
Subject: Strange PRINTER Coordinates

Posted by [davidf](#) on Sun, 30 Jul 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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Hi Folks,

I've discovered a strange little thing in the process of trying to center a graphics display on a page of paper using the PRINTER device. I was having a devil of a time trying to get the graphic centered, although the offsets and sizes were calculated in exactly the same way they are calculated to center the graphic on a PostScript printer with the PS device.

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 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.

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.

This explains a lot of problems I have been having with PRINTER output, but have been too lazy to look into. Does this seem to happen on your printers, too?

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?

I also notice that I have to set the PORTRAIT or LANDSCAPE keyword on a separate command line. If I try to set these keywords on the same line where I am setting the sizes and offsets, I get bogus results. Anyone else experiencing this?

Thanks for your help.

Cheers,

David

--

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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 [Eric Vella](#) on Fri, 04 Aug 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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What is really sad is that people have to do trial-and-error tests to find out how IDL works, or do archaeological research into the source code. While a fix to this problem might well belong in the top 10, documentation of the actual IDL behavior seems at least equally important.

David Fanning wrote:

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> David
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