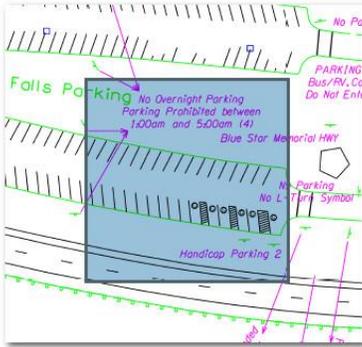


Point Cloud Attachments (even if referenced or not found) Affect Creation of PDFs

Attachments to point clouds (.pod) in basemap files can have bad effects on downstream drafters. The MicroStation printer driver detects the point cloud attachment, even if the attachment is to a nested reference or the point cloud file is not found. If there is a point cloud attachment detected, the print (or PDF) will be rasterized and the check box to turn it off is disabled.

What's the problem with a rasterized print or PDF?

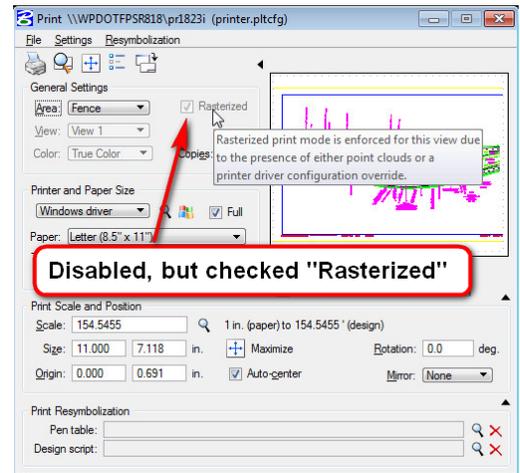
“When creating a rasterized print, the product breaks up the view into many tiles and makes multiple passes over the DGN file to rasterize each tile using the graphics hardware. Larger print sizes require more tiles, and thus take longer to print and produce larger plot file sizes.”
(MicroStation Help, Print Dialog)



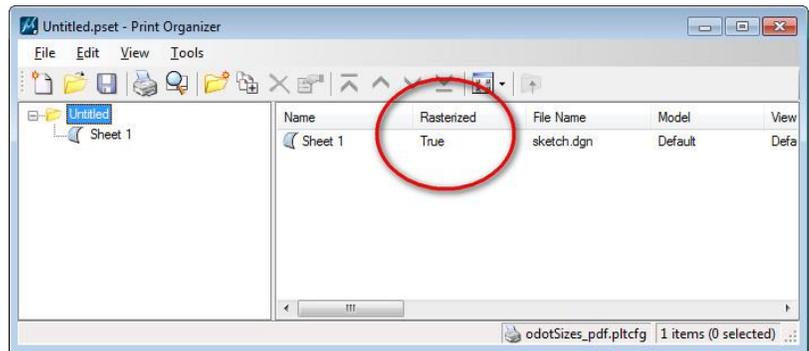
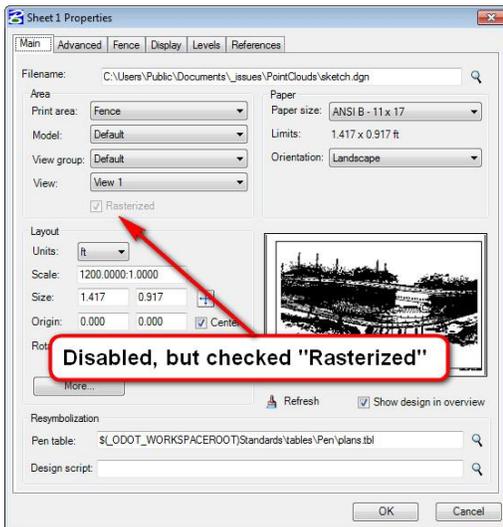
In addition to taking longer and producing larger files, the PDF is tiled, is not searchable for text in Adobe programs and comments or annotations with text do not function in the Adobe programs. Often, diagonal lines and text look blurry.

How Can I Recognize This Situation?

It is easier to recognize that you will be producing rasterized prints when using the regular Print dialog, but you can also see the “Rasterized” setting in Print Organizer in the print definition properties.

