

PrintWrite 1.2 by RamblerDan

(WinCmd ©1993 Douglas Boling)

What is PrintWrite?

PrintWrite is a WinCmd script that allows you to print a long .wri document on both sides *easily*. It will print alternate pages (1, 3, 5, etc.), pause for you to take the paper out of your tractor-feed printer and turn the paper around, then resume printing the opposite sides (2, 4, etc.).

Requirements

Windows 3.1, WinCmd 1.2 and its related files, including WCLIB.WCL.

WinCmd is described in PC Magazine Vol. 12, No. 8. It is available on Ziff-Net, PC Mag Utilities forum.

Installation

Copy PRWRI12.WCM into the same directory as your other WinCmd files. Create a PrintWrite program item in the usual way in whatever program group you like. You may use the icon enclosed or substitute your own.

To use

Open Write and the document you want to print. Be sure the file has been repaginated and that your printer is set up and on line.

Note the filename and the number of pages in the document.

Start PrintWrite.

You will be prompted for a filename. Enter the name (without .wri extension) of the file currently active in Write.

You will be prompted for the number of pages to print. You may print less than the entire document.

You will be prompted for the page to start printing on. Default is 1; if you wish to start from another page, enter it now.

Print job begins.

Do not launch or switch to another program until you see the "Ready to continue print job?" prompt. It shouldn't take more than a few minutes, depending on the length of the document and the speed of your computer.

When the "Ready to continue print job?" prompt appears, you are free to switch to other applications, but don't hit one of the prompt's buttons until you're ready! (See caveat below.)

When printer is done (this will take considerably longer), remove printed pages, turn paper around, and make sure printer is set up and on line.

(If you had switched to another application, be sure the "Ready to continue print job?" prompt is selected now.)

Click on OK or hit the Enter key to resume. The second sides will print now.

Caveats

If you're printing an even number of pages (total), *feed an extra blank sheet* through at the end of the first half of the job so your printer can feed the last sheet properly on the second run-through.

If you use an add-on screen saver program, make sure it won't engage while there is screen activity, even if you don't enter input from the keyboard or mouse.

On first use, experiment with a blank file, such as PRTEST.WRI, and a few pages at a time. You may be able to test with your printer turned off (don't forget to close Print Manager when you're done), but Print Manager's printer-offline warning may interfere.

Be sure the paper is in right for the second impression. I've printed second images on the same side as

the first once or twice, and it's embarrassing as well as wasteful. As the carpenters say, measure twice, cut once.

PrintWrite is *not* foolproof. While I have tried to build in some tolerance for faulty user input, you can still tell the program to print more pages than the document contains, to start on a nonexistent page, etc. So don't bother trying to see if you can break it. You can. But if you ask it to do what you really want it to, it should work.

If you accidentally hit OK at the "Ready to continue print job?" prompt before the first sides are printed and the paper removed, the script will start printing the second set anyway.

If this happens, you have two choices. 1. Abort print job: Turn off your printer; toggle to the WinCmd window, click on STOP and close WinCmd; close Print Manager. Or, 2. Let the first set of pages print; then turn off printer, close WinCmd, close Print Manager, turn the paper around and start PrintWrite again, start printing on page 2 (or the page after the one you started on). Then, when you get the "Ready to continue print job?" prompt, choose Cancel.

If you accidentally hit Cancel at the "Ready to continue print job?" prompt, wait until the first sides are done, switch the paper and restart the script, this time telling it to start on page 2 (or the page after the one you started on). Then, when you get the "Ready to continue print job?" prompt, choose Cancel.

If you accidentally enter a letter, symbol or negative number at the "How many pages?" prompt, the program will go on forever. In such a case, abort the print job: Turn off your printer; toggle to the WinCmd window, click on STOP and close WinCmd, close Print Manager. Entering a zero at the "How many pages?" prompt is the same as clicking on Cancel; it will close the program.

Legalities

PrintWrite is public domain.

WinCmd and its related files are copyrighted and subject to their own restrictions.

PrintWrite is guaranteed only to take up room on your hard drive. The author takes no responsibility for any damage incurred, etc. On the other hand, you are free to fiddle with the script in any way you like. If you pass along a copy you have modified, please include the original as well.

Version history

1.0 First release.

1.1 Adds some tolerance for erroneous user input. Assigns PrintWrite icon to running script.

1.2 Brings Write to foreground and moves to end of file before asking "How many pages?"; brings Write to foreground and moves back to beginning of file after print job is done; and increases delay time during printing loop to reduce processor overhead.

Also, zipped archive now includes PRWR210.WCM and related files, which allow SuperBar users to launch PrintWrite from Write and skip the "Enter filename" step.

Miscellaneous

Sometimes squirrely WinCmd scripts can be corrected with judicious insertion of DELAY lines, especially after SENDKEYS("{ENTER}") statements. Try to figure out where it's sticking and add delays of 100, 500 or 1000 as needed. PRWR112X.WCM is identical to PRWR112.WCM but has a pantload of delays in it already.

Douglas Boling deserves all the credit for inventing WinCmd and none of the blame for any failures of the PrintWrite script. If you like WinCmd, let him know. If you like PrintWrite, or think of ways to improve it, write me at 73150,2134@compuserve.com or ramblerdan@aol.com.

Happy printing!