
Subject: Re: Getting nice printed output

Posted by [Simon Moore](#) on Mon, 17 Nov 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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David Fanning wrote in message ...

[snip]

>> Imagine my surprise, then, when I tried to print out a simple
>> little object graphics program as the first "test case".
>> I waited for about 5 minutes before windows started to shut
>> down, my virtual memory was overflowing, and I started getting
>> cryptic error messages from IDL. I finally had to leave to
>> go get the kids. I never did get anything out of the damn
>> printer.

>>

>> Frankly, I've just about given up on the PRINTER device. :-(

[snip]

Hmmm, well you're not the only one having printing problems using object graphics:

I've tried both a HP4+ (default NT driver) and HP5 (HP's own driver) under both NT4.0 SP2 & SP3, using both IDL5.0 & 5.02.

I have never yet succeeded in getting PCL output from any combination of the above - I tend to give up when IDL has grabbed 80Mb of virtual memory and my system has stopped responding to user input. I can (just) get Postscript output, so long as I use Dialog_PrinterSetup, not Dialog_PrintJob.

I did once send a bug report to FPS (RSI's UK arm) and the gist of the reply was "Interesting, but we've never had any problem" ...

[snip]

> The output...well, the annotations are nice. :-) But the
> page used half my toner to get the gray background color
> and the plot and axes lines have disappeared. The lesson
> for the day: forget all that fancy graphics stuff and draw
> black on white if you are sending stuff to the PRINTER device.
> I'll bet it would have looked great if I had been able to
> convince my wife to let me get that color PostScript printer
> I wanted. :-)

[snip]

I'd say the problem seems to be with line thicknesses - the plot lines and axes do seem to be there, just VERY thin.

Sometimes there is no option but to use colour - and IDL's colour PS (at least pre-object graphics) is very good.

Simon
