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

Posted by [brian.jackel](#) on Fri, 29 Nov 1996 08:00:00 GMT

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On a related topic, can anyone else using Win95 manage to print a file from the editor? That is, when using the built in editor there is an option File->Print which used to (under WFWG 3.11) give a nice copy of the current procedure. Currently, however, it gives an error message (not an informative one), and the File->Printer Setup doesn't even do anything at all.

This is actually one of my peeves with IDL right now. I'm sure version 5.0 will have all kinds of new bells and whistles, but all I really want is a version of 4.0 that runs properly under Win95. You know, long filenames, widgets that behave themselves, easy access to font lists, that kind of thing.

Brian Jackel

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

Posted by [dean](#) on Fri, 29 Nov 1996 08:00:00 GMT

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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.

Kelly Dean
CSU/CIRA

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
