
Subject: Is there a worthy printing utility

Posted by [Richard D. Hunt](#) on Fri, 13 Mar 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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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 have trid this problem two ways. First I grabbed the image (which is 100x500 pixels and is from a direct graphics window), created an image object and dumped it using an object printer. This works okay except on both OSs except the printfile is on the order of 11-28MB and depending on how many colors your window manager is set up for IDL will scale the colors of you image as it feels necessary. This does have the advantage that I can center and scale the image easily on the printer but you can't tell if the user is printing a protrait or landscape view and on MS windows the display must be set for 8-bit graphics or the colors get all screwed up. Second I tried using the PRINTER device but it is not trivial (or maybe even impossible) to scale and center the image on the page and here again you can't tell what the user has selected for options in Dialog_Printer*. I think the direct graphics printer would be better from the standpoint that it won't try to change color palettes as the object graphics does but again there is no real control over the device as far as setting up and placing the image on a page. All I want to do is be able to find out if the user selects portrait or landscape and set the xsize, ysize, xoffset, and yoffset features. If I am missing something on this any advice would be appreciated.

So, I guess I have to go back to using the PS and PCL devices to try to handle this. Has anyone else tackled this issue. I am using IDL 5.1 beta 2 and trying to print to an HP Color Laserjet 4/5 that supports PCL and PS.

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