PostScript Printer Driver Help Index

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Help Topics

Adding Support for a New PostScript Printer

The PostScript driver can support additional Postscript devices. To add new support, you must acquire a Windows PostScript Description (WPD) file for your printer. The WPD file provides information to Windows about the type of fonts, paper trays or bins, paper sizes, and the use of color your printer may provide.

To add support for a new Postscript printer:

1　Set up the printer following the steps outlined in the Control Panel Help topic "Selecting Printer Settings."

2　Choose Add Printer in the PostScript printer dialog box.

3　Insert the disk with the WPD file into drive A.

　　Or enter a drive and directory.

4　Choose OK.

5　Select the appropriate PostScript printer from the list box.

6　Choose Add.

7　Choose Done.

　　Your printer is now listed in the Printers list box.

Additional WPD files may be obtained by contacting your printer manufacturer or by requesting the Driver Library Disk from Microsoft. Microsoft will add WPD files as they become available. See the Hardware Compatibility List for contact information.

Configuring the Header File

In order to print from Windows to a PostScript printer, Windows must first prepare your printer by sending it a header file. The header file is necessary to print properly.

By default, header information is sent to the printer each time you print. The setting Download each job in the Options dialog box directs Windows to do this. This setting is sufficient for most types of printing and is especially recommended in the following situations:

* When printing output files to disk for later printing at a service bureau.
* When printing to a shared network printer.

In some environments, where the PostScript printer is connected directly to your computer, you might want to download the header file only once when the printer is turned on. This saves about 20 seconds per print job. To configure your system to do this, follow these steps:

Step 1: Create a Header File

1 Choose Options in the PostScript printer setup dialog box.

2 Choose Header.

3 Select File and choose OK.

4 Type in a filename, for example: C:\WINDOWS\PSPREP.TXT.
   Windows may be in a different directory on your system. Also, you can call your file anything you like.

5 Choose OK.
   Each time you turn on your printer, you must copy this file to the communications port that connects your printer to your computer.

Step 2: Copy the Header File to Your Printer

1 Exit Windows.

2 Determine which port your printer is connected to.
   For example, if your printer is connected to LPT1:, type the following from the DOS prompt: COPY C:\WINDOWS\PSPREP.TXT   LPT1
   If your printer is a serial printer connected to a COM port, enter a MODE command first to set the communication parameters. For example, if you were connected to COM1, from the DOS prompt you would first type MODE COM1:9600,n,8,1, and then you would type COPY C:\WINDOWS\PSPREP.TXT COM1.

3 Copy the header file to your printer.

Step 3: Automate These Steps

You can add the above DOS commands to your AUTOEXEC.BAT file so that your computer automatically copies the Header file (PSPREP.TXT) to your printer each time you turn it on. If you do, **be sure** to turn on your printer **before** you turn on your computer, or your printer will not be properly prepared for printing. If you forget to turn on your printer first, follow step 2 to prepare your printer.

Configuring the Printer Handshake

You can use the Handshake option only when you have a printer connected to your computer on a serial port or with a RS-232 interface. If your printer is connected to a parallel port, the Handshake option will not affect your printer. Refer to your printer's documentation for more information on which interfaces your printer supports.

Changing the Handshake option permanently alters the printer's handshaking method for Windows. Use this option only once.

To set the Handshake option:

1 Choose Options in the PostScript printer setup dialog box.

2 Choose Handshake.

3 Choose Hardware or Software.

   Generally, you should configure your printer for a hardware handshake. If you have an older model Apple LaserWriter, or if you are having trouble printing, you might try setting the handshake to software. Your serial cable also affects the type of handshake your printer requires.

4 Choose OK.

   Choose OK again to confirm your choice.

5 Choose the Ports icon in Control Panel to verify the settings for your printer's port.

   Flow Control for a software handshake should be set to Xon/Xoff.
   Flow Control for a hardware handshake should be set to Hardware.

Copies

The Copies option tells Windows how many uncollated copies you want to print from an application. This setting is independent of the Copies option that may be available in your Windows application, so you either set this option in your application or in the printer setup dialog box. You should experiment to determine whether the option for the application or the driver works best. Do not use the two options simultaneously.

Generally, setting the number of copies in the printer setup dialog box will produce faster uncollated output. Setting the number of copies in your application will slow down printing, but the copies would be collated.

IBM Personal Pageprinter

To use the IBM Personal Pageprinter, you must set up the PostScript printer driver to use the EPT: port. Do this with the Printers icon in Control Panel. (See Control Panel Help.)

Also, special EPT: port software is provided with your IBM Personal Pageprinter. In order for Windows to print properly, this software must be installed on your computer. For more information, see your IBM Personal Pageprinter documentation or contact your printer dealer.

ITC Zapf Dingbats Font

With most PostScript printers, you can select the ITC Zapf Dingbats font, which contains a number of special symbols or characters.

Windows will not show the Dingbats characters on screen, but will display normal characters instead. However, when the document is printed, the Dingbats characters will be printed instead of normal characters. You might want to experiment with these characters to obtain the desired results.

Job Timeout

The Job Timeout option in the Options dialog box sets the time your printer waits to receive data from Windows when printing. Generally, you should use the default setting of 0; the printer never times out with this setting. If you need to set a timeout, type the number of seconds you want in the text box.

Compare the Job Timeout option to the Transmission Retry option in the Control Panel Printers--Configure dialog box. Transmission Retry sets the time Windows waits for the printer to respond that it's ready for more data.

