
Subject: Re: Is there a worthy printing utility
Posted by [Peter Mason](#) on Mon, 16 Mar 1998 08:00:00 GMT
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On Sat, 14 Mar 1998, David Fanning wrote:

<...>

- > What I would really like is a Print File item under the
- > File menu button in the IDE that would allow me to select ANY
- > file in my directory and send it to the default printer.
- > This would give me control over formatting PostScript output
- > as I like (via the PS device) and it would provide an easy
- > way to get the output sent to a printer.

I have some code that will let you send a "print file" (a postscript or PCL file or something like that) directly to a (compatible) Windows printer, under program control. It sticks up a list of the available Windows printers and sends the file straight to the one you select. It's in a mixture of C and IDL.

I wrote it to replace the strictly-Win3.1x "DEVICE,PRINT_FILE=" function in IDL 4, really, and expected that it would not be needed in IDL 5. If anyone is interested in it, then let me know and I'll make it available. (It's not entirely standalone at the moment.)

While I'm at it, let me tell you about some other hybrid routines I have that are also on the cutting edge of uselessness.

There's one that is passed a draw-window ID or draw widget value and sticks the graphic onto the clipboard (like the IDL4 menu-option does, but without needing a mouse click), and another that sticks a 2D array of numbers onto the clipboard in "Text" format. (With IDL4 it can also copy the array as a "Csv" - handy for pasting into Excel - but the sleight of hand I use to do this crashes IDL 5.) Last of all, there's one that returns a STRARR giving the drives attached (phys. and net.) to your PC. (Drive letters only.) Again, let me know if you're interested.

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