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Subject: "hyper" PS\_FORM

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Tue, 13 Jan 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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The sample programs provided by David Fanning at

<http://www.dfanning.com/documents/programs.html>

contain a wealth of good ideas. In fact, I use XWINDOW, TVIMAGE and PS\_FORM daily to do most of my graphics output. Thanks David!

One thing I had always wished for was a version of the PS\_FORM function that could be customized with different plot layouts and paper sizes. I found myself wanting to make a series of plots with the same margins and layout. I also suspect that many European IDL users would like a PS\_FORM that understands metric paper sizes. So, I set to work to update PS\_FORM.

I am pleased to announce my own version of PS\_FORM, available from the web, which I am distributing with David Fanning's permission. My version was designed for use with IDL 4, but it has been tested cursorily on IDL 5 by Fanning. You will find it at

<http://astrog.physics.wisc.edu/~craigm/idl/idl.html>

Although it retains its ancestral ties to PS\_FORM, much of the program is new, and David Fanning can't be responsible for it. This is pretty much my own work here. Please let me know if it helps you out.

Craig

From the web page:

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PS\_FORM.PRO

Originally by David Fanning, this function creates a printer setup dialog that can be used when sending output to a Postscript printer. The user interactively selects the desired attributes of the Postscript output, such as color and size. The return value of the function is a structure which can be sent to the DEVICE command. David Fanning's other superb graphics programs use this function to set up Postscript printers.

This version is significantly enhanced from Fanning's original, but is still a drop-in replacement. New features:

- \* Selection of paper size, including A4 and a myriad of other eurometric paper dimensions. Please test this for me, since our printers are

exclusively US Letter size here.

\* Custom plot layouts, selectable by dropbox. This is a great way to ensure that every plot comes out with standard margins. Several of my favorite layouts are included as the default, but you can include your own by declaring a common block. The technique is documented under "COMMON BLOCKS" at the head of the program file.

\* Streamlined internal operations. The program file is quite a bit shorter than the original.

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