
Subject: Re: printing capabilities (newbie)
Posted by [davidf](#) on Sat, 25 Sep 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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Christophe Geraud (roge@free.fr) writes:

- > I need to offer a solution to a customer (using Windows NT).
- > The idea is that a user can have some windows on the screen.
- > Each window can contain data, picture or curves.
- > Then the user want to print the contain of the screen.
- > The basic solution could be to print an hardcopy of the screen.

Well, it's a basic solution, but one that most people find inadequate as soon as they look at a picture of their numbers. :-(Remember that screen shots are in device resolution (72 pixels/inch), whereas most people like to look at hardcopy in printer resolution (600 pixels/inch).

- > Now I think it could be a good idea to offer communication with an other
- > tool to make reports. (sorry I don't speak a very good english :-)

Don't worry about it. Most of us don't write very swell English, either. :-)

- > Is it easy to copy data or picture in the clipboard to use them with
- > Word97 or any other tool ?

Yes, it is easy if the *user* is doing it. Bring the focus to the graphics window, type Ctrl-C to put the contents on the clipboard, open up Word97, and do a Ctrl-V to paste it into the document.

But is it easy to do it *programmatically*? Well, that is a different story. I suspect you will have to become adept at the Visual Basic language that Microsoft uses to communicate between its suite of business applications. And this would probably mean writing a DLL for your IDL application, so you could get the data out of IDL and into something else.

It can be done. But I don't think it is a half hour project. :-)

I think I would lean toward producing a page of output for each graphics window on the display. With some thinking before-hand, you can easily come up with something like the XWindow capability where you

could create a PostScript file of a window's content or send the content directly to a PostScript file in printer resolution.

Cheers,

David

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