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Subject: Re: DIALOG\_PRINTJOB and DIALOG\_PRINTERSETUP  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 14 Feb 2002 01:08:12 GMT  
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James Kuyper (kuyper@gscmail.gsfc.nasa.gov) writes:

- > What exactly is the difference supposed to be between DIALOG\_PRINTJOB
- > and DIALOG\_PRINTERSETUP?
- >
- > About the only difference I can see between their descriptions is that
- > DIALOG\_PRINTJOB is supposed to set the "parameters", while
- > DIALOG\_PRINTERSETUP is supposed to set the "properties". I have no idea
- > what that's supposed to mean.
- >
- > On my particular system, "JOB" is a tiny dialog, which allows me to
- > select whether or not to use compression, the scale, and the number of
- > copies. "SETUP" is a much bigger dialog, that covers both scale and
- > number of copies, but not compression, and a whole lot of other things.
- > Apparently "compression" is a parameter, "scale" and "number of copies"
- > count as both parameters and properties, and every thing else is a
- > property. Huh?

Leaving aside descriptions for the moment (although I do seem to recognize this from my own writing as the kinds of words you choose if you are waving your hands while you are searching your vocabulary), I think the dialogs are certainly operating system specific, and probably vendor specific. In other words, what comes up depends on what was installed when the printer was installed.

I suspect IDL has as much control over it as it does over DIALOG\_PICKFILE, for example. As such, it is awfully hard to explain. I typically use DIALOG\_PRINTERSETUP because that gives the use lots of options, and if they hit OK, I just assume they know what the hell they are doing. What else can you do?

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

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Subject: Re: DIALOG\_PRINTJOB and DIALOG\_PRINTERSETUP  
Posted by [James Kuyper](#) on Thu, 14 Feb 2002 15:49:03 GMT  
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David Fanning wrote:

> James Kuyper (kuyper@gscmail.gsfc.nasa.gov) writes:

...

> Leaving aside descriptions for the moment (although I  
> do seem to recognize this from my own writing as the  
> kinds of words you choose if you are waving your hands  
> while you are searching your vocabulary), I think the  
> dialogs are certainly operating system specific, and  
> probably vendor specific. In other words, what comes  
> up depends on what was installed when the printer was  
> installed.

That much I could figure out; what I don't understand is why they needed two of the things.

> I suspect IDL has as much control over it as it  
> does over DIALOG\_PICKFILE, for example. As such, it  
> is awfully hard to explain. I typically use DIALOG\_PRINTERSETUP  
> because that gives the use lots of options, and if they  
> hit OK, I just assume they know what the hell they are  
> doing. What else can you do?

I've placed both a "Print Job" button and a "Printer Setup" button on my application's menu bar. I did that as a temporary measure while I tried to figure out which one I wanted to use. Based on your answer, I guess I'll keep them both. Hopefully, the user will be able to figure out by experimentation which one to use.

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Subject: Re: DIALOG\_PRINTJOB and DIALOG\_PRINTERSETUP  
Posted by [Pavel A. Romashkin](#) on Thu, 14 Feb 2002 16:44:34 GMT  
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I think these two are there so that you never lose interest in IDL. I used JOB on my Mac and it worked great, allowing full setup. When I ran that code on Windows, it was nothing like it, so I went to SETUP. But on the Mac, setup is something different again.

I have not yet confirmed if, for even higher entertaining value, the action of these two also changes randomly on the same platform after a certain number of clicks or something.

Cheers,  
Pavel

David Fanning wrote:

>  
> I typically use DIALOG\_PRINTERSETUP  
> because that gives the use lots of options, and if they  
> hit OK, I just assume they know what the hell they are  
> doing. What else can you do?  
>

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