
Subject: Re: Is there a worthy printing utility
Posted by [davidf](#) on Sat, 14 Mar 1998 08:00:00 GMT
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Richard D. Hunt (rdhunt@sandia.gov) writes:

> Does anyone have printing utility that will work under IDL for MS
> windows and UNIX? I am trying to print something as simple as an
> 8-bit graphics image and I have played with Dialog_Printer* but
> they are too limiting and don't work well with object or direct
> graphics.

I had great hopes for the PRINTER device when I first heard about it. But I, too, have been frustrated by it. And especially with the way it handles images. (My images typically are printed as tiny half-inch squares in the bottom corner of the page.) I have discovered no way to combine images with other types of graphical output, like I can with the PS device.

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.

By the way, I just recently learned that to print a PostScript file on my Windows NT machine all I have to do is drag its icon onto my Printer icon. This starts up GhostView on my machine because this is the application associated with *.ps files in my registry and gives me the printer setup dialog. I simply select the "PostScript File" option and off it goes. Quite nice. This could easily be automated by spawning the "Send To" command.

Cheers,

David

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