psprt-handler

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Chapter 1

psprt-handler

1.1 psprt.guide

```
================================================================================
                        P S P R T - H A N D L E R

                                 v1.24
================================================================================
```


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1.2 copyright

PSPRT-Handler is freely redistributable.

1.3 introduction

Introduction

PSPRT-Handler allows you to print PostScript files on a
no-postscript-capable printer using the post.library.

My motivation behind this project was the need to print PostScript
files on my printer. However I do not have a postscript printer
and therefore I searched for another solution - without success.
The PSPRT-Handler was born...

Please note that the printing of a PostScript file using a software
base PostScript interpreter takes more time than a real PostScript
printer does. To speed up the printing, for example, you can decrease
the density and set the dithering type to 'ordered' (using the
Prefs/PrinterGfx program).

To have a feeling how long a print job can last, you have the possibility
to open a progress indicator. The progress indicator is a small window
in the top left corner of the default public screen with a bar which
shows you how much of a file has been processed so far. See Configuration
for more details about how to enable and disable the progress indicator.

1.4 requirements

Requirements

- PSPRT-Handler requires an Amiga with at least 2 MBytes of Memory.
- Kickstart and Workbench 2.04 or higher are also required.
- As PostScript interpreter the post.library is used.
- A printer.

1.5 limitations

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Limitations
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The current version of the PSPRT-Handler does only support black and white
printers. Colour printers will be supported in a later version.  At the moment
any colour PostScript files will be printed in black and white.

The PSPRT-Handler needs a temporary file to print a PostScript file.
Once a day this will be handled more dynamically.
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1.6 installation

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Installation
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The Installation of the PSPRT-Handler is quite easy...

        1)  Put the PSPRT-Handler into L:

        2a) If you are using Workbench 2.1 or later,
            copy the PSPRT and PSPRT.info files to the
            DEVS:DOSDrivers/ directory.

        2b) If you do not use Workbench 2.1 or higher you
            will have to append the entry in mountlist.psprt
            to your DEVS:mountlist.
            Then edit the file S:User-Startup by adding the line
                mount PSPRT:
            to mount the PSPRT: at boot time.

        3)  Put the psprt.prefs file into the ENV: assign, and
            edit it to suit your needs.  For a permanent setup,
            copy it into ENVARC: assign too.  This file contains
            the configuration for the
            PSPRT-Handler.
            For the default settings see Configuration.

        Note that if you do not have the post.library installed
        correctly, the PSPRT-Handler won't work.

        The PSPRT-Handler searches the init.ps file (that comes along with
        the post.library in the POST: or the L: assign.
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1.7 printing

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Printing a PostScript File
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To print a PostScript file you just have to send it to PSPRT: instead to PRT:.
This can be done by either
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                    COPY your_postscript_file TO PSPRT:
or
                     TYPE >PSPRT: your_postscript_file
```

or by selecting the PSPRT: instead of PRT: as output device in your printer utility, texteditor or whatever.

The PSPRT-Handler writes to a temporary file while printing a postscript file. By default the 'T:' assign is used as directory for that file. Using the optional preference file 'psprt.prefs' this directory can be changed to suit your needs (see configuration).

If the PostScript interpreter reports an error while printing, a requester will be opened to inform you. Please refer to the documentation of the interpreter for more detailed information about the error.

While printing a file a progress indicator can be optionally enabled or disabled (see configuration for more details).

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Usage
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PSPRT:<options>, where <options> can be:

        fit     scale interpreted postscript data in a way
                that a page fits the printable area on the
                physical page.
                This options works together with the following
                paper sizes: US Letter, US Legal, and European A4.

If no <options> are given, the PSPRT-Handler prints the graphics using the
settings for density and page size of the Workbench preferences.

Examples:
        a2ps test.c >PSPRT:fit

        copy demo.ps to PSPRT:
```

1.8 configuration

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Configuration
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The PSPRT-Handler supports now a configuration file, that let you customize
the handler to suit your particular wishes.  This configuration is
automatically loaded by each print job.  This allows you to change settings
between the print jobs.

The PSPRT-Handler does not complain if the file could not be found or
an error occurred while reading and processing the configuration file.
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You do not need a configuration file if you are satisfied with the default settings. The default settings are:

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temporary files are written to T:,
and the progress indicator is disabled.
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The handler looks for configuration file PSPRT.PREFS in the ENV: assign.
For a permanent setup, you should copy the file into the ENVARC: assign too.

