

TP -- Text Print

Public Domain

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Written by:

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This version of TP fixes an irritating bug which existed in version 0.95. When a number of files were queued for printing the first file would print in the proper location on the page but files which followed would be shifted down the page.

TP is a print utility for use with the Imagewriter printer connected via the Macintosh printer port. It will be most useful for programmers or students who frequently print ASCII files created by one of the many text editors currently in use. It is designed to quickly hammer out unadorned text with a minimum of fuss. TP expects to find carriage return characters marking the end of each line in the files it is asked to print. The program has a limited number of features and is very easy to use. It has only been tested on the Macintosh Plus and 512K (unenhanced) machines driving the original Imagewriter printer. It offers the following features:

- * Fast printing on the Imagewriter.
- * Allows a number of files to be queued for printing (up to 50).
- * Allows background printing under Multifinder.
- * Expands tabs. TP looks at the resource fork of files created by MDS Edit and the MPW editor and extracts the tabstop spacing information and automatically expands tabs accordingly. For files created by other applications the "Tab Setting" field may be filled in and this will be used to expand tabs for each file in the print queue.
- * Allows margins, page length, page width and print size to be set making it suitable for a wide variety of printing tasks.
- * A group of print settings may be saved as a TP document for later use.
- * Provides an optional page header.
- * Provides optional printing of slashed zeros.
- * It is public domain and free.

TP's drawbacks:

- * It is portly.
- * It doesn't deal properly with text files with lines too long to print for a given page width/print size. This includes word processor files saved as text files without specifying that line breaks are to be inserted.

* It is configured to print only to the printer port.

TP's bugs:

* Start printing out of some application under Multifinder and in the middle of the job start printing with TP. Voila`, scratch paper!

* I don't reset standard printer instructions prior to starting a print job. I have had no end of misery trying to initialize my Imagewriter (an antique Imagewriter I) following the escape sequence to set "standard" instructions. You may want to turn the printer off and back on before printing with TP if you have just finished printing from another application.

TP was written using TML Modula-2, which is a trademark of:

TML Systems
4241 Baymeadows Road, Suite 23
Jacksonville, FL 32217
904 636-8592

The user interface appears courtesy of TransSkel, a public domain transportable application skeleton originally implemented in C by:

Paul DuBois
Wisconsin Regional Primate Center
1220 Capitol Court
Madison, WI 53706

However I have been using a version ported to TML Modula-2 (and hopefully available on information services everywhere) by:

Dennnis Cohen
215 N. Kenwood Street, Apt. 102
Glendale, CA 91206

I heartily recommend TML Modula-2 & TransSkel to anyone interested in programming the Macintosh family in the Modula-2 language.

I hope you find TP useful.

K. A. Knutson