

Lexmark X422 MFP

By M. David Stone

Editors Rating: ●●●●○

COMPANY: Lexmark International Inc., www.lexmark.com

PRICE: \$1,499 street

SPEC DATA: Flatbed with ADF; 22 ppm; legal-size maximum scan area; USB and Ethernet connections; copier and fax capabilities

SUB-RATINGS:

TEXT: ●●●●●

GRAPHICS: ●●●●○

PHOTO: ●●●●○

PROS: Fast, excellent text output; duplex printing works for both faxing and copying

CONS: Maximum 600-dpi resolution

BOTTOM LINE: High-speed printing and scanning, along with duplex capability for printed, faxed, and copied output, are among the X422's attractions.

A FAST AND FURIOUS MFP

Lexmark touts its X422 MFP as a small-workgroup solution, but most any office would be happy to have this multifunction device. Built around a 22-page per minute monochrome laser engine, the X422 is also capable of copying at 22 ppm and scanning monochrome documents at 16 ppm. It can also print copied, faxed, or PC-sent documents in duplex mode, cutting down on paper costs. All told, the X422 fills the gap between ink jet-based MFPs and the far more expensive departmental-level MFPs.

The X422 looks like a small, desktop-size laser printer with a scanner mounted on the top; the scanner has legs, so you can get to the output bin between the printer and scanner. At 45 pounds, it's light enough for one person to lift and move around, although the installation instructions suggest it needs two. And with a footprint of 19.5 inches by 16.25 inches (WD), it could sit on your desk without taking up too much room. But its 16.25-inch height, which includes the automatic document feeder and front panel atop the unit, might make it a bit imposing.

Physical setup is almost trivial. Even the print cartridge comes installed in place, so all you have to do is take it out, remove the packing materials, and then snap it back into its slot. The only issue we ran into during installation was a reference in the installation instructions to an administration button on the front panel that isn't there. Network setup



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was a pleasant surprise, with an automated routine that finds the printer on the network and installs everything automatically. This is the first time Lexmark has taken an automated approach to network installation.

Print speed was impressive. The X422 ripped through our four-page PowerPoint file in less than 20 seconds, and it took less than 25 seconds for each of our Excel files (including a file with four pages of graphs) and only 41 seconds for our 12-page Word document. Its total time to complete our performance suite was just 5 minutes 7 seconds. As a point of comparison, the fastest ink jet-based MFP we've tested took nearly three times as long.

Output quality for text was excellent, with well over half of the test fonts readable at 4 points. Graphics and photos are merely appropriate for the 600-dpi resolution, with dithering as well as lines and edges that were less crisp than they could be.

The X422 is an impressive MFP. Unless you're concerned with printing high-quality monochrome graphics and photo output, it should rank near the top of your shopping list.

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