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Subject: Re: How do people print .ps and .pcl files on windows95

Posted by [Peter Mason](#) on Mon, 02 Dec 1996 08:00:00 GMT

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On 29 Nov 1996 dean@phobos.cira.colostate.edu wrote:

- > Use the print manager to setup the default printer. Then select Edit/print
- > then a little window will ask for you to double click on the plot you wish
- > to print. The plot will come out of the default print. No need to save it
- > as PCL or PS. You just need to select edit/print from the IDL window.

This captures and prints a plot window. i.e., It is a "bitmap" sort of operation, and the quality of the print may be restricted by the plot window's resolution (which is most likely much lower than the printer's).

If you want, you can send a .PS or .PCL file directly to the default Windows printer (which must be of the same type - ps or pcl - as the file). Generate the file, then just use `DEVICE,PRINT_FILE=filename` to print it (where "filename" is the name you gave your printfile). I use this under NT; it should work under 95.

This method has a drawback - the `DEVICE,PRINT_FILE=` command appears to return before the file has been printed. (Well, I suppose this might depend on how the printer's spooling has been set up.) So you have to leave the printfile hanging around - if you delete it before it's been printed, you could crash IDL.

Peter Mason

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