

BIM – ARCHITECTURAL PRINTING AND PUBLISHING

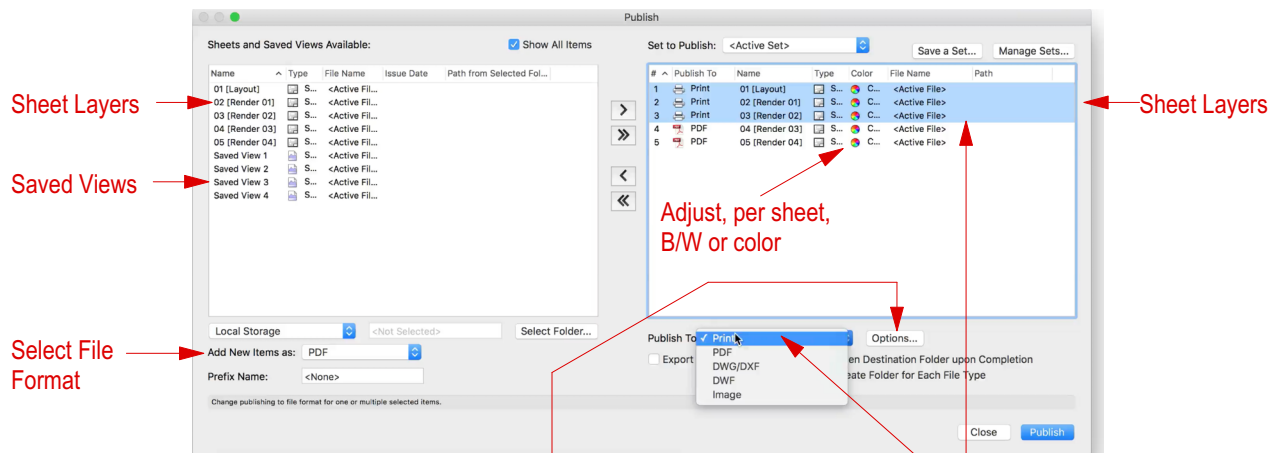
INTRODUCTION

With Vectorworks software, it is possible to print from both design layers and sheet layers. However, there are several distinct advantages to printing from sheet layers. For instance, the page boundary, which is on by default, may have been turned off (intentionally or accidentally), making it difficult to determine the printable area. If you do not see the page boundary on a design layer, use the Fit to Page Area command [View>Zoom]. This command changes the view to match the page boundary area. To see the page boundary if it is not visible, go to File> Page Set Up and make sure "Show Page Boundary" is checked. The page boundary is the printable area; anything outside of the printable area on a design layer will not print. Rather than move your page boundary or change your active layer scale to make the design fit inside prior to printing, consider printing from a sheet layer.

Think of sheet layers as pieces of paper. You can set each sheet layer to have a different printable area or page size. The printable area for design layers is set per document, not per design layer. This flexibility — being able to choose the appropriate page size on a per sheet basis — is another distinct advantage of utilizing sheet layers for printing as opposed to design layers.

Another way to print documents is by using the Publish command. By going to [File>Print] on a design layer, only objects visible within the printable area are printed. By using [File>Print] from a sheet layer, only that single sheet layer will print. Publish allows you to print, as well as export to PDF, DWG/DXF, DWF, or an Image File, all from one dialog.

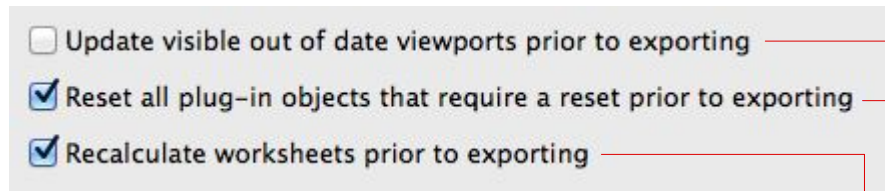
When you run the Publish command, by going to [File>Publish], all of your sheet layers and saved views are listed on the left half of the dialog under the "Sheets and Saved Views Available" header. You are able to select multiple sheet layers and/or saved views, then choose which format to "Add New Items as:" from a drop down menu on the lower left portion of the dialog. Using Publish, you can simultaneously print a set of drawings as well as export them to PDF and DWG without exiting the dialog to re-run each set as a different format.



Click options to change the print or export settings of each format.
For printing, you are not able to change the Page Setup options
from this dialog; that must be done prior to publishing.
See Page 2 for more on "Options..."

Change the "Publish To" format of selected views

Prior to clicking Publish, it is prudent to check your "Options..." This can be done on a per view/sheet basis, or by selecting multiple views/sheets of the same "Publish To:" format. Three common things to note between printing, PDF, and DWG publish are:



☐ Update visible out of date viewports prior to exporting

☒ Reset all plug-in objects that require a reset prior to exporting

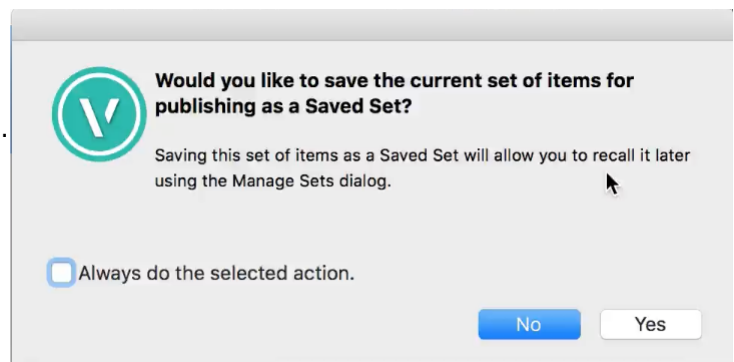
☒ Recalculate worksheets prior to exporting

Ensures your worksheets have the most up-to-date information when checked.

The best example of a reason to keep "Reset all plug-in objects" checked is if you are using the Data Stamp tool. Checking this box ensures that the parameter values of the tool are updated to reflect the current time and date every time the Publish command is used. However, this may cause viewports to become out of date even when there is no visual difference.

It is recommended that you update your viewports manually prior to publish, especially if there are rendered views in your document. Some views can take a while to render. There are some changes that would cause a viewport to show as out of date without affecting the visual appearance of the viewport, such as resetting plug-in options. If you know your viewports have the visual appearance you desire, uncheck this box prior to publishing so that your rendered viewports do not re-render unnecessarily, adding time to the Publish command.

After clicking Publish, a dialog will open asking if you would like to save the current set of items for publishing. You are able to save multiple sets. For instance, if each consultant is requesting different information, PDFs to one and DWGs to another, as well as a printed set for markups, you can create a "Saved Set" for each consultant.



Publish essentially combines [File>Print] and [File>Export>PDF; DWG/DXF; DWF; and Image File] into a single dialog that allows you to setup various sets of saved views and sheet layers. Once these sets are configured the publishing process becomes more automated and efficient.