
Subject: Re: Getting nice printed output
Posted by [davidf](#) on Fri, 14 Nov 1997 08:00:00 GMT
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Alright, I was having a bad day when I wrote this:

- > I got a brand new printer today, having been thinking for
- > awhile that my printer problems were related to my extremely
- > reliable, but hopelessly outdated Apple Personal Laserwriter.
- >
- > This one has 36 MBytes of RAM, and is fast, fast, fast.
- >
- > 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. :-(

Just about the time I hit the SEND button on that message I remembered that I had to download a new PostScript driver for the printer. Wanting to be fair, I thought I would give the PRINTER device another chance to impress me.

Well...

I used my XPlot program, which is just a simple line plot. After I hit the Print button I waited 53 seconds with the Dialog_Printer dialog staring at me. I waited another 2:39 for something to come out of my fast printer. But, it did come out with no virtual memory overflow or any other error messages. The PRINTER device is doing something right.

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. :-)

Cheers,

David

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