

ALTPAGE, v1.0

(Print a document on both sides)
Documentation
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FORWARD

Altpage is a program designed to allow you to print on both sides of printer paper by separating the even and odd pages or, if you like, the right and left pages. This is a 50% savings over printing on one side. Altpage does this by counting the number of lines while outputting each character to a file; if a Form Feed is reached or the number of lines is 66, then the output file is switched. Altpage is designed to work with most all text files meant to be printed.

USAGE

Altpage is used as follows: at the DOS prompt, you type ALTPAGE followed by the input file, then odd pages file (right pages), and the even pages file (left pages). If you enter ALTPAGE by itself, a description of its usage is displayed. Altpage will proceed to convert your document. When finished, Altpage will print a message:

```
altpage END: processed xxx pages
```

which tells you that it is done and how many pages it processed. If Altpage runs into an error, the following message will be displayed:

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altpage ABORT: (error)
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where (error) is "can't read <file>," "write error or disk full," or "can't create <file>." Altpage then aborts.

PRINTING THE DOCUMENT

There are several ways in which you can actually print the documents. You can specify two files and print them afterward, or, you can enter PRN for the first file and Altpage will print it while converting; however, that file will be lost and you will have to rerun Altpage to make it again. If you want to use DOS 2.0's filtering capabilities or type in the text yourself, specify [STDIN] for the input file; the file will then be read from standard input. For instance:

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type altpage.doc |altpage [STDIN] altpage.odd altpage.evn
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Note that STDIN must be in upper case. This will do the same thing as "altpage altpage.doc altpage.odd altpage.evn", but it does demonstrate the use of standard input.

After you create the proper files, you can print it out. Set you print to top of form and use your favorite print program to print it out; however, make sure that you program doesn't format the input itself; you can COPY to PRN, use the DOS PRINT program, or even TYPE and redirect to PRN. The first file you print out is

the odd pages file. Then, advance to about two pages beyond the end of the document, tear off the paper, remove the unprinted paper, insert the document in BACKWARDS (on a back feed printer, that's with the text up; on a bottom feed, text toward back), align, set it to the first page, and print the even pages file. Now eject and replace the unprinted paper. You can now punch in

holes or whatever you need to do; and you're done.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

This program was written in DeSmet C on an IBM PC with a 20 meg hard disk, DOS 3.1. However, the program works under 2.1. The source code is transportable to any Kerninghan and Ritchie defined C compiler (Lattice, DeSmet, K&R). An average 134 page document takes about 3 minutes and 45 seconds to convert. Contact the author at the address above for information.