The current version of the PSPRT-Handler still supports the PSPRT_TMPDIR environment variable. But the path for the temporary files defined in this variable is overridden by the 'TempDir' keyword from the psprt.prefs config file.

The configuration file itself is a standard ascii text file that can be edited using a texteditor.
In the following you find a keyword overview and a small sample config file.

Keyword	Syntax	Description
TempDir	TempDir "directory"	Set directory for temporary files (Default directory: "t:"). Directory names containing whitespaces must be enclosed in double or single quotes.
ProgressBar PB	ProgressBar PB	Opens a progress indicator when printing a file, a bar which shows you how much of a file has been processed so far (turned off by default).
NoProgressBar NoPB	NoProgressBar NoPB	Disables the progress indicator (default).
Fit	Fit	Scales interpreted postscript data in a way that a page fits the printable area on the physical page. This option works together with one of the following paper sizes: US Letter, US Legal, and European A4.
NoFit	NoFit	Disable data scaling (default), see 'Fit' description above.
WindowX	WindowX <xpos>	Set X position for progress indicator window (default: 16). Example: WindowX 0
WindowY	WindowY <ypos>	Set Y position for progress indicator window (default: 16). Example: WindowY 10

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All keywords are case-insensitive (for example: TEMPDIR, tempdir, TeMpDiR).
For any not given keyword, the PSPRT-Handler uses the default setting for
that option.

Any comments in the configuration file must start with a semicolon (';').


Example:
        ;
        ; PSPRT-Handler configuration file
        ;

        TempDir   "t:"
        ProgressBar
```

1.9 post.library

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post.library
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The post.library is a software based PostScript interpreter, that is used
by the PSPRT-Handler.  The post.library must be installed correctly to
ensure a smooth printing.


Version 1.7 of the post.library can be found on Fish #828 or Aminet.

A newer version, well actually a complete new version, that is a
major step towards PostScript Level 2 and that solves some problems
with the older post.library v1.7, is Heinz Wrobel's implementation.
It can be found on Aminet as HWGPOSTbeta6 (text/print/HWGPOSTbeta6.lha).
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1.10 psfonts

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PostScript Fonts
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I get often asked where one can find PostScript fonts.

To answer all these questions, a made a small summary of archives
and locations that contain PostScript fonts (as far as I know):

- The Post186bin.lha archive (1.8MB) contains usable PostScript fonts.
  You will find there the most often used fonts such as Times-Roman,
  Courier, Helvetica, a.m.m..
  This archive can be found on Aminet as text/print/Post186bin.lha

- The archive gs2_3_fonts.lha that can also be found on Aminet as
  text/print/gs2_3_fonts.lha contains a set of GhostScript fonts
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  (f.e.: bchb.gsf). To use these fonts as PostScript fonts you
  just must rename them to their 'original' names (f.e.:
  phvr.gsf -> Helvetica, these 'original' names can be found in
  the header of each GhostScript font).

- Various free PostScript fonts can be found in the text/font/ directory
  on the Aminet (f.e.: text/font/PSFonts.lha).

- Well there exist also PostScript font collections on cdrom...
```

1.11 history

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History
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This history table may be rather incomplete.  It contains only bigger
changes made to the software.  No history entry prior to 37.294.



37.422 (31.Mar.95)
        - Progress indicator added, a bar which shows you how much of a file
          has been processed so far (refer to Configuration for more
          details about enabling/disabling the progress indicator).

37.320 (23.Mar.95)
        - Added config file support (see Configuration for more details).

37.312 (23.Feb.95)
        - Matrix dot printers better supported.

37.310 (11.Jan.95)
        - Environment variable 'PSPRT_TMPDIR' added.

37.304 (08.Jan.95)
        - 'fit' option added (see Configuration).

37.302 (17.Nov.94)
        - first release.

37.294 (01.Oct.94)
        - (...)
```

1.12 credits

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Thanks go to...
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    Adrian Aylward  - without his post.library this wouldn't be possible.
    Stefan Walter   - for the SIM debugger environment.
```

Heinz Wrobel - for HWGPOST that solves some problems with
post.library v1.7.

Bryan Ford, Rene Eberhard, Christian Schneider, Tony Leneis,
Gary Raposo, Swen Stullich, Macro Krause,
and many more for their support and suggestions.

1.13 author

Author

If you have bugreports, questions, ideas, flames or complaints (constructive criticism is always welcome), or if you just want to contact me, write or send a letter to:

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