New options to improve print quality

How to get the clearest possible picture

Computers have experienced many changes over the past several years. Windows morphed from XP to Windows 7 to

Print Quality

○ Default   ○ Option 1   ○ Option 2   ● Option 3   ○ Option 4   ○ Option 5

Windows 8, and most recently, to Windows 10. (We won't even try to guess where Windows 9 went.) During all that time, hardware has changed. Processors have gotten faster and smaller. Video cards have gained memory and improved GPUs. Printers have gotten cheaper and sprouted fax, copying, and wi-fi abilities.

All of these changes have taken a toll on computer software technology. There is no longer a "one size fits all" solution to printing images from programs. What works on Windows 7 might look blurry on Windows 10. Images created for one video card might have jagged lines when displayed by another video card.

To address the many variables that affect the quality of printing, we have added six buttons to the FlashPoints Preferences screen. Shown above, these buttons are DEFAULT, OPTION 1, OPTION 2, OPTION 3, OPTION 4, and OPTION 5.

We have come up with these 6 options to allow each customer the ability to select the one that works best for their setup. By DEFAULT, the first button is selected for everyone. This button uses a series of default settings and seems to work pretty well for Windows 10. OPTION 5 retains the settings that were used in the last versions of FlashPoints. Our tests indicate that OPTION 5 works pretty well for Windows 7. However, if neither of these settings produce satisfactory results for you, there are still 4 more OPTIONS to try. For example, Denis, our head of Customer Support and Software Development, has found that OPTION 3 provides the best printing experience for him.

If the DEFAULT setting is producing fuzzy images on your drawings, try another setting. After you have saved the setting bring up a drawing in the print preview and see how it has changed. If you like what you see, try a test print. Also, be sure to try a test print to a PDF file and zoom in for a good look. PDF files are not always created the same as printed output.

We spent a lot of time researching the different ways of printing. Hopefully, we have created enough options so that there will be something for everyone.
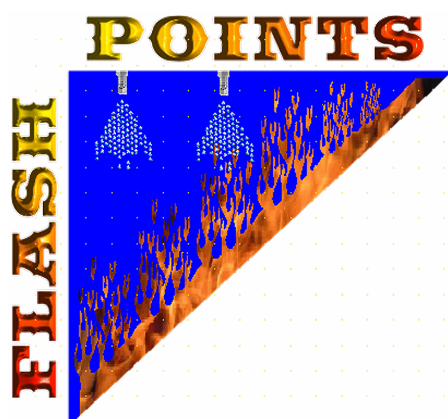

New Pricing a Success!

In August we introduced FlashPoints Pro. All FlashPoints Pro seats are licensed for one year for $300. This new license provides access to ALL of the systems in FlashPoints (Ansul, Amerex, Buckeye, Kidde, Pyro-Chem, Range Guard, and Protex).

Each seat receives 10 printing credits upon renewal, each year. Printing credits are kept in each customer's "bank". All of a customer's seats have access to the same bank and can draw from it. As more credits are purchased, they are added to the customer's bank and become available for all seats to use.

Printing credits are required to print drawings. A final print, suitable for AHJ submission, takes 1 full credit. Test prints can be made for 1/10th of a credit. If additional credits are required, they may be purchased from within FlashPoints (see the menu option for STORE).

This change has allowed us to relax one of our most restrictive licensing requirements. Drawings may now be printed and distributed freely. Make drawings for other branches or friends in the business, or start a side business selling drawings to other fire equipment dealers.

CURRENT FLASHPOINTS VERSION

The most recent FlashPoints version is Version 2.2.7.0

DRAW PROTEX II WITH FLASHPOINTS

Now you can draw PROTEX II systems with FlashPoints. Unfortunately, pricing is not available for PROTEX. We have contacted Heiser, but they have refused to provide pricing.