

PostPrint 2/3 Beta 32

You can print GeoPaint pages with PP2/PP3 now. And you can also paste them (as well as GeoWrite pages) into a PostPrint project layout.

When you go to print a GeoPaint page, you'll notice the same dialogue box that pops up when printing PP Projects, GeoPublish files, and GeoWrite files. In this DB you'll see that you can select a range of pages to print. Just ignore this for now. Selecting a page will have no affect since all GeoPaints are just one page. I'll be completely revamping this DB soon and so I am not concerned about fixing it so that the page indicators don't show up.

DATA UPGRADER

In this archive is a simple application that will upgrade your B2.8+ project files to be current with this new release. They will still work without upgrading them, but if you double-click on one of your current project files, the Dashboard won't be able to find this new version of PP2 or PP3. That's the part that gets upgraded. Instead, you'll have to start up PP2 or PP3 first and then select a project file.

To use this upgrader, just copy it to a directory containing all the project files that you want to upgrade. Then double-click on the upgrader icon. The upgrader will start up and within a few seconds it will return you to the Dashboard.

Have fun and please report any problems on the COPS mailing list. Thanks...

-Maurice

PostPrint 2/3 Beta 33

Point and click your way around and see what's been changed in this release. You'll find some new paper layouts in the layout mode. There's support for A4 paper now for the European users.

(The next release will also allow you to choose between Letter and A4 paper when printing geoPublish, geoWrite, and geoPaint pages, but currently only the PP project files can be printed using A4 paper.)

You'll also find booklet styles. This is where printing is done in landscape mode and each half of the paper on each side is considered to be one project page. At print time, the tough part is taken care of for you and each page is printed where they belong. For instance, the first and last pages are printed first, then the next sheet will have page 3 and the 3rd page from the end. Once you get to the middle of the booklet, printing will turn around and work its way back to the front of the booklet again.

So, if you plan it with the correct number of sheets, you can reinsert them to print the other sides at this point. Later on, I'll fix it so that you can be prompted when to flip the sheets over and reinsert them. Also, you currently can't select a range of pages when printing booklets. The whole project gets printed all at once from start to finish. I'll add support for selecting individual pages later on.

In the print dialogue box, you'll see a couple of new check boxes. One is "EOL". You get 3 choices of "end of line" characters. They are CR, LF, and CR/LF. This is what will appear at the end of each line of PostScript code. If you're sending data to a real printer, it makes no difference which you select. But if you're sending data to another computer over a null-modem cable, you should pick the EOL that suits the operating system of the destination computer. If you're sending data to a disk file, then whatever you pick in the disk file dialogue box for EOL will override this setting. When sending to a geoWrite file, only CR's are used.

Another new checkbox is "CTRL-D". When sending data to anything but a disk file or to SUPERTEXT, this controls whether or not a CTRL-D is sent at the beginning of the print session.

In layout mode, you can pour entire geoPublish or geoWrite files into a PostPrint project. The landscape modes and the Legal portrait mode cannot use this feature, but all other modes can. The pages will paste into the project file beginning with the current project page. This is handy for very quickly getting pages filled.

As usual, I've done a great deal of fixing to this software. I'm not aware of any real problems. Enjoy it.

-Maurice

PostPrint 2/3 Beta 34

This release mostly fixes a few bugs and makes improvements to what we already have. Plus a few more paper styles are added. You can do 8.5x11 booklets now using 11x17 paper (if you can find a PostScript printer that can handle paper that big!) The large A3 paper is also supported in a booklet form.

In the layout mode, you'll see a new icon that says "*EDIT*". This doesn't do anything yet. But soon, you'll be able to select an object such as a geoWrite page and click on EDIT and geoWrite will be launched so you can edit the page. Upon exiting geoWrite (or geoPublish, etc) you'll return right back to the layout mode.

Have fun...

-Maurice

PostPrint 2/3 B3.5 Notes:

There is quite a difference between the previous release (B3.4) and this one. I believe I've got all the bugs worked out, plus all the little quirks. Things like disappearing objects from the layout mode and contrast/brightness adjustments that don't stick should all be fixed. You'll also notice that characters aren't getting chopped off on the right side of GeoWrite documents.

There are numerous little improvements and a few big ones. When you print a PostPrint project file, the range of pages you choose will stay with the file. This was a suggestion from Dale. He wanted to be able to repeatedly test specific pages by printing them out, then making adjustments and reprinting. He no longer has to keep entering the page numbers on each reprint.

I can't add this feature to printing GeoPublish or GeoWrite pages because I don't want PostPrint to alter those documents in any way. If you're reprinting those documents, you must reenter the page range each time.

HOWEVER... there is a new feature in the print attribute dialogue box. You'll notice an "*EDIT*" button is in there now. If you're printing a GeoPublish, GeoWrite, or GeoPaint document, you can launch the respective application by clicking on the EDIT button. When you exit

the app, you'll return right back to the same dialogue box to reprint the document. All the settings will remain the same at this point, including the range of pages.

Likewise, in the layout mode, the EDIT tool is now functional. You can select an object and launch the appropriate application to edit the object.

