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Introduction

The Xerox 6204 comes to the market with a scalable engine that is capable of printing, copying or scanning, all at a resolution of 600dpi.

The 6204 has the smallest footprint of all the Xerox digital wide format devices. It is expandable from a printer only version and the options of copying and scanning turn it into a true wide format monochrome MFP.

The device is best categorized as a decentralized wide format solution designed to be placed in the front office alongside the professional planners/architects/draftsmen, etc. rather than being placed in a back office CRD like much of Xerox’s wide format product line up.

This decentralized positioning requires a very different focus for the R&D team with experienced wide format print technicians whose role in the company is to print documents being replaced by a highly paid professional whose purpose is to manage and deliver cost effective projects within tight timelines where printing is a means to an end, not the main focus of the job.

This new breed of user needs complexity replaced with simplicity, sophisticated workflow capabilities replaced with green button one touch options, intuitive control methodology and the minimum of training as this takes away from core business demands.

The Xerox 6204 is aimed towards the AEC, CAD, GIS, Government, and corporate markets. It’s well suited for these markets, especially, where space is limited like a small architectural firm or a construction trailer where printing and copying on-demand is necessary on a daily basis.

This relatively small machine packs a big punch with the capability of printing up to 5 D size prints a minute (with speed option) which is perfect for less demanding workflows.

The Xerox 6204 comes standard with one roll and is upgradeable to two rolls giving it higher paper capacity and increased flexibility for it’s users.

Keeping the footprint to a minimum, with a top mounted scanner unit and an embedded controller, the Xerox 6204 can provide a full portfolio of wide format imaging needs within the small footprint that both satisfies remote placements in work site office cabins and in the corner of the front office in a prime real estate business office environment.

Print Device Features Summary

<table>
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<th>Feature</th>
<th>Specification</th>
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<td>Printing Method</td>
<td>Xerographic LED</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ink system</td>
<td>Toner</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Print Out Time</td>
<td>25 sec. (D/A1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maximum Print Speed</td>
<td>2.36ips (60mm/s)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 D ppm standard</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5 D ppm with upgrade</td>
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<td>Maximum Print Resolution</td>
<td>600 x 600 dpi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Color Modes</td>
<td>B/W and Grayscale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cutter</td>
<td>integrated</td>
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Media Handling: Media Input

The paper handling capabilities of a wide format device are one of its core requirements. After all, it does not matter how fast the print engine is, or how many prints it can handle in a month, if it can not create the prints you want on the media you desire.

Media

Media comes in mainly four different types with varying weights, Bond Paper, Vellum, Tracing Paper, and Film. Standard plain 20 lb. bond paper used for general monochrome prints and copies is the most commonly used paper and weight. Vellum was vastly used for archival purposes in the past, for its longevity, and is still used for this purpose today, but with scanning hard copies into some form of Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) becoming more common, fewer are being stored in hard copy form due to the large storage requirements. Tracing Paper and Film are used for specialized application requirements but are not used most times on a regular basis.

Capacity

Traditionally, Monochrome wide format printer/copiers have allowed for up to 6 rolls of media to be loaded at a time allowing for minimal media loading on large runs. Some rolls can hold up to 650 linear feet of media.

The media capacity is directly related to the maximum diameter of the media and roll combined that the device will accept. Thicker media will allow for fewer linear feet on a roll. A machine may max out its roll capacity with a 650-linear foot roll of plain bond paper, but only allow 200-linear feet on a roll of Film or other thicker media.

Capacity also depends on the number of rolls that the machine is capable of holding.

Size

When media is loaded, the printer must be set for the correct media type. Monochrome Wide format printers generally max out at 36” in width and the linear footage of the roll’s length or the print driver limitations. Rolls are loaded onto a spindle that drives the media into the printer.

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<th>Media Handling Input Features Summary</th>
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<td>Standard Media Capacity</td>
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<td>Maximum Media Capacity</td>
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<td>Manual feed</td>
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<td>Media Type</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cut Sheet Feed Capability</td>
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<td>Maximum Media Width</td>
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<td>Minimum Media Width</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maximum Media Weight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Size</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum Number of Rolls</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Media Handling: Media Input

Loading and Unloading Media Roll

Media loading on the Xerox 6204 is easy and doesn’t require much instruction.

Media is loaded center justified onto a 40” long spindle that has drive gears at both ends. The spindle is universal and can be loaded either way and handles media up to 36”. The drive motor drives the spindle on one end of the spindle. This helps prevent users from loading media incorrectly.

After media is loaded onto the spindle, users spins the roll until media is sensed and is pulled in by the feed rollers. There is a media feed button on the right side of paper tray that allows the user to hold down to feed paper and then cuts a straight edge when the button is released.

Media is now ready to be set in the control panel of the machine. Users have the ability to set the media size to multiple standards such as ISO, JIS, SP, ARCH, and ANSI. Media is automatically sensed for size. Users must change media type and weight manually through the Media Type/Weight tab on the control panel from the default Ordinary Bond setting. There are three settings for each. The choices for Media type are Bond, Vellum, and Film; and the choices for media weight are Light, Ordinary, and Heavy.

To Unload media, users simply retract the roll and lift out the roll and spindle together.

WHAT WE LIKED

- We liked the universal spindle and how the paper doesn't have to be loaded in a certain direction. This prevents users from loading paper incorrectly.

- Media was very easily loaded and unloaded. Users just have to retract the roll in the reverse direction to remove paper. When loading, simply feed the paper into the rollers and the machine auto senses and pulls the paper in. Once paper is loaded, users can feed and cut for a nice clean edge.

- We liked that when media is loaded the machine automatically senses what size the roll is and doesn’t prompt the user to change media type giving the fact that 90% of the time, users will be using the default paper type.

WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE

- We would like to see an option to choose a paper drawer for the second paper source. This would enable this printer be used for cut sheet printing and possibly eliminating the need for additional printers for the user.
Finishing for wide format printers is often limited to a standard catch tray or various output receiving racks or stackers. In most cases the standard catch tray handles prints and copies face down. Face up delivery is an option on some offerings, with an additional receiving rack or stacker.

