



2006 Pick of the Year

*Outstanding Mid-Size Workgroup Console
Monochrome Multifunction Printer, Fall 2006*



Lexmark X646ef MFP



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The Lexmark X646ef MFP provided an impressive performance in BLI's two-month lab evaluation, earning a BLI Fall 2006 "Pick of the Year" award for "Outstanding Mid-Size Workgroup Console Monochrome Multifunction Printer." Equipped with an integrated legal-size flatbed scanner, 50-page ADF with dual scan heads and 10/100BaseTX Ethernet interface, the X646ef MFP proved to be highly reliable, completing a 125,000-impression durability test without a single service call or misfeed.

"The Lexmark X646ef offers a winning combination of features and functionality, image quality, ease of use and affordability that make it an excellent choice for businesses," said BLI Senior Printer Analyst Marlene Orr. "At \$4,449, the X646ef is priced more than \$300 less than the competition and its cost per page is among the lowest. Add to that Lexmark's proven reliability, excellent management utilities and available software solutions and you've got a perfect fit for mid-size workgroups."

The X646ef includes a number of standard security features, such as authentication with secure corporate directory browsing. This allows for controlled access to the device and operations such as sending, copying, faxing and using forms, ensuring that the user's identity can be associated with the pages that are scanned and sent. In addition, LDAP information on the network is protected by SSL encryption. Furthermore, the administrator can lock or disable certain operator panel menus to prevent users from making unauthorized changes to device configuration. Administrators can also use MarkVision Professional to set up user and/or group accounts to control access to the status utility, fax and other device settings.

As a printer, the X646ef MFP offers good ease of use via its drivers, and easy-to-follow installation procedures make installing the drivers quick and easy. The unit is also easy to use as a walk-up device. BLI technicians were particularly impressed with its control panel design, which incorporates a customizable touch-sensitive 8" color LCD display with an easy-to-navigate menu system that makes use of copy, scan and fax functions intuitive. In addition, control panel buttons for functions such as duplexing are identified with names that will be easily recognizable by copier users.

The X646ef MFP also has a convenient USB port that enables the user to print files directly, without a PC, simply by plugging a flash drive into the printer's control panel. The USB port also allows walk-up users to scan documents directly to a flash drive from the control panel. Further adding to the unit's value is a standard 600-sheet StapleSmart finisher for single-position stapling of up to 25 sheets per set. Only three other models in this speed range include this functionality standard.

The Lexmark X646dte MFP is highly recommended by BLI for mid-size workgroups with monthly print volumes of up to 75,000 impressions.

About BLI's Picks of the Year

Twice a year with its "Pick of the Year" awards, BLI gives special recognition in each category to those products that provided the most outstanding performances in BLI's exhaustive lab tests.

BLI's awards stand alone in that they are based on a rigorous battery of lab tests that takes approximately two months to complete and includes an extensive durability test, during which each unit is run at the manufacturer's maximum recommended monthly volume. BLI's durability test is unique among office product evaluations and uniquely qualifies BLI to assess reliability, which is a critical factor for buyers and IT directors, given that virtually all of the products are designed for use on networks.

In addition to assessing reliability, in terms of the number of service calls and PM (preventive maintenance) calls required, as well as misfeed frequency, BLI's comprehensive evaluation includes an assessment of copy and print quality, productivity, ease of use and economy, as well as connectivity issues such as feedback to workstations, administrative utilities, print drivers, multitasking and scanning solutions. Each product that successfully passes BLI's lab test earns BLI's "Recommended" or "Highly Recommended" seal and a BLI "Certificate of Reliability" and qualifies as a "Pick" award contender. Consequently, a BLI "Pick of the Year" is a hard-earned award that buyers and IT directors can trust to better guide them in their acquisition decisions.

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