A4 PAPER USERS

European users might like the fact that you can now choose A4 paper as your default setting for printing GeoPublish, GeoWrite, and GeoPaint files. Click on the PRINT icon to find where to make the setting adjustment. If you're creating a GeoWrite document and intend to use PP2/3 to print it on A4 paper, be sure to install one of the A4 printer drivers that I released last fall. With an A4 driver installed, GeoWrite will format the page to the correct length and PP2/3 will print all the way to the bottom of the paper. Those A4 drivers are not used by PP2/3 at print time. PP2/3 contains its own built-in output drivers. Installing an A4 driver won't have any affect on the length of a GeoPublish or GeoPaint file, though. Those apps are limited to 10.5 and 10 inches respectively. However, the A4 drivers will scale the width of the documents to fit the paper.

THE STOP KEY

The STOP key now functions as it should. Whenever you're sending a document to the printer and you want to cancel, just press the STOP key. The printer should eventually time out and reset itself or the next time you send a file, it should reset if a CTRL-D goes first. I don't have it where you can press CTRL-D from the keyboard yet.

GEOCABLE USERS

There is no longer two different geoCable drivers in PP2/3. The new geoCable routines will work with both variations of geoCables and they'll function at any speed, whether it be 1mhz, 2mhz, 4mhz, or 20mhz.

REMEMBER THE ORIGINAL POSTPRINT?

When I released the first PostPrint, it was a very simple program. It was designed to read in a GeoWrite file and send only the ascii characters to the printer. This way, you

could use GeoWrite to create your PostScript code and use PostPrint to send the code to the printer. PostPrint 2 and 3 do not resemble that original program at all. But there is still a need to manually edit PostScript code and send it to the printer. PP2/3 can do this by choosing "*Send GeoWrite PostScript*" from the print job dialogue box. However, this still involves switching between GeoWrite and PP2/3. Now, there's another way.

Included in this archive are three new printer drivers:

PSSend	for serial interfaces
PSSend(GC)	for geoCable
PSSend(SL)	for SwiftLink

Install PSSend just like you would any normal GEOS printer driver. It's to be used only with GeoWrite. When you edit some code in GeoWrite, just click on "*print*" from the menu and choose "*Draft*" for the print mode. PSSend will take it from there and send only the ascii portion of the document to the printer. This effectively obsoletes the original PostPrint program.

NOTE: if you don't use Draft printing, GeoWrite might not send space characters in between each word and the printer will see this as an error. "*High*" won't work at all since this mode sends bitmap data to the printer driver.

There's an additional feature also in the PSSend drivers. If you put "%D" (without the quotes) on a line all by itself, PSSend will send a **CTRL-D** to your printer to reset it. You might want to use this near the start of your code. For instance, the following code will reset the printer and spit out a blank page:

```
%!PS
%D
showpage
```

PSSend is handy to use straight from GeoWrite if you want to add some custom code to your GeoPublish, GeoWrite, or GeoPaint documents. Just load up PP2/3 and send your output to a disk file. Then load up GeoWrite, add your custom code, and use PSSend to ship the code to the printer.

Eventually, I'll have a new application that can alter some of

the settings contained in my new printer drivers. For instance, the PSSend(SL) driver has some settings that tell it how to find the SwiftLink. There is also a setting to adjust the BPS rate for the printer. The default setting in this driver is for address \$DE00 and 9600bps. You'll have to live with these settings until I get the configuration app ready.

ALMOST FINISHED

PostPrint 2 is very close to being considered a finished application. Perhaps with just a little more tweaking here and there, I'll release it as V1.0. PostPrint 3 will then get the bulk of my attention and continue to develop. So far, I've been keeping the two running side by side except for what little capabilities that SUPERTEXT offers. Play around with this release and post your remarks, good or bad, on the COPS mailing list.

-Maurice

PostPrint 2/3 B3.6 Notes

I'm not going to say much in these notes except that I think I've got the bugs fixed that cropped up in the B3.5 release. But who knows, maybe one or more of you will find more.

To find out more info about this B3.6 release, you'll have to print out the included GeoPublish file using this new release of PostPrint 2 or 3. Don't use an older version or you won't get the same effect.

Load up B3.6 and click on the PRINT icon. Then click on "*SELECT print job*". Choose "*geoPublish document*" and click on OK. In the file requestor that comes up, select "*postnewsb36*" and send this GeoPublish file to your printer. Be sure to have the **LW_Roma** font on the same directory as PostPrint. That's the only font used in this particular GeoPublish file. The GeoWrite file called "**wr.postb36**" is a file that's pasted into the GeoPublish file. So be sure that file is on the same directory with **postnewsb36**.

You'll get two pages printed on your printer. Read these pages to find out more about this new release. Then post your comments, good or bad, in the COPS mailing list.

Have fun...

-Maurice

PostPrint 2/3 B3.7 Notes

Once again, you'll need to print out the current issue of "PostPrint News" to find out about this new release.

This time, you'll be printing out a PostPrint project file. It consists of 4 pages and I've supplied two versions, one for letter style paper and one for the A4 paper users.