Output stacking is an important part of wide format printing in AEC/CAD workflows due to the large number of copies or prints in a set.

Workflows with multiple sets of mixed sizes, those comprised of only D sized or E sized prints, and online or offline finishing requirements should be considered in selecting finishing options.

Optional in-line folding units are often offered on monochrome toner-based wide format printer/copiers. This function is not generally used in the U.S. In Europe, folding is a big part of workflow requirements.

### Handling Finished Prints

Prints from monochrome Multi-functional Peripherals (MFP) tend to curl due to the paper coming from a roll. Traveling through a fuser helps straighten the paper, but there is still a little curve left in the paper. To counteract this phenomenon, monochrome wide format manufacturers have come up with different ways of handling finished prints. As a result, most standard receiving trays have face-down delivery. If unattended printing is a big part of a company’s workflow, special consideration must be taken to secure the right finishing option. A 3 hole punch and a separate stacker is an option with some folder units that are attached to a monochrome wide format MFP.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Media Handling: Output/Finishing Features Summary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maximum Output Capacity</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 D size prints with copy stacker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard Output Capacity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard receiving rack: 20 D size</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width Detection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output Face Down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard catch tray and optional receiving rack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output Face Up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folding Options</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Media Handling: Media Output/Finishing

Media Handling Output

The Xerox 6204 system configuration that BERTL tested had a standard front exit stacker for copies and prints and an original rack that was removable and hung off the back of the machine when not in use. This is the only configuration that the Xerox 6204 comes in.

The original rack helps keep originals in order when doing many originals at once. Without the original rack, originals are fed into the scanner and redirected back out to the user. With this setup, copying multiple documents can be cumbersome and requires a work table to set the finished originals on. An original receiving rack is recommended for multiple originals in a set to keep in order.

There are three redirection guides that clip onto the back of the scanner that redirects scanned originals back to the user that are handy when scanning or copying only 1 or 2 originals at a time or when a work table is available to set originals on manually.

WHAT WE LIKED

- We liked the option of using the original receiving rack or redirection guides depending on the user’s workflow requirements and/or workspace limitations.

WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE

- While we liked the original receiving rack, we would like to see an easier way of folding down the rack and hanging it off the back of the machine when not in use.
Routine Maintenance

Wide Format MFP maintenance is usually limited to basic cleaning of the machine, toner replenishment, waste toner receptacle removal and replacement, and paper jam removal.

Units sold through the reseller/dealer community are usually maintained through a factory trained service engineer.

**Toner Changing:** Toner replacement is a necessary evil carried out by all. This process has traditionally been one avoided by all for fear of the black dust leaking on clothes, hands, etc. However, most units nowadays offer very clean replacement of toner supplies.

**Paper Jams:** The main device issue that office users attempt to remedy themselves is the occasional paper jam. As a general rule, the faster the engine gets, and the more paper handling options become available the more complex the process of removing paper jams becomes. Poor loading of paper supplies are a common culprit when jams do occur. Paper jams with wide format monochrome devices are sometimes attributed to the feeding of originals, since multiple types of originals will be scanned and/or copied.

**Machine Cleaning:** Routine cleaning is part of the routine maintenance of wide format monochrome devices. Cleaning of the white plate or scanning glass is necessary for consistent image quality and is, most times, carried out by common users.

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### Maintenance Features Summary

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<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Specification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Toner Yield</td>
<td>14,300 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toner yield</td>
<td>14,300 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toner user replaceable</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste Toner Receptacle user replaceable</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste Toner Receptacle yield</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toner replaceable while printing</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Cleaning the scanner glass on the Xerox 6204

Reloading toner on the Xerox 6204
Routine Maintenance

Toner replacement process

Toner replenishment in the Xerox 6204 is easy to do and is meant for the common user to perform.

The machine will prompt the user with a message “Load Toner Soon” on the operations panel when the machine is running low on toner. When this message is displayed, the machine can print approximately 500 more D size sheets before the machine stops printing. This message will be displayed alternately with the “ready to copy” message.

When the machine runs out of toner, the machine stops and displays the message “Load Toner”.

Before performing toner replenishment, if the original receiving rack is attached, this rack needs to be removed to be able to lift the cover to gain access to the toner hopper to replenish toner.

The directions for toner replenishment in the Xerox 6204 user guide instructs the user to lay down paper just in case the toner spills on the floor, a precaution experienced users are accustomed to.

Toner bottle fits into notches and then a lever needs to be slid over to release the toner into the machine. Directions for toner replenishment are conveniently marked on the machine.
Routine Maintenance

Routine scanner cleaning

Xerox recommends cleaning the scanner glass periodically for consistent copy and scan quality.

The scanner document cover is easy to remove and Xerox recommends cleaning with a dry soft cloth. For better cleaning, use a damp cloth or a cloth with a Xerox cleaning solution. BERTL noticed that while removing scanner document cover, which can be removed from the unit completely, it is possible to damage or scratch the scanner glass if attempted by a first time user whose unaware of the complete separation of the components.

Replacing waste toner bottle

To replace the waste toner bottle, the user must first remove the original receiving tray and open the clam shell portion of the machine.

Once the clam shell is open, the waste toner bottle is easily accessible. The waste toner bottle just needs to be slid out, capped, thrown away, and replaced with a new one.
Routine Maintenance

Paper Jam removal

Paper jams in wide format machines can be tricky to remove on most machines and the Xerox 6204 is no exception.

When a paper jam happens in the print engine, the user is prompted to remove the jam by lifting the upper unit (clam shell) and lifting the green handle “A” which pulls the paper through about 10 inches. The tricky part is if the paper has not yet been cut and is still attached to the roll. If this is the case, the machine will prompt the user to open the two front doors and follow the jam removal instructions on the label. The label instructs the user to press the feed and cut key that is generally used when loading a roll, and the roll is fed and cut. Now the paper is free from the roll and is able to be removed from the machine.

More common jams will occur in the scanner due to the wide range of originals that will be fed through the machine.

