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LEXMARK

Better Buys for Business
EDITOR'S CHOICE 2009

Lexmark X463de
Lexmark X464de
Lexmark X466de
Lexmark X466dwe
Lexmark X466dte
40ppm

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Sum-up: Strong features and affordable costs for small-to-midsize workgroups.

As we have noted elsewhere, Lexmark has upgraded its whole printer and printer multifunctional line over the last year. A new design offers a full range of improvements to what was already a solid base. The X460 Series, like the slower X360 Series (see above), is based on Lexmark's excellent E Series laser printer line. In addition to fast speed, they offer a wealth of extended features and a lower cost per page.

All of these models print and copy at 40ppm. The distinctions between them offer alternative features. All models start with standard automatic duplexing and come network ready. The main differences between the models are:

- The X463de ($999) is the base model, with copy, print, and scan features.
- The X464de ($1,199) adds faxing.
- The X466de ($1,499) is what Lexmark calls "solutions ready," meaning it is capable of running embedded applications. It adds a hard disk and more memory.
- The X466dwe ($1,599) adds Wi-Fi connectivity to the X466de.
- The X466dte ($1,679) adds an extra standard paper tray to the X466de.

Note that you can upgrade all the models with customer-installable hard disks and memory, along with wireless and fax cards.

These models are powered by a 500MHz processor. Standard memory for the X463de and X464de is 128MB maxing out at 640MB; on the X466 models, it is 256MB. A hard disk drive is standard on the X466 models. You can also print from or scan to a USB thumb drive on all models.

USB and Ethernet connectivity are standard, while Wi-Fi is also standard on the X466dwe (and optionally available on the other models).

All of the models have a 50-sheet duplexing document feeder (DADF), allowing for two-sided copies and scans. There is also a legal-size platen on all of these models.

The standard paper supply includes a 250-sheet paper tray and a 50-sheet bypass. The X466dte adds an additional 550-sheet tray. All the other models give you a choice between a 250-sheet or a 550-sheet drawer, with a maximum capacity of 850 sheets across the family.

Very unusual in this price range, these models sport a large (7") LCD e-Task color touchscreen panel on all models. It supports Lexmark's software, including MyMFP, which allows you to customize settings for the control panel for each user, including

Lexmark X466de - Member of a new 40ppm family that has strong environmental and security features.

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frequently used functions and scan destinations. Lexmark's Embedded Solutions Framework (eSF) (see the Vendor Profile above) is supported on the X466 configurations, providing even more workflow options from the touchscreen.

Printing includes standard PCL and PostScript, along with 1,200dpi resolution. First print time is a very good 6.5 seconds.

The scanning unit uses CCD technology and scans at 600dpi. Lexmark's e-Task interface allows for scan-to-email, to-file, and to-PDF as standard features. LDAP addressing is also supported. Faxing is at 33.6kbps.

The maximum duty cycle is 80,000 pages. Lexmark recommends a more realistic usage range between 2,000 and 10,000 pages.

These models have multicomponent consumables. They ship with a 7,000-page toner cartridge and a 30,000-page photoconductor (drum). You can choose between 3,500-, 9,000- and 15,000-page toner cartridges, and the replacement photoconductors are also for 30,000 pages. Using the highest-yield cartridges, the cost per page is around 1.8 cents. That is quite good for an MFP in its speed range.

These models have the same fine environmental features as other new Lexmark models. These include an Eco-Mode that can reduce paper and power use, a Quiet Mode for reducing printer noise, an instant warm-up fuser, which allows you to avoid having the printer constantly generating heat, and a good cartridge recycling program. Security features include hard disk encryption and wiping, along with LDAP access control.

Lexmark has also engineered in a set of small improvements, including features that maintain consistent output darkness during the life of consumables and between replacements, a more precise gear train for more exact image placement, and a feature that enhances and makes more consistent fine lines.

Lexmark has now put in new, upgraded black-and-white multifunctionals from bottom to top. It is offering consistent basic architecture while giving a wide array of choices for customizing at each level. The X460 models are now the industry leader in their segment for price and performance, and their features equal and, in many respects, surpass comparable models from other vendors. These models deserve our Editor's Choice Award.

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Vendor Profile

Lexmark is known primarily as a vendor of printers. In fact, it is the only American printer vendor that manufactures its own laser engines. Its inkjet engines come from various sources, but Lexmark is pretty closemouthed about its suppliers. The company does add considerable value to these ink jets, however.

The company is now deeply involved in the laser multifunctional market. The laser models are built on its existing base in the office laser printer market, where its current printer models are enhanced with scanners and fax modems. These models tend to be serious workgroup printers with lots of input and output options. Lexmark has several monochrome laser printer multifunctionals.

These MFPs have a wealth of hardware and software features that make them leaders in the printer multifunctional category.

Lexmark models are available on line and through catalogs and retailers. Some Lexmark laser products are also sold through other vendors, including Dell, InfoPrint, and Toshiba.

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