



# Test Report

## MULTIFUNCTIONAL PRODUCTS

Xerox WorkCentre M15i/M15PL

16 PPM / Segment 1

Copier/Printer/Fax/Scanner

### GENERAL APPRAISAL



Turning in a good overall performance, including excellent reliability, ease of use and overall output quality, the Xerox WorkCentre M15i is a 16-ppm Segment 1 multifunctional device offering standard copying, standalone facsimile (including color fax transmission) and PC-based printing and color scanning capabilities as well as optional network printing. Priced lower than the average for devices in this speed range, this unit, which is one of only a few models in this range to provide automatic duplexing in print and 1:2 copy modes, displayed outstanding reliability during BLI's three-month, 22,500-impression durability test, with no service required and only two misfeeds, for a misfeed rate of two per 11,250 impressions.

BLI technicians found the unit, which outputs on up to legal-size paper, easy to use. Contributing to the unit's good ease of use is its uncluttered control panel, which includes a button to select the display for copying, faxing or scanning. Further contributing to ease of use is the ability to program fax destinations remotely from the PC.

In addition, the unit has a document feeder that can be adjusted for height, making it easier to copy pages in books. Moreover, the unit received good marks for its documentation as well as its procedures for loading paper, removing misfeeds and removing and replacing the toner cartridge and drum. Ease of use as a printer was also good.

In addition to being user-friendly, the WorkCentre M15i displayed good overall output, receiving BLI's highest image quality rating in both print and copy mode for all categories evaluated (text, line art, halftones and solids). And the unit's first-copy times, at 11.2 seconds from the platen and 12.4 seconds from the automatic document feeder, as well its first-page time in print mode, at 13.25 seconds, are competitive when compared to Segment 1 units tested.

Noteworthy features include a standard paper capacity of 550 sheets and a bypass tray capacity of 100 sheets, both of which are higher than the average for products in this speed range; the ability to make up to 999 copies in a single run; and a multi-language display for the control panel (English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, German, Italian, Dutch, Danish, Swedish, Finnish and Norwegian).

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## General Appraisal *continued*

As a fax machine, the unit displayed good procedures for transmitting from memory after a failed communication. In addition to the ability to transmit faxes in color, fax features include a 33.6-Kbps modem, MMR compression, 80 speed-dial numbers, 4 MB of dedicated fax memory, 72-hour battery backup, confidential mailboxes, multi-access, timers (to memory capacity), a 6.21-second-per-page BLI-tested scan speed, broadcasting, error-correction mode and a secure fax feature that enables the unit to receive faxes into memory, which can be printed only when the user enters a secure passcode.

## Connectivity

The Xerox WorkCentre M15i, which was tested using a direct connection to a PC via the standard USB interface (a parallel interface is also standard, an Ethernet interface is available as an option), performed well as a printer. The unit includes a PCL 6 print driver for Windows 95, 98, 2000, Me, XP and NT 4.0 that BLI technicians found easy to use. The driver offers features that would be expected for a device in this category, including paper size selection, fit to page, N-up printing (2 to 16), poster printing, watermarks, duplexing and booklet mode. The unit provides 600-x-600-dpi resolution as well as an enhanced resolution of 1200 x 1200 dpi.

The WorkCentre M15i also performed well as a scanner via its bundled TWAIN driver that must be loaded on the PC and can be used with any application that supports TWAIN. The driver provides selections for adjusting image type, resolution (75 to 4800 dpi), reduce/enlarge (25% to 400%), sharpness and rotate, flip or invert image. In addition, a preview selection, which allows

users to preview the scanned image, is available, but it should be noted that users must rescan the original for the final image.

The unit also comes bundled with two scanning software programs—PaperPort Deluxe 8.0 and OmniPage SE. PaperPort Deluxe is a document management software program that allows users to display scanned images as thumbnails, file images in custom folders, edit scanned images with annotations, highlight, zoom and crop. In addition, an image can be dragged and dropped onto an application icon on the taskbar in order to auto-launch it into another program. For example, if a user drops an image containing text onto the Microsoft Word icon on the task bar, the graphic image is automatically processed with OCR, converted to editable text using OmniPage SE and then opened in Word. OmniPage SE is an OCR program that allows users to scan documents and then view, edit and manipulate (crop and rotate, for example) the scanned images from their workstation. OmniPage also allows users to scan multiple documents from the platen or the ADF. The unit offers three ways to OCR a document—by selecting the icon wizard in OmniPage SE or by dragging and dropping the scanned document onto the OmniPage SE icon or a third-party program, such as Microsoft Word. In testing OCR capability, BLI technicians found 13 formatting errors and an average of about five text errors.

## Shortcomings

BLI technicians found the following shortcomings in testing: 1) The unit's efficiency in both simplex and duplex mode is well below the av-

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**General Appraisal** *continued*

erage for Segment 1 units tested to date. 2) In addition to not allowing users to program a copy job while another copy job is in progress, which is typical of Segment 1 units, this unit also does not allow programming of a copy job when a print job is in progress. 3) Although not uncommon for devices in this category, ease of adjusting paper drawers was rated "Fair" because users must enter the new paper size at the control panel. 4) The unit's automatic document feeder capacity is slightly below the average for Segment 1 multifunctional units in the 11- to 21-ppm speed range. And the unit's toner yield, at 5,482 impressions, is below the average for Segment 1 units.

**Price Analysis and Summary**

BLI's pricing analysis revealed that the Xerox WorkCentre M15i is priced lower than the average for comparably equipped units in this speed range. The unit's cost per page, however, is slightly higher than the average for Segment 1 units tested to date.

Because of its good reliability, ease of use and output quality, BLI recommends the Xerox WorkCentre M15i for monthly volumes of up to 5,000 impressions.

**Copy Quality:**

Text: ..... Good

Line art: ..... Good

Halftones: ..... Good

Solids: ..... Good

**Print Quality:**

Text: ..... Good

Line art: ..... Good

Halftones: ..... Good

Solids: ..... Good

Ease of use: ..... Good

Ease of maintenance: ..... Good

Estimated waste: ..... Low

Estimated downtime: ..... Low

Misfeeds: ..... 2

Misfeed rate: ..... 1 per 11,250 impressions

**Total service calls**

(including PMs): ..... 0

MIBF: ..... Not applicable

MIBS: ..... Not applicable

**Toner yield**

(at 6% coverage): ..... 5,482 impressions

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