

Update PPD utility for Windows PageMaker 5.0
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Why use the Update PPD utility?

PageMaker uses PostScript printer description (PPD) files when printing publications on a PostScript printer. PPD files supply PageMaker with information about a specific printer, including the amount of memory available, predefined paper sizes, fonts installed in the printer, and optimized screens used when printing color separations.

One of the most important settings in the PPD file is the "FreeVM" setting. Each printer comes equipped with a certain amount of RAM, which the printer uses to store information about a document as it's being printed. The Update PPD utility helps ensure that the "FreeVM" setting in your PPD file matches the actual RAM available for your specific printer. Keeping this setting current helps to prevent PostScript errors and speed printing of PageMaker 5.0 publications.

Installing the Update PPD utility

To install the Update PPD utility, simply copy the PPD.EXE file to any directory on your hard drive.

Using the Update PPD utility

The Update PPD utility queries your printer for the actual amount of virtual memory it contains; your printer then prints this amount on a piece of paper or film. You can then enter this amount in the Update PPD utility, so that Update PPD can create a custom printer file to supplement your printer's PPD file. (PPD files are provided by your printer's manufacturer and should never be modified directly.) When you select a custom printer file in PageMaker 5.0, PageMaker uses the "FreeVM" setting in the custom printer file, rather than the amount specified in the corresponding PPD file.

Custom printer files must have a ".PPD" filename extension. To distinguish them from PPD files, Update PPD includes an "@" symbol at the start of the custom printer file's nickname and filename.

To use the Update PPD utility:

1. Make sure the printer whose PPD file you want to update is installed in the Windows "Printers" Control Panel, and that it uses the Windows 3.56 PostScript printer driver (or later).
2. In File Manager, double-click on the PPD.EXE file in the UTILITY directory in the language subdirectory (USEENGLISH, for example) of the ALDUS directory on your hard drive.

Note: The more PPD files you installed with PageMaker, the longer it will take for Update PPD to build a list of available PPD files to display in the initial dialog box.

3. In the "Windows Update PPD Application" dialog box, select the PPD file you want to update for "PPD to update."
4. Type a filename and a nickname for your custom printer file for "Custom PPD File Name" and "Custom PPD Nickname," respectively, or accept the default names provided.

You must use a ".PPD" extension in the filename, and begin both the filename and the nickname with an "@" character.

5. Click the "Query Printer VM..." button.

The more printers that are installed in the Windows "Printers" Control Panel, the longer it takes for the "Query Printer" dialog box to appear.

Note: The initial value listed for "Free VM in Custom PPD" matches the "FreeVM" setting in the currently-selected PPD file, and may not correspond to the actual amount of RAM in your printer.

6. Select the printer whose PPD file you want to update, and then click "Print."

The actual amount of virtual memory your printer contains is printed to your printer. (On an imagesetter, the amount of film imaged is equal to the paper size selected for your printer in the Windows Control Panel.)

7. Type the virtual memory amount printed from your printer for "Free VM in Custom PPD," and click "Save."

The new custom printer file is saved to the directory specified for "PPD4=" in the [Aldus] section of your WIN.INI file. By default, this directory equals the PPD4 directory in the language directory (USEENGLISH, for example) in the ALDUS directory.

When you print from PageMaker 5.0, be sure to select the custom printer file (instead of the PPD file) for "Type" in the "Print document" dialog box. Custom printer files can be identified by the "@" character that precedes their filename or nickname.

More information available

For more information about PPD files and the Windows 3.56 PostScript printer driver, refer to the following topics in the PageMaker 5.0 documentation:

"Setting up your printer in Windows" on page 204 of the *PageMaker 5.0 User Manual*

"Understanding PPD files" on page 209 of the *PageMaker 5.0 User Manual*

"Working with PostScript printer description files" on page 68 of the *PageMaker 5.0 Commercial Printing Guide*

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