. 2) Use a Chooser-selectable driver, such as GraphPorter. 3) Use a graphics application that can read a PICT file and write a CGM file.

CADMover 3.2 (from Kandu Software), FlexiCAD 2.0 (from Amiable Technologies, Inc.) and Canvas 3.0 (from Deneba Software) all move files in both directions.

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GraphPorter (from GSC Associates) is a SuperGlue-like Chooser device that creates a CGM file from a PICT or PICT2 file when a user prints. As a utility, GraphPorter makes it possible for Macintosh users to share graphic output with a PC via CGM.

MetaPict (also from GSC Associates) converts CGM to PICT or PICT2 only (not the reverse direction). If a Macintosh user wants to import CGM files from a Genigraphics slide-making machine or Harvard Professional Graphics and manipulate the object-oriented graphics in Canvas or MacDraw, the user can add MetaPict to their graphic conversion tools. There is a large, installed base of Genigraphics objects and Harvard Graphic users who would benefit from these utilities.

Another utility for CGM to PICT only conversions, is PICTure This! (from FGM, Inc.). PICTure This! converts a wide range of graphic file formats to PICT2. The PICT files can be used as is, or edited by most Macintosh software packages. In addition, the program allows users to save the converted PICT image into the Clipboard so that it can be pasted into another application.

To locate a vendor's address and phone numbers, use the vendor name as a search string.

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