

PRN Viewer

version 1.0

About PRN Viewer

This utility may be used to peek into PostScript PRN files created by CorelDRAW!. It will be most useful in determining exactly what fonts are required to be resident in or downloaded to the output device although it also displays other information that you may find useful. It offers an on-screen display as well as a simple printed report. In this version of PRNView, the report will be sent to the device designated by Windows as the default printer, although subsequent versions may offer a Printer Setup facility.

Installation and Requirements

The following files are contained in the compressed, self-extracting archive called PRNVW.EXE:

PRNVIEW.EXE	The PRN Viewer program
PRNVIEW.WRI	PRN Viewer documentation
THREED.VBX	Custom Visual Basic controls

PRN Viewer requires that the Visual Basic runtime support files VBRUN200.DLL and THREED.VBX be either in the same directory as PRNVIEW.EXE, in the Windows System directory, or elsewhere in the path. The VBRUN200.DLL may be downloaded as VBRUN2.ZIP from Library 5 of the MSBASIC forum on CompuServe.

The PRN Viewer program itself may be run from anywhere on the system, as long as the support files are present. Check the Windows manual if you are not familiar with the procedure for adding a new icon to a Program Manager group.

Using PRN Viewer

PRN Viewer may be started by double-clicking on its icon in the Program Manager, by double clicking on its filename in the File Manager, or by entering its path and filename in the command line of the Run dialog box. Once it is running, it may be moved about the screen by dragging the title bar and it may be minimized to its iconic state by selecting Minimize from the control menu. When you close PRN Viewer, the Window coordinates will be saved in a file called PRNVIEW.INI and the program will display at these same coordinates the next time it is run. The last selected directory will also be recorded in the PRNVIEW.INI (which will be saved in the directory from which PRNVIEW.EXE was launched).

The opening screen offers standard controls for selecting drives, directories and files. Once you have located and selected a PRN file, the Get Info button becomes enabled. You may either click on this button or double click on a PRN filename to display the information pertinent to this file.

If the selected PRN file was created by CorelDRAW!, the path and filename will be displayed in the title bar and the file specific information will fill the dialog box. Also, a CorelDRAW! icon will appear below the Cancel button with an indication as to which version was used to produce the output file. If the file was not created by CorelDRAW!, PRN Viewer will continue to attempt to extract information from the file but the results are unpredictable. It was designed to read PostScript code created by CorelDRAW! alone.

The information that PRN Viewer will attempt to secure is as follows:

PRN File Name: The DOS filename of the selected PRN file.

PRN File Size: The file size, in bytes.

CDR File Name: The DOS filename of the original CorelDRAW! CDR file.

PostScript Fonts Required: A list of the PostScript names of all the fonts required to be resident in or downloaded to the PostScript output device.

Resolution: The resolution, in dots per inch, specified in the driver setup when the file was produced. This will impact the resolution at which any non-resident fonts were rasterized. It may also impact the screen angles and frequencies specified by DRAW! for separation colors.

Page Size: PRN Viewer will attempt to extract the printer page size requested by the user. This may not always work, however, as there are many PostScript drivers and variations thereof (of which only several were tested).

Orientation: The orientation of the page, portrait or landscape.

Flatness: The degree of accuracy used by the PostScript interpreter when interpreting and 'flattening' paths. The default is 1.00. Higher values will lead to less accurate rendering of curved paths.

AutoFlatness: If enabled, PostScript path complexity errors will be trapped and offending paths will be retried at higher flatness settings. Although this may overcome Limitcheck errors, it may also lead to extended production times and higher costs.

Scale: The scale at which the original graphic will be output. 100% is the default.

Fountain Steps: The maximum number of steps that will be used in rendering a fountain fill. The highest possible value is 255.

Control D's: When running print jobs from a Macintosh or over certain networks, there must be no Control D's (PostScript end of job markers) in the file. These markers are, however, recommended when outputting PostScript from a PC.

Job Timeout: The timeout setting for this particular print job. Typically this will be zero (infinite).

Output Mode: If the mode is Separations, the device will produce one page for each colorant (Process or Spot). Otherwise, each page will be produced as a composite using the full range of specified colors. If the output mode is Separations, the Color Name, Frequency, and Angles listboxes, as described below, will become visible.

Print: Positive or Negative. This will be important in determining whether a Negative image control should be invoked by the operator.

Job Screen: The overall screen frequency set for the job. It will either be an explicit value or 'Device's Default', in which case the default screen set for the device will be used. In the case of separations, this screen may be overridden by the individual color plates.

Color Name: This list, as well as the Frequency and Angle lists described below, will only be visible when the selected PRN file describes a series of color separations. Each color (Process and Spot) used in the file will be displayed here.

Frequency: The screen frequency values in this list will correspond with the color names (and consequentially the specific color separations) on the same level of the previously described list.

Angle: The screen angles in this list will correspond with the color names (and consequentially the specific color separations) on the same level of the Color Name list.

The Print button will compile a simple report on the selected PRN file (with the same information seen on screen) and send it to the device that is designated as the default printer for Windows. You may click on the Cancel button or hit Escape on the keyboard to go back to the main PRN Viewer screen.

Troubleshooting

If you find that the text panels in the information screen are unreadable, search your hard drives for the file THREEED.VBX and check the size and date stamps. The file should be 60,720 bytes in size. If you find files with this name that are 55,904 bytes in size, delete them and make sure the updated file (included with this archive) resides in the Windows SYSTEM directory.

Contacting the author

If you have any questions on the use of PRN Viewer, or if you have noticed certain problems or anomalies with the software please contact the author through one of the following means:

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The stuff at the end of the document

PRN Viewer is freeware. Please pass it on to anyone who may find it useful.

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Rus Miller
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