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C6000dn LED printer from OKI Printing Solutions



C6000dn color LED printer from OKI Printing Solutions

Color printer offers Ethernet connectivity and duplex printing

BY JAMES GALBRAITH

The more color laser printers come down in price, the more popular they become. Now, even high-end features like built-in automatic duplex printing and 10/100BaseT Ethernet networking are becoming standard features on some sub-\$1,000 color lasers, like the C6000dn from OKI Printing Solutions (Best Current Price: \$638.91). (The company offers a non-duplex model of this printer for \$150 less.) I love the printer's crisp black text, quick print speeds, and its paper-saving, double-sided printing feature, but the C6000dn could use a little work on its graphics printing abilities.

Design and usability

OKI Printing Solutions doesn't seem to put much thought into aesthetics. Beige and boxy, the C6000dn pretty much looks like every other OKI Printing Solutions printer we've tested. Its size is about average in terms of height and width; however, it's pretty deep, due to the space needed for its in-line toner cartridges.

This printer is easy to set up. Simply choose a USB 2.0 or 10/100BaseT Ethernet cable and connect it to your Mac. Then use the included installation CD to install the print drivers. When attached via Ethernet, the C6000dn was recognized auto-

matically via Bonjour. The printer can be used with Apple's generic PostScript printer driver, though printer-specific features like duplex printing and color-quality options are not accessible through the generic driver.

The printer comes with one paper tray, which holds 300 sheets, but it can be upgraded with a second tray, giving you an additional 530-page capacity for \$184 more.

Performance

We conduct our speed trials over Ethernet when it's available, and we found the C6000dn from OKI Printing Solutions to be a quick all-around printer. Taking 23 seconds to print a one-page Word document, the OKI Printing Solutions printer was substantially slower than some recent Xerox and Brother printers we've tested (they were able to print a single page in 14-15 seconds), but the C6000dn made up time on longer jobs, taking just 12 seconds longer to print a 10-page document. Using the built-in duplex printing feature to print the 10-page job on both sides of the paper took only 8 seconds more—a total of just 43 seconds. With PostScript built in, the C6000dn also zipped through our PDF and Photoshop tests at an impressive clip, taking less than a minute to print our

22MB Photoshop file and about 36 seconds to print our four-page PDF test file.

Black text quality was impressive, too—it was very sharp and legible at the default 600-dpi resolution. Colored text was a little less sharp in our graphics test. Photographic images, though smooth for a color laser, were a bit too red. The printer was able to print fine lines, though slight angles were noticeable in curved lines.

Macworld's buying advice

The C6000dn from OKI Printing Solutions is a fast, affordable color laser printer with networking and tree-saving duplex printing included as standard features. The printer displayed a few problems with our graphics tests, but if most of your print jobs are multiple-page, text-heavy documents, the C6000dn is definitely worth a look. □

TIMED TRIALS		
10-page Word test		0:35
1-page Word test		0:23
22MB Photoshop image quality		0:58
4-page PDF		0:36

Scale = Minutes: Seconds

JURY TESTS		
Graphics—Fine lines, gradients		Very Good
22MB Photoshop image quality		Very Good
Text quality		Superior

Scale = Superior, Very Good, Good, Fair, Poor

SPECIFICATIONS	
Print Resolution	1,200 x 600
Connection	10/100BaseT Ethernet; USB 2.0
Paper Sizes	From 4.1 x 5.8 inches up to 8.5 x 47.24 banner
PostScript Version	PostScript 3 emulation
Installed RAM / Max RAM	256MB / 512MB
Cost to replace ink / toner carts	\$617 (\$110 for black, per 5,000 pages; \$169 each for cyan, magenta, and yellow, for 4,000 pages)
Weight (in pounds)	64
Dimensions (height x depth x width in inches)	13.4 x 24.3 x 17.1
Paper capacity	400 (300-sheet fed tray and 100-page multipurpose tray)
Duty cycle	55,000
Special Features	Built-in duplexing

RATING: ★★★★

PROS: Built-in automatic duplex printing; 10/100BaseT Ethernet connection; superior text quality; quick at most tasks

CONS: First page takes a long time to print; imperfect fine line and graphics printing

PRICE AS RATED: \$850 Best Current Price: \$638.91 (via ProductFinder)

COMPANY: Oki Data Americas, www.okiprinting.com/solutions.com/us

James Galbraith is Macworld's lab director.

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