The only font used is **LW_Roma**, make sure you have this font in your PostPrint directory. To print the PostPrint News, make sure the following files from this archive are located together in the same directory:

pp.news37	(file to print for letter paper)
a4.news37	(file to print for A4 paper)
pub.news37	(the rest are pasted
wr.news37	into the above project
golfer.ps	files)
pg3.eps	

Load up this new B3.7 release and print either "pp.news37" or "a4.news37" depending on the type of paper you use. If you wish to print this issue in color, be sure to click the new "Color" option in the print dialog box.

Have fun...

-Maurice

PostPrint 2/3 B3.8 Notes

As with the last couple of releases, you'll have to load up PostPrint 2 or 3 and print out the current issue of the PostPrint News. This issue is a single page GeoPublish file. A geoWrite file (**wr.ppb38**) is pasted onto the GeoPublish page. The file you want to print out is called "**pub.news38**".

There is only one font used in this issue, this time it's the "**LW_Cal**" font. Be sure this font is in the same directory as PostPrint or you'll end up with the nasty looking BSW font.

As always, post your comments, suggestions, bad news, etc, on the COPS mailing list.

Have fun...

-Maurice

PostPrint 2/3 B4.0 Notes

As with the last couple of releases, you'll have to load up PostPrint 2 or 3 and print out the current issue of the PostPrint News. This issue is a multi-page GeoPublish file. There are three geoWrite files included that are part of the geoPublish file. Don't view or print these, they will be printed within the geoPublish document. One is called **wr.ppb40**, **wr.bookb40**, and **wr.surprise**. The geoPublish file you want to print out is called "**pub.news40**".

There are two fonts used in this issue, "**LW_Cal**" and "**LW_Roma**". Be sure these fonts are in the same directory as PostPrint or you'll end up with the nasty looking BSW font.

You can use your previous version of PostPrint to print this new PostPrint News issue, but I would suggest diving right into this new version of PostPrint.

Go ahead and load it up and print this new issue. As usual, from the main screen, click on the PRINT icon. Then choose "Select print job". Now, click on "geoPublish document" and click OK. When the file requestor comes up, pick "**pub.news40**". You'll be taken to the print dialog box. Don't let the new print dialog box scare you. You'll see some new options, just ignore them for now. Leave all the settings as they are except for Color, PS Level, and the output selection. Turn color on even if you use a black and white printer. Also, select between PS Level 1 or Level 2 depending on the printer you use. If you're not sure, then pick Level 1. Now choose how the printer is connected. You'll see the the default is "serial bus". Leave this setting as it is if you use a serial to parallel interface daisy-chained to your disk drives. Otherwise, click on the setting and choose the appropriate one such as "geoCable". Now, click OK to print the PostPrint News. Read it and find out what this latest B4.0 can do.

As always, post your comments, suggestions, bad news, etc, on the COPS mailing list.

Have fun...

-Maurice

PostPrint NEWS

**Color
"cheatsheet"
- page 2 -**

The biggest change with PostPrint 2 and PostPrint 3 in this B3.6 release is apparent if you're reading this. We now have color capability in GeoPublish. How is this possible? Anything that can have a pattern applied to it can have a color. For instance, when you want to draw a filled rectangle such as the sidebar background to the left, you merely select a pattern and that rectangle will be filled with the color associated with that particular pattern.

In the past (this worked the same with geoPubLaser), the first 9 patterns were used to specify a shade of gray. The remaining 23 patterns all produced the same 50 percent shade. Now those 23 patterns are used for producing color while the first 9 patterns are still used for grayscales.

You can also specify a pattern when you enter text in the "graphic mode" of GeoPublish. This allows you to make small amounts of text in color just like you see on this page.

Proofreading a GeoPublish document on the screen might prove to be

**Now you can easily add color to your
GeoPublish documents!**

**What lies ahead
for PostPrint?
...stay tuned**

difficult once you've applied a pattern to some text. Some of the bolder patterns won't be hard to read, but the lighter ones will be nearly impossible. So, you might want to wait until the document is nearly finished before applying your colors.





























On the next page, you'll find a cheatsheet that will help you pick the colors you want to use in your GeoPublish documents.

GeoPublish Color Cheatsheet



















The first 9 patterns produce various grayscales, including black and white, as they always have

		100% (white)
		0% (black)
		50%
		50%
		50%
		75%
		25%
		87.5%
		12.5%

The next 14 patterns simulate the 40 column screen colors (except for black and white)

		Red
		Cyan
		Purple
		Green
		Blue
		Yellow
		Orange
		Brown
		Light Red
		Dark Gray
		Medium Gray
		Light Green
		Light Blue
		Light Gray

The remaining 9 patterns are custom colors that you can customize to your liking (the editor isn't ready yet)

		Salmon
		Pastel Purple
		Pastel Blue
		Bright Blue
		Turquoise
		Pastel Green
		Bright Green
		Pastel Yellow
		Beige

From within GeoPublish, you can apply the colors and grayscales found on this page to any object that can have a pattern applied to it. This includes objects such as lines, filled rectangles, text entered in graphic mode, etc.

