

# Command Line Graphical User Interface for Ghostscript for Windows

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## **Abstract:**

The accompanying software is a MS Windows program. It makes the use of Ghostscript for Windows more convenient.

## **About Postscript & Ghostscript:**

Ghostscript for Windows is a MS Windows version of Ghostscript, a Postscript interpreter, from Aladdin Enterprises, Copyright 1989, 1992. It is distributed by the Free Software Foundation, Inc. Ghostscript can be downloaded from various sites on the Internet, and some BBS's.

Ghostscript was originally used on UNIX systems, but has been ported to the PC. There are PC, 386 PC, and MS Windows versions available.

Postscript is a "Page Description Language" used in Desktop Publishing by high-end systems, and printed on Postscript Printers, the high end of laser printers. It is also used by commercial printers.

Ghostscript allows the Postscript output of various programs to be viewed on computer screens, converted to image files, and printed on inexpensive printers. As freely distributable software, is an incredible piece of work.

To use this Command Line GUI software you will need:

- A 386 or better PC with enough memory
- MS Windows 3.1 running Enhanced Mode
- Ghostscript 2.5.2 for Windows
- Ghostscript ini files
- Ghostscript font files
- This software
- The Visual Basic DLL file

- 252win.zip
- gs252ini.zip
- 24\*.zip & 25\*.zip
- gswingui.zip
- vbrun100.dll

## **The Command Line GUI for MS Windows:**

The present piece of software was created to make the use of Ghostscript for Windows convenient. The Windows version of Ghostscript (GS) is similar to the DOS and UNIX versions. It will output graphics to a separate window in the MS Windows version, and take advantage of a 256 colour display if you have one.

Unless you know Postscript programming, you may find using Ghostscript awkward, especially since the GS documentation is very brief. GS can be used conveniently if it is launched with command line parameters. However, using command line parameters is a bit difficult under MS Windows so I wrote a program in Visual Basic to make it easier.

The program has file browsing tools to let you move through subdirectories looking for your Postscript files. You can click on one file to enter it into the command line, which you can see on the yellow horizontal bar.

You can click command buttons or manually enter for the file search pattern, in order to look for \*.ps, \*.eps, \*.grp, or other files.

I have also included a command button to bring up the notepad program of MS Windows in order to manually edit your selected Postscript file, if it is not too long for notepad. Use this feature carefully.

There are command buttons for some of the alternative resolutions (available resolutions are printer dependent). Other resolutions can be manually entered into the command line.

There are list boxes for selecting output devices and output destinations (screen, printer, or file). Some of the device/destination combinations are incompatible and are not selectable.

There is an [Upper PS to 640x480 Image] button to create an image of the upper part of a PS page inside a 640x480 screen image or gif file. The image is enlarged (margins are clipped) so the command will not be satisfactory for all Postscript files. I created this option in order to get output from certain commercial software into a gif file. You will have to edit the uppr\_gif.ps and uppr\_scr.ps files in order to change the magnification and position on the page. Use trial and error, or expertise.

There is a [-q -dNOPAUSE] button for "production runs" and a [ Make Portrait ] button to shift a landscape picture into a reduced size portrait orientation. (The port\_\*.ps routines need improvement by someone who knows Postscript programming.)

The [ Execute... ] button launches Ghostscript for Windows with the command line parameters displayed in the text box. If the line is too long for DOS, it will have to be shortened. One way is to output to a file in the C:\ directory or in the default directory. Another is to use the @filename facility described in the Ghostscript documentation.

Note that GS can convert Postscript files into \*.gif files of stated resolution or image dimensions.

The [ RESET ] button returns to the starting condition of the interface program.

## **Installation:**

You will need the Visual Basic DLL file vbrun100.dll in your Windows directory in order to use the interface. This file is freely distributable and can be found on the Internet and many BBS's.

Unzip this interface software into a subdirectory... I suggest C:\GSCRIPT.

Unzip Ghostscript for Windows and its support files into this same directory (e.g. C:\GSCRIPT).

Set up the following environment variable in your AUTOEXEC.BAT file. Enter this line into AUTOEXEC.BAT:

```
SET GS_LIB=C:\GSCRIPT
```

or substitute whatever subdirectory you have chosen. (If you don't know what I am talking about, get help!)

Bring up MS Windows. Under the Program Manager menu system, select File,New and install a new program item into your Applications program group. The program is:

```
c:\gscript\vb_gs.exe
```

and also set the working directory to C:\GSCRIPT (assuming this is the subdirectory you have chosen. You may wish to use your own icon. Run the program in the usual way. Hit the [Execute Ghostscript Command Line] button to launch Ghostscript with whatever parameters you have chosen. You can also use Ghostscript interactively if you know how. There are a few suggestions in the GS documentation - read it (use.doc and others). To quit, type quit into the Ghostscript interactive session.

## **Hints:**

When GS for Windows generates a screen image, it is in a Form called Ghostscript Image. You can click this icon to full size to see the image being generated. The Ghostscript Image will display when done, anyway. It can be sent to the Windows Clipboard once displayed. The image size can be user set with the -r parameter (pixels per inch) or by setting the image size with -g (see the GS documentation).

## **\*.PS Files:**

There are six accompanying PS files here.

The port\_\*.ps files when used with the -g640x480 parameter should turn a landscape picture upright and fit it in a 640x480 image. For printers the portrait mode was set up to work with 300 DPI printers. Other aspect ratios may not work. There is probably a better way to do this. The proportions are about right, but not exactly right.

The uppr\_scr.ps and uppr\_gif.ps files when used with the -g640x480 parameter give a slightly enlarged view of the upper part of a Postscript page. They were written for output to screen or gif file.

The seefonts.ps program is based on the one in the GS distribution and will show some selected fonts.

## **Final Notes:**

This program was written with Visual Basic for Windows ver. 1.0. You will need the vbrun100.dll file in your Windows directory in order to run it. This file can be found on Internet sites or on many BBS's. This program is freely distributable. It is not to be sold.

Use at your own risk. I accept no responsibilities for its use, inability to use, damages, or consequential damages, etc., etc., etc.

Peter Budgell, March 1993.

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