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Subject: Re: Strange PRINTER Coordinates  
Posted by [davidf](#) on Mon, 31 Jul 2000 07:00:00 GMT  
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Craig Markwardt ([craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu](mailto:craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu)) writes:

> I believe that the PRINTER device must keep track of the printable  
> region on the page. It's different for different printers. If you  
> look under \$IDL\_DIR/resource/xprinter/ppds, you can locate lines like  
> this in each ppd file:  
>  
> \*ImageableArea Letter: "18 8 593 784 "  
> \*ImageableArea Legal: "65 42 547 966 "  
>  
> What is unfortunate is that the IDL coordinate system is referenced to  
> corner of the printable region rather than the corner of the physical  
> page, like most sane page description languages would do.

I'm sure you are right. But what a disaster. Now we  
are going to have to write our own printer description  
files (and how will we know what printer we are using!!!!)  
to get correctly positioned output.

I've got a headache. I'm taking the rest of the  
afternoon off.

This is the problem with writing a book (or perhaps  
it is just a problem with testing your code). You  
are going to spend five minutes writing up a little  
section and before you know it you are involved in  
a &\*\$@ quagmire. I'm sure this is why there aren't  
more IDL books out there. :-(

Cheers,

David

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David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting  
Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: [davidf@dfanning.com](mailto:davidf@dfanning.com)  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>  
Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

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