GeoPaint files can also be printed in color now. A GeoPaint file is a BIG bitmap image being sent to the printer, so it will take some time to print in color. The newer color lasers are quite fast, though. Some of the faster ones can print a full GeoPaint page in about 30 seconds. Even a black and white printer can print a color GeoPaint using halftones. But some of them are quite slow due to all the added calculating of the halftones. My Panasonic KX-P5400 takes about 30 minutes to print a GeoPaint page. If you turn color off within GeoPaint, then the file will still print in black and white and will go much, much faster. The "colorimage" operator is used for printing these color images. If your Level 1 printer doesn't support colorimage, the procedure used is smart enough to recognize this and will revert to black and white printing.

For GeoPublish files, color is printed using "setrgbcolor" for Level 1 printers and "setcmykcolor" for Level 2 printers.

In this current version, the black and white colors, plus the 14 colors that simulate the 40-column screen colors are also used when printing a color GeoPaint file.

PostPrint NEWS

New Stuff!!

Improved
Outline Fonts

Color
Photo Scraps

EPS Files

BUG FIXES

This release of PostPrint gets a couple of bugs fixed in the file requestor that is used for selecting JPEG files in the layout mode. Thanks to Tiger Avery for pointing these out. One bug occurred if the filename had any uppercase PETASCII characters. If it did, the filename wouldn't show up in the requestor at all. The other bug happened if a filename had a full 16 characters in it. It would cause two filenames to be displayed on the same line.

OUTLINED CHARACTERS

Have you ever used outlined characters in GeoPublish when using a PostScript font? Did you notice the outline stroke stayed the same even on the larger point sizes? This would make the characters appear too light. Now, as the point size gets larger, the thickness of the outline also increases. Take a look where it says "NEWS" at the top of this page. Compare that to the way it printed with the previous release and you'll see a noticeable difference.

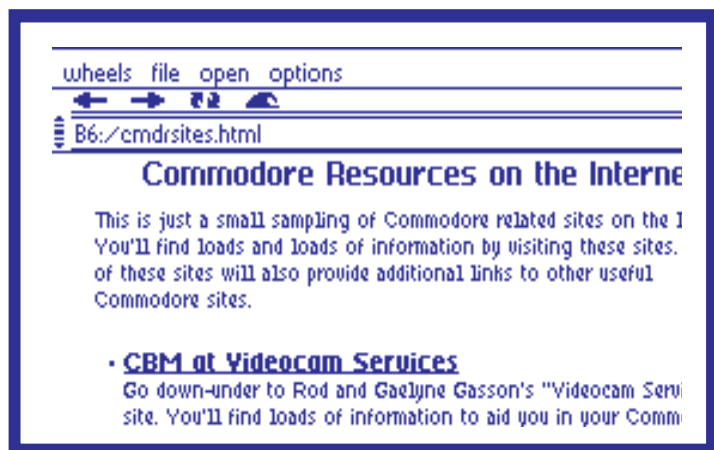
While we're on the subject of outline fonts, check out the font used to make "PostPrint" at the top of the page. Notice how it's not only outlined in one color, but it's also filled in another color? Neat trick, huh? That's actually nothing new. This feature has been available ever since geoPubLaser came out. Of course with geoPubLaser, you were limited to using grayscales, but now you can do this with color.

You can do this little trick as long as you use a PostScript font (LW series) and not a GEOS bitmap font. Simply paste down two copies of the same text. Make one outline and one solid. Be sure to put the outlined one on top of the solid one or it won't show up. Use a different pattern on each one so you get two different colors. The only critical part is that you must position each one so the upper left corners are in the same exact spot. Drag the lower right corners to two different positions so that you can still click on either one if need be.

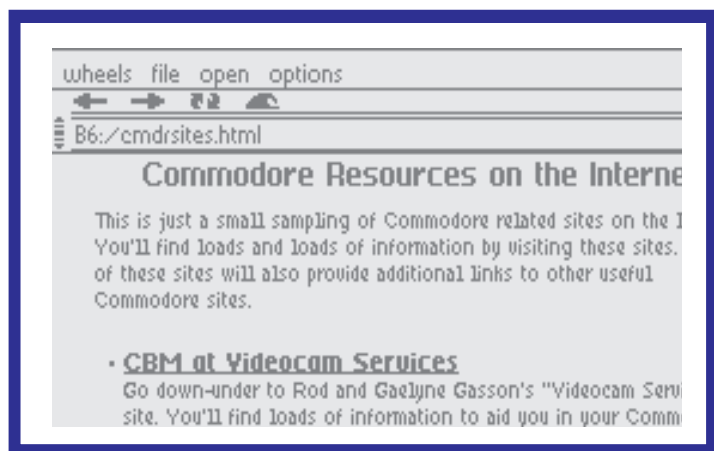
If you try this using a GEOS bitmap font, you won't get the same



Photo scrap screenshot of the upper left of The Wave in color.



The same photo scrap with a pattern applied making it all blue.



Sometimes, GeoPaint includes color info even when color is turned off. In this case, color is within the GeoPaint file, so color is included in the scrap. However, it's just dark gray over a light gray background.

effect because when outlining is applied to the bitmap font, the characters get slightly wider. For this reason, what you'll see on the screen won't look correct. The characters won't line up the same even with the LW fonts. But when you print them on your PostScript printer, the LW fonts will line up perfectly.

