

Printers for Practices

Written by Pam Baker

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The shift to paper-based performance is causing havoc in terms of both costs and staff workloads in most physician offices across the country. While it is painfully obvious that the transition must take place, few physicians have the time to research the various technologies to make the job easier. One of the most overlooked electronic helpers is the office copier. Much has changed with this old standby and it could very well hold the key to increasing profits and speeding the work process. To help you pick the best machine for your needs, here is the scoop on the top five most popular models for physician offices:

Xerox WorkCentre Pro 123 or 128

These machines offer scan to email, scan to mailbox, scan to PC, scan to file server and scan to FTP or SMB, giving you the ability to electronically file, archive or distribute documents. It also has encrypted data transmission and disk image overwrite protection. Both models have a high-speed fax modem and JBIG compression with speed dials and group dials. You can fax two-sided documents automatically and also print incoming faxes two-sided.

The open architecture allows for easy integration with third-party software solutions.

A large, easy to use touch screen graphical interface and integrated control panel provides convenient access to all advanced features. The Job Queue shows all jobs queued in the system and allows easy job prioritization on the run.

Either can be purchased direct from the manufacturer for around \$8,000 although list price is \$10,000 to \$11,000. The finisher is \$1500 extra.

Oki Data Americas' B4545

The B4545 is most often used to scan insurance cards and print invoices. The scan-to-email and scan-to-network functions convert hardcopy documents into electronic files and send to an e-mail address or network folder without the use of a computer. The Scan-to and print-from the USB flash drive allows users to save, share and transport documents directly without the use of a computer. Full-featured analog fax enables users to quickly and easily send and receive documents. LAN fax compatibility allows users to fax documents via Internet bypassing phone lines. Reverse Automatic Document Feeder (RADF) scans both sides of a document automatically and provides two-sided copies and prints (w/optional duplex unit).

Includes OmniPage software to turn paper, PDF and pictures into files that are easily editable; and, PaperPort which simplifies the scanning process by converting hardcopy documents into electronic format. ID Copy Mode enables users to copy both sides of wallet-size documents onto one page. Street price is \$449.

Kyocera Mita FS-4000DN and FS-C5030N

Two popular Kyocera Mita America models, the FS-4000DN and FS-C5030N have been Cerner Certified for healthcare information systems. Both have a wide array of output capabilities and are cartridge-free machines.

Kyocera Mita's patented ECOSYS technology, long-life Drum and Cartridge Free design enables a substantial reduction in the cost of consumables – the largest undocumented expense associated with printing.

The units are vertical which saves space in cramped areas, and offer electronic forms storage.

The FS-4000DN Monochrome Printer is rated at 300,000 impressions, and offers Kyocera's ECOSYS Printer technology, which lessens the need for users to replace the toner container, as it lasts for an astounding 20,000 pages.

High-speed printing rates are 47 PPM Letter and 36 PPM Legal. Unit has PowerPC750 500MHz Controller, standard 128MB of RAM, standard network interface, and USB Host Printing.

The FS-C5030N is a network-ready 26ppm full-color printer capable of imaging at 600 dpi. In addition the fast PowerPC750FX/600MHz CPU processes documents quickly for maximum productivity and minimum wait time.

Kyocera Mita's FS-4000DN and FS-C5030N have manufacturer's suggested retail prices (MSRP) of \$1,676 and \$2,625, respectively.



Pam Baker

About the author:

Pam Baker, an American writer, is the author of six books and numerous analytical studies on various technologies for VisionGain Research, headquartered in London. Her published credits also include hundreds of articles for national and international media such as Wireless IQ, Telematics Journal, IT Business Insider, Institutional Investor Magazine (covering the U.S., UK, Belgium, Ireland, Brazil and Turkey), Success Magazine, E-Commerce Times, I Six Sigma Magazine, CIO Today, NewsFactor.com, Enterprise I.T., BPM Today, MacNewsWorld, LinuxInsider, CRM Buyer, CRM Daily, SCI-Tech Today, TechNewsWorld, Georgia Trend Magazine, Economos International Business Magazine, and Knight-Ridder/McClasky newspapers.

Baker was nominated for the 2004 Templeton-Cambridge Journalism Fellowship in Science and Religion in the UK, and is a member of the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

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