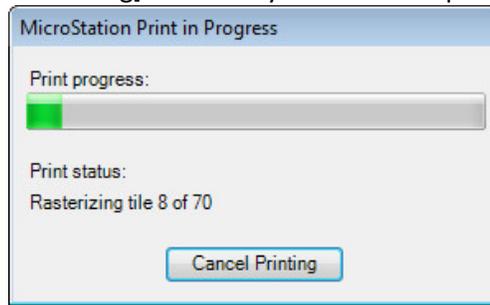


The grayed out “Rasterized” check box is visible on the Print dialog.



In Print Organizer, “Rasterized” is a property that may be displayed in the column view.

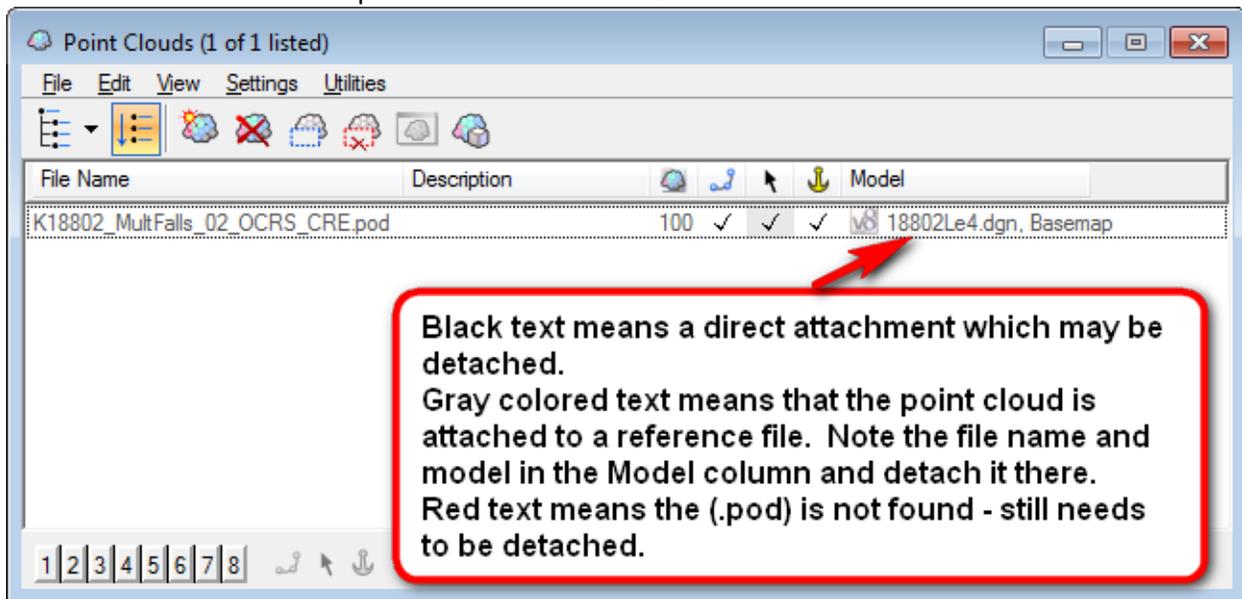
If you miss the cues that are illustrated in these images, you will definitely see a “MicroStation Print in Progress” dialog appear when you send the print – [Cancel Printing] will allow you to exit the printing process and correct the situation.



So how do I correct the situation and keep my prints and PDFs from rasterizing?

Determine from where the point clouds are attached and detach them. That’s the only solution that I know.

Open the Point Clouds dialog (**File>Point Clouds**), ensure that the Model column is displayed and look there to identify both the file name and the model name that has the point cloud attachment. Open the identified file to that model and using the Point cloud dialog, select all (.pod) attachments and Detach them. Now you may return to creating your PDF from MicroStation Print and it will be produced without rasterization.



Please note – Print Organizer print definitions have saved rasterization as a property. You may either recreate Print Organizer print definitions, or open the print definition properties (this may be done with a selection set) to uncheck “Rasterized” on the Main tab. Don’t forget to save.