COLOR PHOTO SCRAPS

The last release of PostPrint brought us color GeoPaints. Now we can also enjoy color photo scraps. Many photo scraps contain color information, but not all of them. As an example, if you open up GeoPaint in 128 80 column mode, you're using a monochrome mode. If you copy out a photo scrap in this mode, GeoPaint won't include any color information even if color was turned on for this particular file. Actually, it will include color info, but the colors will all be dark gray on a light gray background, the same as the default colors. If you copy out a photo scrap in 40 column mode or in the 64 version, GeoPaint will include the color information right in the photo scrap itself. But it will only do this if you have color turned on for that particular GeoPaint file.

Now, when you paste a photo scrap into a GeoWrite or GeoPublish document and print it with PostPrint, it will be printed in color.

If you paste a photo scrap into GeoPublish and apply any pattern other than solid black, the colors from the scrap will not be used. Instead, the grayscale or color represented by the chosen pattern will be applied to the entire photo scrap. If you apply solid black to the photo scrap and no color information is in the scrap file, then it will be printed in black and white.

TURNING COLOR ON OR OFF

There is a new option in the print dialog boxes that allows you to turn color printing off. Turning color off can help save on your color ink or toner when you simply want to print out rough drafts for proofreading. However, turning color off doesn't turn ALL color off. If you have a color JPEG pasted into a PostPrint project, it will still print in color. If you want to avoid printing your color JPEGs, switch to Level 1 and you'll get a plain light gray rectangle where the JPEG image is supposed to be.

Turning color off causes GeoPaint files and photo scraps to be printed in black and white. Any colors applied to objects in GeoPublish files will print in various shades of gray depending on the color used.

EPS FILES

Another new feature with this release is the inclusion of EPS file support. You can paste EPS files into any PostPrint project now. For those unfamiliar with EPS files (Encapsulated PostScript), think of them as being to PostScript like what a photo scrap is to GeoPublish. You can paste them in, position them anywhere on the page, rotate and resize them. You can even add a frame around them like you can with other objects in your project files.

Not only can we import EPS files, we can also create them now. In the print dialog boxes, you'll notice an "EPS" option. If this is selected, the PostScript output generated will be an EPS file. In most cases, you'll only use this option when you are sending the output to a disk file. You would then use the generated EPS file in another application on another computer or make use of it for pasting back into a project file. The EPS option is available even if you're sending the output to a real printer, however you'll likely not get any results since there is no showpage command in the EPS file that is output. An EPS file is not intended to be a stand alone PostScript file, but rather it is to be treated as an object to be pasted into another PostScript document.

When creating an EPS file, only the first page selected within a range of pages will be



golfer.ps illustrated here is an eps file distributed with the GhostScript package available for Linux and Windows.



generated in the EPS file. For instance, let's say you have a 4 page GeoPublish document and you want to make an EPS file from page 3. Just enter a 3 in the "From" box. It makes no difference what you have entered in the "To" box because that is completely ignored when making an EPS file.

You can make EPS files out of any GeoPublish or GeoWrite page, or any GeoPaint file. You can even make an EPS file from any PostPrint project page. What this means is we can now make an EPS file from a project page and paste it into another project page.

Any project page using one of the portrait or landscape modes can be made into an EPS file. If you're using a booklet mode, the EPS option is disabled. It's also disabled when printing a GeoPublish file and reduction is chosen. Only a normal size GeoPublish page can be made into an EPS file.

EPS FILES

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When creating an EPS file, only the first page selected within a range of pages will be



golfer.ps illustrated here is an eps file distributed with the GhostScript package available for Linux and Windows.

This is page 3 of this issue made into an EPS file. It was then pasted onto this page and resized.

Sorry for the amount of data included with this release, but I thought it might be nice to show some of the capabilities you have at your disposal. Not all EPS files will be as large as the one pasted onto this page, yet some will be considerably larger. This particular one is an EPS file of a PostPrint page, with another EPS file pasted in 4 times along with a GeoPublish page. Make sure you're working in a directory with lots of room.

Have fun with this release, and as always, leave any comments, good or bad on the COPS mailing list.

-Maurice

PostPrint NEWS

BUGS FIXED

This version of PostPrint is primarily a bug-fix release. Everyone should switch from previous releases to this one.

Fortunately, there weren't too many bugs to deal with, but I think I got them all.

A couple of the bugs existed only in PostPrint 2. When creating an EPS file, PP2 would add an unwanted carriage return in the middle of the %%CreationDate line. This caused the EPS file to produce a PostScript error at print time and the printer would fail to print the page that contained this EPS file.

Another minor bug appeared when printing a geoWrite file. In the print dialog box, the Level indicator wouldn't show until you clicked on it. This bug didn't cause any problem, it was just a cosmetic thing.

Booklet printing should now work for all printers. Thanks to the nice Lexmark Optra 40 printer that was graciously donated to me at the LUCKI EXPO (thank you, everyone!), I've been able to do some testing that I simply couldn't do before. It's also nice to be able to see my programming work in color instead of just black and white.

Anyway, apparently the Lexmark printer doesn't wait for the paper to be reinserted to print the second half of the booklet unless the exact number of sheets are used causing the paper tray to be empty. In any case, booklet printing now works on this printer and should work on any printer.