Related Topics
Printing Complicated Print Jobs

Margins

The Margins settings in the Options dialog box determine the area of the page to which an application prints. (In a specific application, page margins for the printed document are set within this area.) None sets the margins to the actual size of the paper. Default sets the margins to the area in which the printer can print. Laser printers, for example, are not capable of printing output to all edges of the paper. The outer area is used when the paper is fed through the printer. Generally, the area to which the printer can print is 1/4 inch from all sides of the paper.

You should use the Default option unless you're having problems with setting the margins in your application.

The Margins option may not affect some applications.

NEC Silent Writer LC 890

When printing with Windows applications, you may find that the left-most character in the document is clipped from the printout. To correct this problem, upgrade the LC 890 ROMs to the latest version. Contact your printer dealer for more information.

The Letter/Legal switch located on the optional hopper doesn't work with the NEC LC 890 printer. When using the LC 890, you must use the front panel to set the page length of the paper being used in hoppers 1 and 2. Refer to your printer's documentation for more information on using the front panel.

Orientation

Print orientation can be Portrait or Landscape. Portrait orientation means the page is taller than it is wide when you view the printed text upright. Landscape orientation means the page is wider than it is tall when you view the printed text upright.

Paper Source and Paper Size

Support for different paper sources and paper sizes varies according to the printer model you have chosen. (Paper size is listed beside each entry.) You should choose the default paper source and size you plan to use when printing from a specific Windows application. If you select an automatic or autofeed option, Windows uses the default paper source configured for the printer. The default paper source is configured for the printer with Control Panel or switch settings.

Printing Complicated Print Jobs

Some PostScript printers may spend a long time "computing" the image of very complicated printouts. In such circumstances, Print Manager periodically alerts you with a dialog box, telling you that the printer is not responding and that the printer is stalled. When this happens, choose OK and resume the print queue. (Refer to Print Manager Help.) If you have to do this often, you might want to adjust the Transmission Retry timeout with Control Panel. (For more information, see Control Panel Help.)

Printing Encapsulated PostScript to a File

The PostScript printer driver gives you the option of creating an Encapsulated PostScript (EPS) file.

Some Windows and non-Windows graphics applications can import EPS files. These files print at the highest possible resolution for your printer. EPS files also may print faster than other graphics representations. Refer to your application's documentation to determine whether this capability is supported.

To print an EPS file:

1 Choose Options in the PostScript printer setup dialog box.

2 Select the Encapsulated PostScript File option button from the Print To area of the dialog box.

3 Enter the output file's drive, directory, and filename in the File text box.

4 Choose OK.

5 Choose OK again.

    EPS files created in Windows produce only PostScript output. Binary representations of bitmaps are not supported with this option.

    You cannot copy an EPS file directly to the printer. If you want to print to a file, you should connect your PostScript printer to the File port using Control Panel. See "Selecting a Printer Port" in Control Panel Help for more information.

Scaling

The Scaling option in the printer setup dialog box tells PostScript printers to scale the output up or down to a desired size. Normally, the PostScript printer prints at 100% of the original size.

You can either enlarge or reduce your printed output by setting this value. For example, if you select 50% scaling, the output will shrink to half its original size. If you print with 200% scaling, the output will expand to twice its normal size.

The page area used for printing remains the same no matter what the scale, whether you reduce or enlarge the output. The only difference is that with reduced scaling, more information will fit on the printed page. With enlarged scaling, less information will print on the same page area. Therefore, the total number of printed pages depends on the size of the scaled output.

Some Windows applications also may have a scaling feature. In this case, you should experiment to determine whether the scaling option for the application or the driver works best. Do not use the two options simultaneously.

Selecting a Printer Model

In order for Windows to print properly to your printer, you need to select the appropriate printer model from the Printer list in the printer setup dialog box. This ensures that Windows will provide any unique support available on your printer, such as paper bins or trays, paper sizes, and fonts.

If your printer model is not listed, choose the printer model your PostScript printer most closely emulates.

Special PostScript Printer Settings

To print correctly from Windows, you must have your PostScript printer set up for batch mode instead of interactive mode. In most cases, your PostScript printer has been configured for batch mode as the default.

If you are having problems printing, verify that your PostScript printer is configured properly. See your printer manual for more information about configuring your printer.

TI OmniLaser

When printing to a TI OmniLaser, you might experience problems such as garbled output or messages such as "Can't write to printer."

If this problem occurs on an older ROM version of this printer, try connecting to the printer's parallel port.

Also, this problem has been fixed in versions 1.4 and later of the OmniLaser ROMs. Contact your printer dealer or the printer manufacturer for more information on a ROM upgrade.

Use Color

The Use Color option in the printer setup dialog box is available for PostScript printers that support color. (If the printer model you selected does not support this capability, the option will be dimmed.)

If you want to print in black and white only, clear the Use Color check box.

Using Soft Fonts with PostScript Printers

You can increase the variety of fonts in your documents by using soft fonts.

Soft fonts are printer fonts that are downloaded to your PostScript printer, rather than being resident there. To use soft fonts, your printer must have the proper hardware. Refer to your printer's documentation or contact your printer dealer or manufacturer to determine if your printer supports soft fonts.

Soft fonts must be purchased separately; they do not come with the Windows package. They must also be compatible with Windows; refer to your soft font's documentation or contact your font vendor or manufacturer if you are not sure the fonts are compatible.

You should follow the installation procedures provided with the soft font package. After you install your soft fonts, Windows automatically lets you select these fonts from your Windows applications.

Keep in mind that each new font you install requires memory. To prevent problems with performance, install only the fonts you need.