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Subject: Printer Stops - PostScript Error?

Posted by [amir](#) on Mon, 14 Jun 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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Hi!

This is a hard one, because it is perhaps a Linux-Ghostscript and perhaps an IDL-PostScript problem. I hope there is some overlap of both communities ;)

I try to print a multiplot color postscript file generated by IDL 5.2 for Linux on my Epson Stylus Color 640 with the aid of ghostscript. (I use the uniprint epson 600 driver with 1440x720 resolution).

The printer starts printing, but after about 1/3 of the page is completed (depending on the exact size of the file) the printer hangs being "busy" without further error messages (because ghostscript stops, too (?)). I have to turn it off.

The actual part that has been printed is perfectly alright.

I can print some IDL PostScript files and they come out fine.

I've already tried out if the number of polygons in the file is the problem by printing out a contour and shade\_surf plot of a 300x300 array of random numbers (that gives a 7.7MB ps-file).

As expected, I get the usual message:

% Number of Polygon vertices exceeds limit for some PostScript printers.  
but the printout works fine.

The idl commands:

```
!P.MULTI = [0,2,2]
SET_PLOT, "PS"
DEVICE, FILENAME = '/home/amir/pstest.ps', COLOR = 1
DEVICE, XSIZE = 18, YSIZE = 20, XOFFSET = 1.25, YOFFSET = 6
```

```
CONTOUR, randomnumberarray, /FILL, NLEVELS = 32
SHADE_SURF, randomnumberarray
```

```
DEVICE, /CLOSE_FILE
SET_PLOT, "X"
```

Again, this works.

And the commands for setting the postscript device in the "faulty" file code are exactly the same (except for what is plotted, which is rather complex, but gives a much smaller file, around 200KB).

I also know for shure that the files I'd like to print SHOULD be ok,

because:

- 1) I've printed these files on a PostScript printer in a Unix environment, and
- 2) I can have a look at them on my own computer with ghostview (meaning that ghostscript probably works and doesn't have general complaints).

I can print out truly large files, too, something like 30 MB raster graphics, no problem.

The printing commands I use:

```
# lpr /data5/PS/y02_d_ch1_2dtc.ps
```

and as long as the printer prints lpq gives

```
# lpq
```

lp is ready and printing

| Rank   | Owner | Job | Files                       | Total Size   |
|--------|-------|-----|-----------------------------|--------------|
| active | amir  | 25  | /data5/PS/y02_d_ch1_2dtc.ps | 178312 bytes |

the processes invoked by lpr are:

- 1.) bash /var/spool/lpd/lp/filter -w132 -l66 -i0 -n amir -h wimp.ucsf.edu
- 2.) sh /usr/lib/rhs/rhs-printfilters//ps-to-printer.fpi
- 3.) gs -q -sDEVICE=uniprint -r1440x720 -sPAPERSIZE=letter -dNOPAUSE -dSAFER -sOutputFile=- @stc600ih.upp -

these three jobs just stop after a while and remain in that state infinitely until I terminate them manually.

My System: RH-5.2-Linux, Kernel 2.2.9, ghostscript 5.10.

Does anyone have a clue?

If someone's interested in the actual ps-file for debugging the epson driver, it's only 30KB when gzipped, just ask for it, or the idl code.

thanx,  
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