I fixed this problem by separating the two halves of the booklet into two separate print runs. When the first half is finished, printing is all done as far as the printer is concerned. When the second half begins, it's a whole new print job complete with the prolog being sent all over again. Timeouts are not a problem now. You can go eat dinner if you want, when you come back, PostPrint will still be waiting for you to reinsert the paper and start the second half.

WHAT'S UP NEXT

I think the next thing I'll do to the software is to add some additional print features. In addition to the range of pages that we can currently select, we'll be able to choose to print just the ODD numbered pages or the EVEN numbered pages. Currently it just defaults to printing ALL the pages within the selected range. Also, I'll add the ability to print the range of pages in a forward order or a reverse order. This will help out with certain printers that stack the paper in the wrong order.

Likewise, with the booklet printing, I'll add these features along with the range of pages.

In the meantime, enjoy this B3.8 release.

PostPrint NEWS

Is PostPrint "Finally" Ready?

PostPrint has reached a stage in its development where I can call it a finished application. Provided there are no real problems with this B4.0 release, I'm going to polish it a little and release "V1.0" without a "B" in the version number.

I'd like to take a moment to thank everyone who has provided any feedback during the past few years. We've all played a role in the refinement of this very powerful and useful software for our Commodore computers.

Take some time and check out this new version B4.0 and see what it can do. When combined with geoPublish, geoWrite, and geoPaint, I think you'll find it to be just about the handiest desktop publishing package there is not only for our Commodore computers, but the entire combination can stand up with the best of the best from other computing platforms as well.

I will likely devote more time to PostPrint 3, with minor improvements to PostPrint 2 as I deem necessary. PostPrint 3 will get further development on SUPERTEXT so that we can have a text editor that will handle our large PostScript files. So, you will very likely see B4.1, B4.2, etc of PP2 and PP3 as time goes on. Then eventually, there will be V1.1, V1.2, etc as the beta versions are fixed and proven to be reliable.

Continue reading this issue of the PostPrint News and find out what you can do with this new B4.0 release.

PRINT OPTIONS

You'll find several new options in each of the print dialog boxes when you choose to print a PostPrint project, a geoPublish document, or a geoWrite document. These options are mostly useful when printing a multi-page document. Let's go through each option including the old ones that you are already familiar with.

PS LEVEL OPTION

Set this option for the PostScript level your printer is capable of. The two options are "1" and "2". If you use a level 1 printer, be sure not to set this to 2. If you do, you might have some pages that won't print correctly or not print at all since level 1 printers don't understand level 2 commands.

On the other hand, a level 2 printer will work fine with this set to 1. Why would you want to set it to level 1? Most of the time, you won't notice a difference. However, when printing JPEG images, you can set the level to 1 when printing a draft copy for proofreading and PostPrint will print a rectangle colored in a very light shade of gray instead of wasting a lot of color ink or toner printing the JPEG image. The other times you might notice a difference is with other objects that use color. Most level 1 printers will use RGB coloring while the level 2 printers will use CMYK coloring. It might make a slight difference in how your colors turn out.

COLOR OPTION

Use this option to turn color printing on or off. When the check box is filled, color is turned on. Turn color off when you are doing a lot of draft copy printing and proofreading during your document creation. With color turned off, your colored objects will be in shades of gray. It's cheaper to use up the black ink or toner rather than wasting your color ink or toner. The printing goes faster also. Turn color on when you are ready for your final proofreading.

Even if your printer is only black and white, you can still turn on the color option. You might get different

looking shades of gray as the printer will generate halftones in place of the colors.

CTRL-D OPTION

Use this option only when sending your output to a real printer. With CTRL-D turned on, the first byte PostPrint sends to the printer will be a CHR\$(4) which is also known as CONTROL-D. It's a single byte with a value of 4. This instructs the PostScript printer to perform a reset. Any previous work left in the printer's memory will be removed and you'll begin a new page nice and fresh.

Most of the time, you'll want to leave this option turned on when sending data to a real printer. However, there are also advantages to leaving it turned off. Usually this would be when you are sending raw PostScript code from a file and you might have a second and maybe even more files to send to the printer, one after another. The multiple files might make up a large PostScript job that you've been working on. In these cases, leave CTRL-D turned off, otherwise the printer will reset in between each file you send.

When simply printing a normal PostPrint project, a geoPublish file, geoWrite file, or a geoPaint file, turn CTRL-D on.

Now, if you are sending your output through a SwiftLink, Turbo232, or RS-232 interface with a null-modem cable connected to a PC or any other computer, you should turn CTRL-D off. In cases such as these, your data is sent as a PostScript file which is all text that can be loaded up into an ordinary text editor. It would not be wise to start the file out with a binary character. A CTRL-D character could play havoc with some text editors.

When sending the data to a disk file, CTRL-D is automatically turned off for you during the output phase.

FROM/TO OPTIONS

You are probably already familiar with these options as you would have used them right from geoWrite or geoPublish. These allow you to choose the starting

page and the ending page to print. These will print along with any pages in between. Most of the time, you will set these to the first page and the last page to print the entire document. Once in awhile, you'll have a need to reprint one particular page. In that case, pick the page and set both the "From" and "To" to the desired page.

