
Subject: Re: PS device

Posted by [davidf](#) on Fri, 30 Oct 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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Harald Frey (hfrey@ssl.berkeley.edu) writes:

- > Which system variable (if it exists) contains the information, if the
- > current postscript device is set to portrait/landscape and
- > encapsulated/non-encapsulated? I can see this information on the screen
- > with the help,/device command, but how do I get this information into a
- > variable or flag?

Well, no system variable is going to help you here.

You can, of course, always get the output of the HELP command into a variable using the OUTPUT keyword. In this case the information you want is on the fourth line of the output:

```
IDL> Set_Plot, 'PS'
IDL> Help, /Device, Output=thisOutput
IDL> Print, thisOutput[3]
Mode: Portrait, Non-Encapsulated, EPSI Preview Disabled, Color Disabled
```

Now, you *could* look for the string "Portrait" in this string and--failing to find it--conclude that you were in landscape mode. Or, you could look for the string "Non-Encapsulated" and failing to find it know you were in Encapsulated mode. But RSI would not recommend this course of action, since they reserve the right to change the output of the HELP command at any time.

So what I do is use the PS_FORM program that you can download from my web page. If it is used as below, you can always know exactly how the PostScript device is configured:

```
configuration = PS_FORM(/Initialize)
new_config = PS_FORM(Cancel=canceled, Defaults=configuration)
IF NOT canceled THEN BEGIN
    configuration = new_config
    thisDevice = !D.Name
    Set_Plot, "PS"
    Device, _Extra=configuration
    ... your graphic commands here ...
    Device, /Close
    Set_Plot, thisDevice
ENDIF
```

Cheers,

David

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Note: A copy of this article was e-mailed to the original poster.