If a Jam occurs in the scanner, the user is prompted to remove the scanner cover to remove the jam. The whole cover comes off the scanner and if you’re not careful, it is possible to drop the cover on the floor or worse, the scanner glass and break or scratch it. When removed and replaced carefully, jam removals are easy.
Routine Maintenance

WHAT WE LIKED

- We liked how easy and mess free it was to replace the waste toner bottle. This tends to be a messy job that most try to avoid. With the Xerox 6204, this is not the case. The waste toner bottle is easily slid out, capped and thrown away.

WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE

- We would like to see an easier way to remove jams when they occur in the print engine. When the machine jams in the print engine and is still attached to the paper roll, it can be difficult to remove if not done properly. A manual paper cutter built into the machine or a button that activates the automatic feed and cut system that can be accessed when the clam shell is open could simplify removing this type of jam.

- We would like to see the scanner document cover stay attached to the machine rather than the ability to completely remove it. While completely removing it gives better access to jammed originals, keeping the cover attached would prevent any accidental damage to the cover and scan glass while removing and replacing it.

- A self contained toner cartridge might be a better way of guaranteeing a mess free toner replacement system.
Device Management

An efficient device management backbone is needed to take full advantage of the feature set within a device, be it a printer, scanner, copier, or multi-functional product. Device management is commonly-supported through a Web interface on the device controller that can be accessed using any desktop Internet browser. The user simply enters the IP address of the device into the URL address line.

Administrators and users have different management and monitoring needs.

Users
End users want to know if a device is capable of handling a job. Supply levels and a list of jobs already committed to print are important.

For MFPs with document storage and communications capabilities, end users also need desktop management of print on demand, stored document viewing (to check print on demand files or scanned files) and, for the more advanced, the creation of scan-to-email or scan-to-file destination templates.

Administrators
An office or network manager looks for greater control over the device functionality and setup without leaving their desk. They may be looking to manage network setup, establish security, apply cost control measures, check supply levels, and set up automated email alerts to different staff members when problems occur.

Due to the nature of the Web server, this capability is usually limited to an individual device. Many manufacturers also include a network device management fleet tool which allows for the monitoring and management of multiple devices around the network concurrently. Many also provide plug-ins to the most popular IT device management utilities to ensure that the maximum amount of information can be relayed from their device to the third-party application.
Device Management

Status Monitoring

The Status of the machine is conveniently accessible through any web browser by typing in the IP address of the machine.

Information displayed includes: Printer model, printer status media status, PostScript enabled and meter count.

Cost Control Reporting/ Job Log

Cost control reporting is not included with this machine but is possible through common industry third party applications.

It is possible though, to export the system job log to an Excel spreadsheet and keep track of costs manually. In the job log tab of the web interface on the machine, users are able to view, print, or export job logs for monitoring jobs.

Security Settings

Security is limited to administrator rights, by entering an administrator password in either the web interface or on the control panel of the machine, an administrator has the ability to administer the machine.
Device Management

Scan Job Management

Scan management is controlled by Xerox wide format scan service application that comes with the Xerox 6204. With this service, users or administrators have access to their scanned jobs by selecting the appropriate mailbox on the machine through the Xerox wide format scan service application (Windows Explorer look and feel) and transferring scanned files to a workstation.

Once Xerox scan service is open, users can browse mailboxes on the Xerox 6204 as well as network folders on the workstation or network and view or edit images with the Xerox viewer and editing tools that come with Xerox scan service.
Device Management

Job Queue Management

There is not much you can do with jobs once sent to the machine besides see what has been sent or what is currently sitting in the queue. From the web interface users can view job log and currently printing jobs but do not have the ability to delete or change print order.

WHAT WE LIKED

• We liked the way that users are able to view the title blocks of scanned documents in a thumbnail view to easily identify documents without having to open each one.

• We liked the way users are able to view pending jobs in the print queue of the Xerox 6204.

• We liked the way users are able to store programming for quick access to scan and copy presets on the control panel.

WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE

• We would like to see more control over job queue management from the web interface.

• We would like to see a way to store jobs in memory for print on demand.
High-tech security is never out of the news, with reports of information theft and hacking making headlines. By the very nature of their development, network printers and MFPs are security risks if not managed correctly. This also holds true for Wide format MFPs, if not more so, with building plans, maps, and electrical drawings running through these machines, security may even play a bigger role in some cases.

Advanced network connectivity options open ports to hackers. Industry-standard Java and Web browser design elements are vulnerable to virus attack. Large hard drives store a latent copy of every document flowing through the device for years. Devices link directly to core network components such as the LDAP address list or the central file server. Plus, fast communication options let insiders send information to the outside with no method of being traced.

Security and data compliance buzzwords and regulations such as Common Criteria certification, HIPAA, Sarbanes-Oxley, Gramm Leach Bliley, FERPA, SEC, FSMA, and the Patriot Act look to safeguard information and force companies to conform to best practices in document and data security management.

Safeguarding Data

Most MFPs now offer a standard or optional hard drive. Although document security is not as common as on the cut sheet MFPs, there are manufacturers that are considering the need and some have implemented document security in their machines already. Any company dealing in critical, sensitive information should determine if they need a data overwrite capability that has passed Common Criteria (CC) certification. Data overwrite deletes information on the hard drive by writing a series of random ones and zeros over the sectors storing data, usually multiple times. The CC test relates to how data is deleted from a device’s hard drive after being used. CC certification is carried out by a government-approved test facility. Many manufacturers get CC certification to satisfy government security requirements and it is a requisite for many government agencies and contractors.

Most MFP devices pass evaluation assurance level (EAL) 2, with some aiming higher at EAL 3. The higher the level, the more extensive the testing, and the more secure the hard drive is deemed.

Controlling Access

One of the keys to security is limiting the initial access to the device both remotely and at the device itself. TCP/IP and MAC filtering allow the administrator to limit remote access to the device. MAC filtering is more secure; the TCP/IP address can be copied but the MAC address is a fixed specification that can not be changed.

IPv6 is now becoming commonplace on network devices. IPv6 makes it harder to crack or hack into a PC address range by making the address more complex.