Pay attention to the number of pages contained within your document. You'll see this number listed at the bottom of the screen. By default, the "To" setting will already be set to the last page of the document. However, if you are working on a PostPrint layout project, the settings you use in the print dialog box will be stored within the project document itself. This allows you to return back to the same settings you last used the next time you work on your project.

If you're working on a project in booklet format, you'll notice the print dialog box now allows you to choose the pages you want to print in your booklet. You have complete control of your booklet printing now.

MULTI-PAGE OPTIONS

To the right of the From/To options, you'll find some new options. By default, PostPrint will print all of the pages. Click on the box that says "ALL", and you'll see it change to "ODD". Click again and it will change to "EVEN". One more click takes it back to "ALL". By setting this option, you can choose to print all the pages, just the odd pages, or just the even pages.

Odd and even printing is handy when you want to print on both sides. Depending on how the paper travels through and stacks, you might want to print all the even pages first, put the paper back into the input tray and then print the odd pages.

To the far right is an option that is set to "FWD". This stands for "forward" and will print your pages in the correct order beginning with the page indicated by the "From" setting. If you click on this option it will change to "REV" for reverse order. In this case, the printing will begin with the page indicated by the

"To" setting and will print in reverse order all the way to the page indicated by the "From" setting.

If you choose to print odd pages and your starting page is an even number, that starting page will be skipped. Likewise, if you choose even pages and the starting page is odd, that starting page will be skipped.

Pay close attention to how your pages are laid out and how the paper travels through your printer and you can really make some good use of these new options.

COPIES OPTION

This is an old option and even if you're new to PostPrint, this option is not hard to figure out. Set this option to the number of copies you would like to print. Just click your mouse on the option and you'll see a cursor blinking. Use the keyboard to enter the number of desired copies.

SORT/STACK OPTION

To the right of the Copies option is an option that is only useful when you are printing multiple copies of a multi-page document. You'll see that "sort" is the default setting. Click on this option and it will change to "stack".

By choosing sort, PostPrint will print every page once. It will then proceed to print the document again for the second copy, then again for the third copy and so forth until all copies are printed. They will be all sorted for you in the output tray.

On the other hand, if you choose "stack" you will get all the copies of the first selected page stacked together, and then all the copies of the second page stacked together, and so on until all the copies of the last selected page are printed and stacked. In this case, you will have to hand collate the documents yourself.

You can even use this option to print multiple copies of a multi-page document on both sides. Just plan your work carefully when you are ready to print. You might print all the copies of the even pages first

in reverse order, depending on how your printer manipulates the paper, all sorted in the output tray. Then you could place these back into the input tray and print all the copies of the odd pages in forward order, again depending on how your printer works.

You'll find these multi-page options to be very handy for your big projects.

EPS OPTION

Use this option only when you are sending your data to a disk file. Your page might not print if you send directly to a real printer when EPS is turned on. When this option is turned on, PostPrint will generate special PostScript code that acts sort of like a photo scrap. You will be creating an EPS file on disk of the page you have selected. An EPS file will contain just one page of any document you wish to output.

You can use these EPS files in many ways. PostPrint allows you to paste an EPS file into a project layout page. As an example, you could write an article about a previous document you wrote. You could generate an EPS file of the older article, paste it into your new project and resize it down to show as an example in your new article.

EPS files can also be used by high-end (expensive in many cases) PostScript capable programs on other computer platforms. The work you create on your Commodore can be imported into another document on another computer. As long as you can get the file onto a disk the other computer can use, you can make use of this handy feature in this way.

Be sure to pay attention to the EPS setting when you are doing normal printing. The EPS setting will remain for your next print session, so be sure to turn it off if you are not wanting to create an EPS file.

When you turn EPS on, only the first selected page will be generated since an EPS file should only contain one object, which in this case is a complete page. If you want to print a particular page, just enter the page number into the "From" option box and that page will be generated into an EPS file.

EOL OPTION

The setting you choose with this option makes absolutely no difference if you are sending your data to a real printer. This option lets you choose the end-of-line character(s) that are placed at the end of each line of PostScript code. The PostScript interpreter in your printer doesn't care if you choose CR for a carriage return, LF for a linefeed, or CR/LF for a combination carriage return followed by a linefeed.

Also, if you are sending your output to a disk file, this setting will again have no affect either. The disk file dialog box lets you choose the end of line character setting and will override the EOL setting you select here.

So, why do we have this option? You might be sending your output through a null-modem cable directly to another computer, where that computer will save the data to a disk file on its own system. In this case, you would want to choose the type of EOL character(s) that is most commonly used on the computer you are sending the output to.

In most cases, you would select "CR" if you are sending data to a Commodore 64 or 128 or a Macintosh computer. Use "LF" if you are sending your output to an Amiga or a PC running Linux or any other type of Unix machine. Use "CR/LF" if your output is going to a PC running Windows or MS-DOS.

By making the right choice, your data can be read and manipulated by a text editor on the destination machine.

