
Subject: Re: Printing within Windows environment
Posted by [davidf](#) on Thu, 20 Aug 1998 07:00:00 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Bill Thompson (thompson@orpheus.nascom.nasa.gov) writes:

> I know this question has been asked before, but how does one send a file to the
> printer within IDL for Windows. In Unix, one would spawn the lpr command.
> I've tried spawning "PRINT <filename>", but that doesn't seem to work.

Here is a little routine that I use to print PostScript files from within IDL on my Windows NT machine. My printer is attached directly to my computer. The command will have to be different, probably, for networked printers.

The other day, however, I picked up a piece of freeware software called PrintFile from the Internet. It is great. Nice interface (drag and drop if you like), can print encapsulated PostScript files too, will work with networked printers as well as non-networked, etc. Unfortunately, the URL and other information is on my computer in the office and I am on the road teaching this week. I'll post the reference here when I get back to my office.

Cheers,

David

PRO PrintFile, filename

```
Catch, error
IF error NE 0 THEN BEGIN
    ok = Dialog_Message("Sorry. Problem printing file.")
    Catch, /Cancel
    RETURN
ENDIF
```

; Send a PostScript file to the printer.

```
IF N_Params() EQ 0 THEN BEGIN
    title = 'Open a file for PRINTING...'
    filter = '*.ps'
    filename = Dialog_Pickfile(Title=title, Filter=filter)
ENDIF
```

; Out of here if user canceled.

```
IF filename EQ " THEN RETURN
```

```
; Print it.
```

```
SPAWN, 'Copy ' + filename + ' LPT1'  
END
```

```
-----  
David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting  
E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com  
Phone: 970-221-0438  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.dfanning.com/
```