Network authentication is now available on nearly every MFP and printer, forcing users to enter a user name and password before access to the device is granted. Most devices can verify a user by linking to Windows Exchange user lists, Novell network user lists, and LDAP server lists.

There should also be password encryption at the point of the login process through SSL or other encryption or other security technology (such as Kerberos) preventing hackers from watching and capturing user names and IDs as they travel over the network.
Security

Security Options

Security on the Xerox 6204 is comprised of an administrator password for access to network settings, system parameters, user management and system tools, which can be accessed through any web browser by typing in the IP address of the machine from any workstation on the LAN and entering the administrator password.

An additional numerical password needs to be entered on the control panel of the machine to gain access to various controls, such as: Common settings, copy settings, network settings, scan settings, and to delete mailboxes. These passwords can be changed at any time by the administrator of the machine or network.
Security

Security Options (cont’)

There is password protection available when creating a mail box with different password protection options. Users have the option to password protect their mailbox in scan or retrieve mode or both. Users can also choose not to password protect their mail box. This would be good for a general “scan-to location” for general unsecured documents.

From any workstation with the Xerox Scan Service software, mailboxes on the machine’s hard drive are not automatically sensed. The user must right click on mailbox and select new-mailbox to retrieve scanned documents.

‘Select a mailbox’ window comes up and displays all the mail boxes new and old on the machine’s hard drive. In this screen capture to the right, all four mailboxes show up to be selected. If the mailbox is password protected for retrieving documents, user will be asked to supply the correct password.

Once the user has made a connection from their workstation to retrieve scanned documents from a specified mailbox, the Xerox scan service software does not require the user to log in every time they want to retrieve scans from the password protected mailbox. It is basically an open connection from that particular workstation. For more secure environments, workstations would have to be password protected and logged in and out of without delay, when the workstation is not in use.
Accessibility

In the U.S., Section 508 legislation prohibits government agencies from purchasing devices that are not accessible to those with physical impairments. For this reason—and the corporate world’s increased focus on delivering a better work environment for all—user-friendly features for physically-impaired users are considered more and more. Common design features include tilting control panels which give wheelchair-bound users a better view of the screen and larger display options for those with impaired vision. Voice navigation and Braille also are becoming increasingly popular. Easy access to the paper path for jam removal or front access to toner supplies make a device more user-friendly to all.

User Accessibility to Device Controls

The Xerox 6204 Printer control panel has an easily visible fixed screen with hard key buttons and LCD touch panel with contrast adjustments. The controls can be accessed adequately from a seated position.

User Accessibility for Media Refilling

The Xerox 6204 paper rolls can easily be replaced from a seated position. Both media rolls are accessed at the front of the machine.

User Accessibility for Media Jam Removal

Disabled users can view the tilted control panel screen to locate a paper jam. With the device’s short paper path, wheelchair bound users should be able to handle any jam that occurs with the same ease as a standing user.

User Accessibility for Routine Maintenance

Toner is replaced at the back of the machine, therefore, adequate space is required around the machine to allow wheelchair accessibility for toner replacement. The waste toner receptacle is easily accessible when the clam shell is opened.
Accessibility

WHAT WE LIKED

- We liked the capability of loading the paper rolls from the front of the machine. The rolls were easy to remove and replace from a seated position.
- The control panel has hard keys and a touch screen that are angled for easy viewing from a seated position and a contrast control for the touch screen to enhance the clarity.
- We liked the raised dot indicator on the numeric ‘5’ key to help sight impaired users distinguish the number pad.

WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE

- We would like to see an easier way to get to the waste toner bottle and toner refilling. It would increase accessibility by keeping the copy receiving rack attached instead of removing it, when opening the clam shell to perform this periodical maintenance.
- While the control panel has indicators for the sight impaired such as a raised line on the stop key and a raised dot for the start key that may be distinguishable, a larger start key might enhance usability.
- We would like to see the numeric keypad fitted with concave buttons to accommodate users with limited dexterity.
Copy

In the past, copying was a leading monochrome wide format workflow. In most cases, it still is.

The need for copying will always be a factor. Hard copies will always be needed in monochrome wide format devices. If the digital file for a document is not readily available, and there is no other way to print the file, copying is going to be your only choice. No computers, networks or programs are needed. Just a wide format copier and you are set.

Building Sets
Building sets are a major workflow requirement for most AEC companies. A set building mode is essential in saving time and labor costs. Now that most digital monochrome wide format devices have a hard disk drive installed, set building can offer more functionality and capabilities.

Concurrency
Concurrency is the ability to handle multiple tasks at the same time. This functionality can vary greatly on wide format MFPs. Some devices cannot accept a copy or scan job while a print or copy job is in progress. If a connected wide format MFP is carrying out either job, a walk-up user must wait for the job to finish to scan in their copy or scan job. A multi-tasking, powerful controller or RIP can be the difference in delivering concurrency functionality on a wide format MFP.

Copy Features Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maximum Copy Speed</td>
<td>2.36 ips (60mm/s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 D’s a minute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 D’s a minute (optional)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Copy Out Time</td>
<td>25 sec. D size</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scanner</td>
<td>600dpi/256 grayscale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Document Feeding</td>
<td>• Scan and send to front</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Scan and stack on original stacker.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Set Build</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous Copying</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scan Ahead Copy</td>
<td>Unlimited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Copy Job Programs</td>
<td>40 shared with scan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customizable One-touch Buttons on Home Screen</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max/Min Zoom Ratio</td>
<td>25% to 400%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Image Quality: Copy

The Xerox 6204 has 4 copy modes, text line, text photo, photo, and text line clear.

Test Process: Copy (Lines and Text original)
BERTL tested 3 out of the 4 Original copy modes, text/lines, text/photo and photo modes.

Testing was performed with a wide range of copy originals to look for strengths and weaknesses of the device. Image quality was to a high standard across a wide range of original types.

Text and lines reproduced well in all modes in black and red. Text was crisp and clear down to 4 pt both in black and in red. Lines were sharp down to 0.25 points in black and in red.
Copy

Image Quality: Copy

The Xerox 6204 has 4 copy modes, text line, text photo, photo, and text line clear.

