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Subject: Re: "hyper" PS\_FORM  
Posted by [hahn](#) on Mon, 19 Jan 1998 08:00:00 GMT  
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Craig Markwardt <craigm@cow.physics.wisc.edu> wrote:

> The sample programs provided by David Fanning at

[snip]

> 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.

European users should add the /isolatin1 to the parameter list of device.  
This simplifies the use of national characters.

[snip]

> \* 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.

A couple of plotters will be quite happy with this procedure. However, some devices with cut paper may show a problem: The printable area is smaller than the paper size: We have 6 special purpose PS printers, all support A4, some printers support a couple of other paper sizes as well. I checked the PPDs of some of our printers and found it a horrible task to process a PPD with IDL.

A long time ago there was a procedure called phaser.pro (which now resides in the obsolete directory) that handles the printable area of some Tektronix Phaser printers... A more modern procedure should be able to read the PPD of the printer and find out the imageable area. The user may then shrink the imageable area to suit his purposes.

Maybe I've overlooked it: How does ps\_form center the printable area?

... just a couple of thoughts

Norbert

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