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Subject: Re: Issuing a print command

Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 16 Jan 2001 14:51:36 GMT

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Ian Dean ([ian.d.dean@baesystems.com](mailto:ian.d.dean@baesystems.com)) writes:

- > I have an array of text that I want hard copy output of. At the moment,
- > the user can select a pull-down menu "Save" and the `dialog_pickfile`
- > opens a file to write to. The user can then use other utilities to
- > print/view this file.
- > However, the user has asked for a "Print" pull-down menu option that
- > will send the text to the currently setup printer.
- > To achieve this, I write the text to a temporary file, close the file,
- > then issue `DEVICE,/PRINT_FILE = 'fname.typ'`. This only works partially.
- > The output is no longer correctly formatted.

I'm not surprised by this, although I've never tried it.  
IDL is a graphics-centric product and I wouldn't have expected it to do text output very well.

In the past, when I have needed PostScript "reports" (which in this case was some kind of graphic with a lot of supporting text), I have been forced to use XYOUTS to actually write the text into a PostScript file.

The output is always suburb, of course, but the pain is in the enormous up-front amount of work you have to do to get the page laid out properly.

Cheers,

David

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