Test Process: Copy (Photo Original)
BERTL tested 3 out of the 4 Original copy modes, text/lines, text/photo and photo modes.

In this test, we looked at how well the machine copied a photographic original in the 3 modes previously mentioned.

In photo and text/photo modes, the photographic color original reproduced well. In text/lines mode the image started to lose clarity but was still distinguishable.

Original Test Documents

Original document was printed from a PDF in color on a 1200x2400 dpi wide format inkjet printer and copied by the Xerox 6204 in text/lines, text/photo, and photo modes.

The images below represent the original that was cropped from a 36”x48” document.
Copy

Image Quality: Copy

To create a real world test, BERTL analysts marked-up original documents with a red marker and green, yellow, orange, and pink highlighters. This is often seen in AEC workflows and is not an easy task for most traditional monochrome scanners.

Original Test Documents

Original document was printed from Autodesk on the Oce TCS500 in grayscale and Release mode. Color edits were made to the finished print, starting from top; yellow highlighter (left), red pen, pink highlighter (right), orange highlighter and green highlighter.

As the images above illustrate, the color edits had very different results in the generation copy output. The yellow highlighter was missed altogether; the red pen, orange and pink highlighters rendered the information formally highlighted now illegible; with the green highlighter delivering the best results, with the highlight still being visible and the information still legible.
Copy

Image Quality: General

Other Copy Image Controls
In addition to selecting original type, users have other options to adjust the image and output appearance.

Users can select scale ratios to reduce and enlarge images from 25 percent up to 400 percent and can adjust image density as well as turn on or off background suppression. If the image still isn’t to your liking, contrast can be adjusted all in the same image quality tab.

The choice of media for output can be specified. Original width can be specified or sensed automatically by the scanner.

From the “Other features tab” there are features such as image shift, edge erase, scan start position, collation, mirror image, and image inversion to get the results your looking for.

Two cut methods can be selected: Synchro for odd-size documents, and Standard for standard sizes such as ARCH A, B, C, D, E, etc.

Ease of Use: Presets
Navigation of the control panel is easy and requires only a small learning curve. To take any guess work out of what settings to choose, up to 40 scan or copy presets can be set for the most commonly used settings with a name to identify it, such as “Maps” or “drawings” or “ARCH B” to “ANSI B”. This gives users one touch operation and cuts down on waste and time at the Wide format MFP.
Copy

WHAT WE LIKED:

- The ability to create up to 40 copy presets for frequently used settings gives users a walk up, 2-touch option for copying, resulting in less waste and less time at the machine.

- We liked the copy quality in all modes. Photo mode offered great detail in photos while keeping the sharpness for text and lines. In text and line mode, the scanner picked up every line, whether it was in color or black down to 0.25 point.

- With the large onboard hard disk drive, users are able to scan in and collate up to 99 E size originals to make collated sets.

WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE:

- While the original receiving rack had no problems with D size and under originals, we would like to see a better way of handling larger originals such as the E size. The machine has a tendency to curl up the originals at this size and get them out of order.

- We would like to see better reproduction of color highlighted areas allowing for easier reproduction of working copies.
Print

The Print function is where most wide format documents originate, most commonly from a toner based or thermal inkjet based wide format printer. Gone are the days of blueprint originals or hand drafted drawings. Originals are usually created digitally and are designed to be printed on a digital device.

Due to the physical size of the documents being printed, file sizes vary. A file size of 25MB is common and some could easily reach 100MB and above. For this reason, most monochrome wide format printers have an on board controller or RIP and a large capacity HDD to process these large files efficiently.

Large jobs could delay the printer from performing other tasks, which could be detrimental to productivity in workgroup environments. It is important that the printer controller have sufficient memory, processor and hard drive space to handle busy workflows.

Connectivity

Most devices include Fast Ethernet (10/100 Mbps) and USB connectivity out of the box; some include parallel connections. In addition, some devices include a FireWire connection.

PDLs

HP-GL/2, HP-RTL, and WPD are the de facto printer description languages (PDLs) of choice provided by all suppliers. Most offer a PostScript driver as an upgrade. A few manufacturers also include their own PDL that is based loosely on the Windows/GDI printing technology of old. These Windows or GDI drivers often offer significantly more printer options than traditional HP-GL/2, WPD, and PostScript drivers.

Productivity

Judging print productivity is an inexact science at best or misleading at worst. Factors such as processor power, memory capabilities, spool and RIPping efficiency, engine throughput speed, RIPping while printing capabilities, and more play a major part. Most devices fair better in some factors than others. Different workflows may benefit from one factor more than others.

It is easy to play judge and pronounce what determines productivity. But this has little merit when evaluating print performance for an end-user environment. Device A may print Document 1 faster than Device B. But Device B may print Document 2 faster. You cannot determine which document is the best measure of productivity.

The same is true of network traffic tests where multiple jobs are submitted at once. By rearranging the order of the jobs, the productivity of Device A and Device B could easily be reversed.

BERTL does not restrict its evaluation of print performance to such tests. It provides information on how jobs are treated across the various PDLs offered, thus allowing users to get the best out of the device.

Printer Drivers

Driver design varies enormously from manufacturer to manufacturer. Most try to keep a common style throughout their range to reduce learning curves. However, many have significant design differences between PDLs, which can raise issues. While many features are common throughout drivers from all manufacturers, there are some differentiators, which while niche benefits in many instances, can be valuable in the right hands. We highlight the strengths and weaknesses over the following pages.

Ease of Installation

The Xerox 6204 tested by BERTL was installed by a Xerox factory technician. For user installations, Xerox representatives work with users, IT managers and other customer technical staff with installation and training of the device and drivers. The Xerox print drivers can be installed by users with ease.
Print

Print Productivity

As part of its evaluation BERTL analysts ran a selection of different wide format job types through the Xerox 6204 looking for printing workflow selections that would have a major impact on output speed and network impact. (Also see later in the report where BERTL analysts look at more complex batch workflow productivity using Xerox’s BT Plot Assistant.)

