
Subject: Re: Strange PRINTER Coordinates
Posted by [davidf](#) on Mon, 31 Jul 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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William Thompson (thompson@orpheus.nascom.nasa.gov) writes:

> Does this mean that a PostScript file created with object graphics will print
> differently on different printers? That would be very bad.

I don't think so (although I'm sure someone is going to test it for us). Object graphics usually does things correctly. But they do appear to have access to information they are not sharing with the rest of us.

And, anyway, object graphics are positioned in the printer window in a completely different way than direct graphics are positioned in the PRINTER device.

Cheers,

David

--

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

Subject: Re: Strange PRINTER Coordinates
Posted by [thompson](#) on Mon, 31 Jul 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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Craig Markwardt <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.

> Craig

Does this mean that a PostScript file created with object graphics will print differently on different printers? That would be very bad.

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> 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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Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Mon, 31 Jul 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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Craig

Ben Tupper <btupper@bigelow.org> writes:

```
> David Fanning wrote:  
>  
>>  
>> Does this seem to happen on your printers, too?  
>  
> Yes.  
>  
>>  
>>  
>> Here is a test case for an 8.5 x 11 inch sheet of  
>> paper:  
>>  
>> thisDevice = !D.Name  
>> Set_Plot, 'PRINTER'  
>> Device, /Portrait  
>> Device, XSize=6, YSize=6, XOffset=1.25, YOffset=2.5, /Inches  
>> PlotS, [0,1,1,0,0], [0,0,1,1,0], /Normal  
>> Device, /Close_Document  
>> Set_Plot, thisDevice  
>>
```

```

>> Is this box centered on your printer? What printer?
>> What version of IDL? If it is not centered, does
>> subtracting 0.25 from each offset help?
>>
>
> Not centered with code as written.
>
> Not centered with XOffset = XOffset - 0.25 , but closer to being
> centered. I must remove 0.5 inches to get correct centering.
>
> Printer: HP DeskJet 1600CM
>
> IDL> help, !Version,/Str
> ** Structure !VERSION, 5 tags, length=40:
> ARCH      STRING  'PowerMac'
> OS        STRING  'MacOS'
> OS_FAMILY STRING  'MacOS'
> RELEASE   STRING  '5.3'
> BUILD_DATE STRING  'Nov 10 1999'
>
> I have seen this before; I had always assumed that typical paper
> margins were honored in the background. of course there are many things
> that I have assumed...
>
> Ben
>
> --
> Ben Tupper
> Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Science
> West Boothbay Harbor, Maine
> btupper@bigelow.org
>   note: email address new as of 25JULY2000
>
>
>

```

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Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D.      EMAIL:  craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu
Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response
-----

```

Subject: Re: Strange PRINTER Coordinates
Posted by [davidf](#) on Mon, 31 Jul 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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Pavel Romashkin (promashkin@cmdl.noaa.gov) writes:

> Not on my LaserJet HP 5MP. Even then, the frame from the sample code is
> off by 0.2". Sorry. I could try other departmental printers but I am
> afraid this will introduce more noise in the 0.25 +- 0.25" existing so far.
>
>> Is this box centered on your printer? What printer?
>> What version of IDL? If it is not centered, does
>> subtracting 0.25 from each offset help?
>
> Not exactly, as I said above. Forget vertical positionong, that one's
> off by 1".

Oh, oh. I was afraid this was going to be the case. :-(
I'm afraid this one is going somewhere in the Top 10.

Cheers,

David

--

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Subject: Re: Strange PRINTER Coordinates
Posted by [promashkin](#) on Mon, 31 Jul 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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David Fanning wrote:

* * *

> In fooling around with it for awhile (I won't tell you
> how long I fooled around with it for fear of losing whatever
> programming reputation I have), I discovered that the
> (0,0) point for calculating page offsets was a quarter
> of an inch in from the edge of the paper!

This makes me feel bad. I can see David is making his output to fall
presicely where it needs to be. I am happy when I can see at least a
fraction of what I need somewhere in the corner of the printout. It
indicates to me that I have a hope of getting it all into a
comprehensible file for future positioning using Adobe or Canvas :-(

> This makes sense, sort of, since a laser printer
> (I have a Lexmark Optra S 1250 PostScript Laser printer)
> can't print on the outside quarter inch of the page
> anyway, but it is not documentable anywhere that I

> could find.

I have always had a strange feeling about it. IDL is not as gentle to printers, as, lets say, Word, which will always propose "printable margins" (which have little to do with printer capabilities, because it puts them in even for my Lexmark inkjet that has none).

> The solution I finally ended up with is to subtract
> 0.25 inches from whatever offset I think I want when
> I use the PRINTER device. This gives me perfectly
> centered output.

Not on my LaserJet HP 5MP. Even then, the frame from the sample code is off by 0.2". Sorry. I could try other departmental printers but I am afraid this will introduce more noise in the 0.25 +/- 0.25" existing so far.

> Is this box centered on your printer? What printer?
> What version of IDL? If it is not centered, does
> subtracting 0.25 from each offset help?

Not exactly, as I said above. Forget vertical positionong, that one's off by 1".

Cheers,
Pavel

Subject: Re: Strange PRINTER Coordinates
Posted by [Ben Tupper](#) on Mon, 31 Jul 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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Yes.

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> paper:
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> Set_Plot, 'PRINTER'
> Device, /Portrait
> Device, XSize=6, YSize=6, XOffset=1.25, YOffset=2.5, /Inches
> PlotS, [0,1,1,0,0], [0,0,1,1,0], /Normal

> Device, /Close_Document
> Set_Plot, thisDevice
>
> Is this box centered on your printer? What printer?
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> subtracting 0.25 from each offset help?
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Not centered with code as written.

Not centered with $XOffset = XOffset - 0.25$, but closer to being centered. I must remove 0.5 inches to get correct centering.

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IDL> help, !Version,/Str
** Structure !VERSION, 5 tags, length=40:
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  BUILD_DATE STRING  'Nov 10 1999'
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I have seen this before; I had always assumed that typical paper margins were honored in the background. of course there are many things that I have assumed...

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