FINALE 2009 and PDFs on Mac OS X

There are a number of problems of which Mac users should be aware when creating PDFs from Finale 2009.

1. When using the Adobe PDF print queue, the PDF contains blank pages.
2. The PDF file displays fine in Preview, but other users report 'token errors' when the PDF is viewed on Adobe Reader.
3. When preparing PDFs for printing, the printer reports that the PDF file is RGB, or appears grey.
4. An embedded EPS file within Finale displays as a low-quality, low-res image in the PDF.

1 There is a known problem that affects PDFs created using the Adobe PDF print queue, which comes as part of Adobe Acrobat (NB: not Reader). On Leopard 10.5, Finale will produce a file of blank pages. Previous versions of OS X are unaffected; the problem affects all versions of Acrobat (6, 7, 8 & 9). All users are affected.

SOLUTION: There is free software to create a PDF print queue called 'cups-pdf', which can be used instead of the Adobe PDF print queue. It is available here. **http://www.codepoetry.net/projects/cups-pdf-for-mosx**
Note that this does not offer any of the job options that Distiller offers. If you need this, then you must either post-process the PDF in Acrobat (which can be automated) or do the following:
Use 'Save As PostScript' from the OS X print menu. (NB: Not 'Compile PostScript Listing' in Finale's file menu.) The .ps file can be saved in a Distiller Watched folder, where Distiller will automatically convert any .ps file found there into a PDF.
You can also create a PostScript print queue, though this may require an understanding of the OS X underlying print system, CUPS. Here is one backend for creating a PostScript print queue on your computer:
http://users.phg-online.de/tk/MOSXS/postscriptfile.gz
Using Finale's 'Compile PostScript Listing' can produce good results, often solving problems that occur in other methods, but it is limited in the choice of paper sizes that it supports.
Replacing the PostScript Printer Description file (the 'driver') for the Adobe PDF print queue with that of another printer can solve the problem, though the ability to save the PDF file where you want is compromised.
Finale Knowledgebase Article: **http://makemusic.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/1132**

2 PDFs produced from the 'Save As PDF' button in the OS X print menu can contain errors. These files will display correctly in Preview, Apple's PDF viewer, but will flag the error in Adobe's Reader. This can lead to the conclusion that the file 'does not work on PCs'. The problem does not affect all users, nor all documents, and may relate to particular musical elements being used in the document.

SOLUTION: The problem is easily remedied by re-saving the PDF document in Preview.

3 PDFs produced from the 'Save As PDF' option in the OS X print menu are saved in the RGB colorspace. This is because of the way that PDFs are created in OS X, using screen data, rather than print data. PGB PDFs can cause problems if the file is to be printed: the usual problem is that the music prints as an 80% greyscale.

SOLUTION: If you need to convert your RGB PDF file, you can either apply a Quartz Filter in the ColorSync Utility (found in the Utilities folder); or use Acrobat to convert the colorspace. Alternatively, use one of the alternative methods for producing PDFs outlined in Item 1.

4 PDFs produced from the 'Save As PDF' option in the print menu will contain embedded EPS files with the same low-res screen preview image that Finale uses on screen. This is because this method of creating PDFs relies on screen data, not print data.

SOLUTION: The solution is to use any of the alternative PDF-creation techniques described here. Using 'Save As PostScript' from the OS X print menu, for instance, produces print data, and so high-res embedded images.

While the solutions to the problems may require an extra step, it should be remembered that OS X has a great many features to automate processes and batch process files. AppleScript, Folder Actions, Unix shell scripting, not to mention FinaleScript, provide many opportunities to let the computer get on with it. Remember: if YOU are performing repetitive, mundane tasks on your computer, then you have forgotten what computers are for!

Data correct as of May 2009