PDF or AutoCAD Format? There is an ongoing debate surrounding AutoCAD file formats and the generic Adobe PDF alternative. BERTL looked at this workflow taking a 29 page building project that originated in AutoCAD. The document was first printed directly from the AutoDesk Viewer using the Windows driver and was then converted into a PDF file using default 600dpi PDF conversion settings, and resubmitted to print using the Windows driver again.

| 29-page Architectural plan printed from DWF and PDF formats using Windows print driver |
|---|---|
| Time taken to print | Print File Size |
| DWF Format | 480 seconds | 21.0 MB |
| PDF Format | 497 seconds | 25.3 MB |

Does the driver make a Difference? To look at the difference between the productivity and bandwidth associated with the Windows driver and PostScript driver, BERTL analysts then sent the same 29-page PDF document to print using the PostScript driver.

Resolution Counts: Wide format devices due to their large documents and consequential large file sizes often offer multiple resolution options ranging from 600dpi down to 200dpi. The lower resolution offers faster spool, rip and printing versus the higher quality more processor intensive 600 dpi alternatives. BERTL analysts investigate the difference using a high resolution 36” x 48” map (courtesy of the USGS), which was printed at the 200 dpi and 600 dpi setting options.

| Single page 36” x 48” USGS Map printed at 200dpi and 600dpi using the Windows print driver |
|---|---|
| Time taken to print | Print File Size |
| 200dpi | 54 seconds | 12.2 MB |
| 600 dpi | 60 seconds | 51.8 MB |
Print

Print Driver Functionality

The Windows Print Driver (WPD) for the Xerox 6204 gives the user increased functionality compared to the HDI drivers and optional PostScript drivers. The WPD includes additional features such as image quality modes and resolutions.

The Basic tab of the WPD enables a broad range of settings. The user can select paper size, output size, reduce/enlarge, orientation, multi-up 1-4, image rotation and output orientation. There is also a preview box that can be checked that shows a low resolution print preview to check your layout and sizes before print.

The Tray/output tab allows the user to select a paper source or use auto detect, select media type, collate, print by reverse order. The folder bypass selection is not used by the Xerox 6204 because a folder unit is not available for this model. The Xerox 6204 shares this print driver with other models of Xerox monochrome wide format devices.

The Graphics tab has various image quality selections such as, resolution (200, 300, 400, and 600 dpi), print modes for high speed (text), high quality (photo), and drawings. Users also have the ability to covert all colors to black by checking the “make all colors black” check box, enabling the user to print nice crisp black lines as opposed to shades of gray in grayscale mode. When this check box is checked, the “light colored fine lines” selections are grayed out. There is also a drop down menu for light colored fine lines such as, grayscale, darken grayscale, and black. All of these options offers the users great flexibility to reach the desired output.
Print

Print Driver Functionality (cont’)

The Header/Footer tab is where users can create a label for their documents that can be printed on any of the four corners of the page in 6 pt text, up to 64 characters long. A date and or time stamp can also be added for greater detail. This can be a very helpful tool when printing multiple drafts to keep track of versions, settings or notes.

BERTL used the label, date and time stamp for our testing to keep track of settings for print quality testing and found it to be very helpful in identifying settings used for print samples.

The look and feel of the PostScript driver is different and offers much less functionality as opposed to the Windows print driver. This driver is reserved for printing files that require PostScript to acquire the desired image quality.

Printing through the PostScript Driver.
Print

BERTL has custom designed a selection of test documents to investigate the ability of wide format devices to reproduce fonts, fine lines and graphics in both a monochrome and color environment.

Image Quality: High speed (text)

Overall, BERTL analysts were impressed by the print quality on the Xerox 6204 in its default 600 dpi, high speed (text) mode, and grayscale. The images proved to be both crisp and clear, and the lines and text reproduced accurately and sharp. Text reproduced flawlessly down to 4 pt and lines reproduced well down to 0.25 point.

The high quality assessment of the default mode can not be overstated enough for a decentralized located device of this type, where remember the user is an office professional, who is not going to spend hours looking through a sophisticated driver or workflow utility whenever they need to print a plan. Instead, they want and expect to be able to just select print and get a good quality result.

Realizing that we can not possibly show every mode and corresponding options like resolution and grayscale, we chose to show how printing color lines and text is affected while printing in grayscale high speed text mode. The illustrations to the right highlight how the print mode selection affects the text and lines when printing color text and lines in 600 dpi, High Speed Text mode, and Grayscale.

BERTL printed a 36” x 48” Test Pattern with various lines, text, images gradations, and borders in all the available modes.

In 600 dpi, grayscale, high speed text mode, a dot pattern is visible. If this is not adequate quality for the user, they have the ability to convert all color to black by selecting the “all colors to black” check box in the windows print driver under the graphics tab. As you can see in the illustrations above, with the “all colors to black” check box checked, the red text becomes a nice solid black instead of the grayscale dot pattern in grayscale mode.
Print

Image Quality: High speed (text) cont’

This is another example of a real world Auto Cad document designed in color that was printed on the Xerox 6204 through the Windows print driver in 600 dpi, grayscale, and high speed text mode.

To see the power of the “all colors to black” mode, we compared it in grayscale mode again with this multi color document. This mode will prove to be a great tool for these types of documents to capture all the detail when a color wide format device is not available.

A highly magnified cropped image of a print that was printed in 600dpi, grayscale, high speed text mode and then with the “all colors to black” box checked.
Print

Image Quality: 300 & 600dpi

These samples were also printed in the default high speed text mode, grayscale in 300 and 600 dpi. There is a noticeable difference in quality from one resolution to the other. A user might select this mode when making draft copies that aren’t for presentation purposes to keep the file sizes and processing time to a minimum.

300 dpi

600 DPI
Print

WHAT WE LIKED

- We liked the “all colors to black” mode which allows the user to make all colored lines come out in solid black rather than a dot pattern in grayscale mode.
- We liked the ability to choose the resolution of the output in order to keep file sizes to a minimum when sending complex multi-page documents for draft purposes.
- We liked the ability to cancel prints even after the job has started printing. This will keep waste down and free up the machine quicker.

WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE

- We would like to see the PostScript and WPD drivers have the same look and feel, to eliminate confusion and decrease learning curves for users.
Scan

Today there are millions of wide format paper documents stored as hard copies that need to be converted to electronic documents for disaster recovery, raster to vector conversions, electronic document management, and more.

In just a few years, network scanning has moved from a luxury item to an important part of wide format workflow. Virtually all wide format MFPs offer standard or optional network scanning. Monochrome and color wide format MFPs offer either an integrated scanner or a stand-alone scanner. Integrated scanners are most often found on the monochrome wide format MFPs.

Address Book Integration
Integration into central corporate address books on LDAP or NT servers is the de facto standard today in cut sheet MFPs, as is the ability to force-populate outgoing email with sender information through an enforced login process. This way, outgoing communications from the remote MFP can be traced back to the user and audited for compliance purposes. These features soon will be common on wide format MFPs, enabling more control over electronic document distribution.

Destinations
Scan-to destinations include email, SMB (Windows desktop locations), and FTP. In some instances, the scan goes directly to the hard drive of a workstation or back to a RIP (controller).

Security
Security is another hot point in scanning. Several devices now include the capability to send scanned messages using encrypted PDF or other secure transfer medium. This can be an important factor in industries sensitive to data theft or misuse.

Integration with Third-Party Applications
The big buzz in the MFP industry is the move toward open architecture, where the firmware backbone of the device is based on an industry standard like Java or .NET rather than proprietary systems. This opens great opportunities for far greater MFP integration with other software applications through third-party applications created with software developer kits (SDK).

Through these partnerships, scanning from the MFP can take on a new life, doing more than just routing files from the MFP to an email or folder. Now, information can be directed into a sophisticated workflow with complete metadata, billing information, image enhancement, and other functions, all from the initial scanning action, rather than the multi-stage process used previously.

Currently, there is great differentiation in the field of scanning as manufacturers continue to develop this aspect of the device. Watch for more image enhancement and workflow capabilities to become commonplace as scanning continues to pick up the pace as an important factor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scan Features Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maximum Scan Speed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connectivity Options</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scan to Email</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scan to SMB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scan to FTP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scan to HDD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scan to URL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TWAIN Scanning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scan to External Memory Source (USB/SD card)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDAP Authentication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>File Formats Supported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encrypted PDF Format</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resolution Options</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ad hoc Subject Line Entry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ad hoc Message Line Entry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ad hoc File Name Entry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Scan

Scanning

Scanning is optional with the addition of the Scan to file and Scan to Net functionality.

Xerox’s high resolution scanner is capable of capturing fine detail in up to 600 dpi resolution. The Xerox Wide Format Scan Service software comes with scanning and offers an image view software to view scanned files and image editing tools like, skew correction, rotation, and despeckle to help clean up documents before archival.

Scan Destinations

Scans are directed to up to 50 mailboxes that can be set up on the machine’s hard drive through the control panel. The Xerox scan service connects with the machine’s hard drive and allows the user to retrieve the files and place them into any location on a workstation or network location. These mailboxes can be password protected to limit access to sensitive documents. Once a mailbox is set up, only someone with administrator’s rights can delete it.
Scan

Creating a Scan destination

It is quite easy to set up a mailbox on the machine for scanning. From the Create/Delete tab in the main menu select create mailbox and then user has the option to give the mailbox a name to be associated with it, and make it password protected for scan, retrieve or both. The user also has the option to save the documents after retrieving them, once retrieved from the device (uploaded to workstation) or deleting them.

Users can set up the maximum of 50 mailboxes.
Scan

WHAT WE LIKED

- We liked being able to create up to 50 mailboxes to scan into.
- We liked the scanning resolution of 600 dpi for jobs that require high resolution.
- Scanning is simple and quick.

WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE

- We would like to see the ability to scan directly to desktop, network location, E-mail or FTP site to reduce the number of steps when the final destination is one of these.
- We would like to see a way to name the file when scanning or give the files a prefix or suffix for easy recognition later.
- We would also like to see maybe a pop up window to name the files as they are uploaded from the mailboxes.
- We would like to see the ability to choose an image editing function such as despeckle, deskew, or rotation directly from the control panel or when setting up the mailbox and to be provided as a standard.
Job Submission Tools

Job submission tools enable users to submit various raw file types through software or a Web browser on any workstation on the network to be printed to a wide format printer.

Increasingly, these job submission tools are bundled with the printers and some offer these tools as an option. Whether the job submission tool is Web-based or client-based, it should be considered as a vital tool, especially in reprographic and CRD environments that handle complex jobs that are built from different file types into a finished set.

Web Submission

Web submission tools enable users to gain access to a wide format MFP or controller individually through a Web browser simply by typing in the IP address of the device. The Web interface resides on the device and gives the user the convenience of viewing documents before printing, changing print settings, and sending files to print without loading software or drivers.

Sending a job that includes multiple file types and needs to become a set can be aggravating at times. Web submission tools can give users the ability to create sets in a more streamlined way.

Job Submission Software

Job submission software has similar functionality as Web submission with some exceptions. Job submission software needs to be loaded and licensed for each individual workstation. Job submission software usually can access more than one device simultaneously without the need to log in and out of each device independently, which makes it a favorable option for companies with multiple devices. Connection to the devices are, more times than not, by the IP address of the device and use the drivers of the particular device.

Job Submission Productivity

BT Plot Assistant increases productivity in many ways. BERTL tested the software with different processes (AEC, GIS, corporate and legal) to get a real-world feel of how it affects workflow. After becoming familiar with BT Plot Assistant, we found it not only decreased our file prep and manual collation time immensely, but it enabled us to do it all in one place.

BERTL looked at BT Plot Assistant’s productivity from both a collated and uncollated workflow perspective. BERTL composed a typical building project comprising of 11” x 17” non-compressed TIF renderings, 24” x 36” building plans in PDF format.

BERTL analysts built up the two documents within BT Plot Assistant and timed the production of 5 sets of each document both collated and uncollated.

