You may have wished you had chosen different vector colors or had used the color balancing tools after you see a printed copy. The ability to proof to the screen removes the need to blindly print and subsequently adjust colors. For accurate proofing, your View Options must have the rendering intent set to absolute colorimetric rendering and you need to select a named or custom profile. If “Use sRGB and let the display driver handle color management” is on, your display driver takes over and the effects of proofing to the screen are lost. Background on color management is provided on the color plate entitled Color Management for X Server and Views.

The proof to screen option is found on the Profile tab in the Page Setup window. This option runs the displayed pixels through the printer profile and returns those values to the screen so what you see should match what the print will look like if you adhere to the parameters stated in the preceding paragraph. Redrawing takes somewhat longer with this option on. If the printer driver you are using expects sRGB data, as most HP printers do, turn on the “Use profile for proofing only” toggle. You can then proof to the screen and also send the printer the data it expects.

These screen captures show proofing to screen results for the same printer profile with each of the four rendering intents (see the color plate entitled Color Management for X Server and Views). The screen capture immediately above used the same rendering intent as the screen capture above it but with the “Use out-of-gamut alarm” toggled on. This option displays pixels that have been altered from their original value in the color you select (here the default red) and can be used to check any of the four methods. An additional color plate, entitled Color Management and Printer Profiles, illustrates differences between printer profiles when proofing to the screen. The difference between the absolute colorimetric and the other three rendering intents is readily apparent on screen and in printed copy, but the differences between the other three are more subtle.