Results: The job took 40% longer to conduct in collated mode due in part to the switching of media rolls from document to document. However, at the end of each set BERTL analysts were able to roll up each set in a matter of seconds ready for distribution.

The uncollated job took less time but resulted in 5 sets of each document which then had to be manually collated to create complete sets before rolling up and distributing. In BERTL’s opinion the time sacrificed in ‘stopwatch’ terms would have more than compensated for the greatly reduced user intervention in getting the job completed in a timely and efficient manner.

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### Xerox BT Plot Assistant

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operating Systems</th>
<th>Microsoft windows: 98SE, 2000, XP English versions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Browsers</td>
<td>Netscape 4.0 or later version Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.0 or later version</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plug-ins</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applications</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supported Languages</td>
<td>PDF, TIFF (non compressed), EDMICS, CALS, HP-GL, HP-GL/2, RTL, NIRS,CALS-I, PostScript, and PLT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Client workstation requirements</td>
<td>Pentium, 200 MHz, 64 MB of RAM, 5MB HDD free space</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Job Submission Tools

Web Submission Tool Functionality

Adding jobs to the queue was a simple process, with users choosing the file or the entire folder to be printed.

BT Lot Assistant supports a wide range of industry standard image file types including PDF. However, BERTL discovered that TIFF files were only supported with JPEG or no compression, with LZW and ZIP compression resulting in the job being rejected and deleted.

Also there is no support for DWF file format, the portable file format offered with AutoCAD. This would have further expanded the versatility of the application in a multi-user project environment.

Job settings can be made for size mappings to produce enlarged or reduced files to one size. These settings can be saved and used for commonly used workflows.

Pen, Color, Finishing, and Stamps can all be set up in the job settings window. A stamp can be added to the entire workflow which is an added bonus for administrators.
The Xerox 6204 is a scaleable digital monochrome wide format MFP that offers a small footprint with all the functionality that a small AEC or front office environment needs. It offers 600dpi resolution print, copy and scan resolutions for crisp copies, prints and scans. An onboard hard disk drive and powerful processor to process and store large scan jobs and allow for digital scan-once print-many functionality to improve workflow.

While the device is designed to be an entry level device leaving the high volume work loads to Xerox’s more expensive wide format product offerings the 6204 delivers a lot of functionality and ease of use that leaves some of the company’s other products way behind.

Standalone printing is made available via the inclusion of Windows print driver and HDI driver for AutoCAD (plus an optional PostScript driver) with more advanced project-based printing tasks made possible and streamlined via Xerox’s BT Plot Assistant. This versatile tool was found to be invaluable to BERTL as it attempted to carry out a selection of typical end user workflow scenarios such as batch printing. There is still plenty of scope for improvement in this application with the support for TIFF compression and DWF file format support being at the top of our wish list.

Scanning is fast and efficient with good image capture quality across a wide range of original types, allowing users to convert legacy paper-based documents quickly into electronic formats. Again, there is plenty of room for improvement with better integration and scan routing options. We would also like to have seen multi-stream support whereby a low resolution JPG viewing file is created parallel to the higher resolution capture archive file. This would have made navigating and managing files using the Scan Service utility more efficient.

Image quality across both copy and print modes was good with little need to experiment with the various image quality setting options that were made available. This is a plus for a device of this type where the typical user, a business professional will be looking for the minimum intervention with the device over the course of a day.

During evaluation, the green highlighter was discovered to be the manual mark up option of choice, providing easy mark up capabilities and the ability to retain the highlight and integrity of the data upon further scan or copy actions.

Design-wise BERTL found the device to be well thought out on the whole with easy toner and paper refilling processes which will be appreciated by front office staff in expensive business apparel. The compact footprint, and the front and side access to routine maintenance, and jam points allow the device to be positioned in small footprint office regions, which will again be appreciated in environments where office space is at a premium. We would like to see better accommodation of longer print runs with a higher capacity output area and a better designed scanner which was nearly dropped several times during the course of the evaluation.

The 6204 will certainly put Xerox in a strong position in the entry level decentralized wide format market and fills a gap in its portfolio that competitors had been exploiting up until now. Xerox has also just announced that it will also be offering the 6204 with its powerful Accxes controller adding yet more power and workflow capabilities to this pocket-sized wide format solution.
About BERTL

The success of an organization depends on its ability to manage its information and assets. An effective workflow process requires the complex integration of information, devices, software, and people. IT managers, office managers, and other knowledge management professionals need to know which digital imaging devices would best serve their specialized workflow processes.

BERTL’s services are designed around this real-world framework, delivering business consumers the independent analysis and insight they need to make critical decisions about digital imaging’s role in their organization.

Independent Analysis and Insight

BERTL’s reports, comparative data, and strategic guides look and digital imaging through the eyes of the business user. The research examines not only the technical features, but also vertical market applications, and business benefits. The impact on worker productivity is a primary concern.

BERTL is 100 percent independent. It receives no funding from manufacturers and all product evaluations and reports are published at BERTL’s own expense for its subscribers. Business users worldwide trust BERTL for objective, unbiased analysis of digital imaging systems.

BERTL Services

Reports and Star Ratings
BERTL analysts provide detailed reports of the technical and practical benefits of thousands of color and monochrome workgroup, departmental, office, graphic arts, wide format, and digital print production devices.

Product Specifications
DataCheck Gen II provides the most current competitive data on printers, copiers, MFPs, fax devices, wide format printers, scanners, and more.

News, Interviews, and Analysis
The ITchat online magazine provides insight into the dynamics and trends of the digital imaging marketplace through interviews, feature articles, and software reviews.

Vertical Sector Research
BERTL’s research paper library provides detailed, objective analysis of document-related productivity issues in vertical market segments, examining document workflow issues, usability, return on investment considerations, and more.

BERTL Awards
BERTL analysts recognize the leading devices and software solutions in the annual BERTL’s Best awards. BERTL also honors the performance of manufacturers in the annual Readers’ Choice selections.

Contact BERTL

200 Craig Road, Manalapan, NJ 07726 USA
Tel 1.732.761.2311 • Fax 1.732.761.2312
Email: info@bertl.com • www.BERTL.com