Thumbnails OPTION

This option was previously only available when printing geoPublish files. You can now also use it with PostPrint projects and geoWrite files. When this option is selected, all of your pages will be reduced in size and placed onto one single page when printed. Up to 16 pages will print out onto one sheet of paper. This is a handy option to use when you simply want to see how each page looks. It's

not a good option for proofreading the text, but saves on a lot of paper and ink or toner when you just want to see how the layout of each page appears.

Resize OPTION

In previous versions of PostPrint, this was listed in the dialog box as "Reduction". That was a little confusing because not only could you reduce the size of an image, but you could also enlarge the size. So, it has been renamed to "Resize" which is more fitting.

This option was previously only available when printing geoPublish files. You can now also use it with PostPrint projects, geoWrite files, and geoPaint files. This option allows you to enlarge or reduce the output of your pages. If the setting is 100%, the output will be normal. Settings less than 100% will be reduced, while settings higher than 100% will be enlarged.

When enlarging, your pages will be distributed onto multiple sheets of paper. You'll notice small tick marks near the corners to aid you in lining up the sheets to create the larger printout. A 200% setting will print out onto 4 sheets of paper.

In this release, the tick marks have been redesigned as well as being positioned more accurately in the corners of the printable area.

This is very handy if you want to print a large poster. You can tape the sheets together or paste them onto a large poster board. Use this feature for making your own signs or any other large printed output you might need.

You can resize up to 999%. A setting of this size will require 100 sheets of paper since the printing will be enlarged to 10 sheets wide by 10 sheets high.

Output source OPTION

Click on the output source option to pop up a menu of choices you can make depending on where you want your output to go. Most likely, you will have your printer connected either to a serial to parallel

interface or a geoCable or geoCable II.

If you use the serial/parallel interface, choose "serial bus" for your output. In this case, you might be using something like a SuperGraphics Jr interface. No matter what interface you use, you might have to set its dip switches to transparent mode. The PostPrint driver will attempt to place the interface into transparent mode for you. But some interfaces might not recognize the command PostPrint sends, in which case you will have to make the setting manually on the interface.

If you are connected through a geoCable or geoCable II, you would naturally choose the "geoCable" setting.

If your printer doesn't use a parallel port, but rather an RS-232 port for communication like the early Apple LaserWriter, then you would be using one of three interfaces to connect to it. You can use a SwiftLink cartridge or a Turbo232 cartridge plugged into the expansion port, or you can use an RS-232 adapter plugged into the user port. These are all RS-232 interfaces. Just choose the one you are using.

NOTE: Be sure to adjust the setting for your RS-232 interface. You can get to these settings from the main PostPrint screen by clicking on the PRINT icon. In the dialog box that comes up, click on "CONFIG" output ports. Then make the adjustments you need for your particular RS-232 interface.

If you want to create a disk file containing the PostScript code that you can generate with PostPrint instead of sending data to a real printer, choose "disk file" for your output. When you're ready to print, you'll be presented with a series of dialog boxes where you can choose the type of disk file, the type of EOL character, the destination drive and partition, and the filename to use for the file.

If you are using PostPrint 3, you can also send your output directly to memory and use the built-in SUPERTEXT editor to view the PostScript code or to further edit it. SUPERTEXT also allows you to send the data directly to a printer or disk file or to

another computer.

NOTE: SUPERTEXT cannot yet edit the text in this release. More work will be done in the next release or two to get SUPERTEXT more fully developed.

OK BUTTON

This is an obvious one. Once you've made all the selections you need in the print dialog box, click on "OK" to proceed. Depending on your selections, you'll either be taken to more dialog boxes to further refine your selection or your data will be immediately sent to the chosen output source.

CANCEL BUTTON

Click on "CANCEL" if you decide not to output your data yet. You'll be taken back to where you came from.

EDIT BUTTON

Whenever you are printing a geoPublish, geoWrite, or geoPaint document, you can invoke the application by clicking on "EDIT". PostPrint will search for the application and tell it to edit the current document. For instance, if you are working on a geoPublish document, you can stay right in the print dialog box and launch geoPublish to further edit your work. When you exit geoPublish, you will return right back to the same print dialog box ready to print again. You can keep going back and forth like this as many times as you wish. This is very handy when you are developing your document and you want to keep checking your work on the printer.

CREATING BOOKLETS AND PRINTING THEM

PostPrint has been able to create documents in booklet format for a long time now. It has also been able to print them. You create your booklets in the PostPrint layout editor. This works great and allows you to create nice booklets. A booklet is intended to be similar to a magazine. The layout editor will show you one page at a time with the first page being the front cover and the last page being the back cover. The two middle pages would be the same as if you were to open up the magazine to the center where the staples are. You create your booklet in the order of the pages as they are found in the booklet.

Printing was another story. For the most part, previous versions of PostPrint worked great at print time, but only if you had certain types of printers.

PostPrint will take your pages and lay them out for you in the correct order and on the correct sheets as they are sent to the printer. The first sheet printed will have the front cover and the back cover on the same sheet. The next sheet of paper will have page 3 and the third to last page. This would continue until the sheet that is in the middle of the booklet. PostPrint then instructed you to turn the stack over and reinsert them into the input tray of your printer. Upon hitting RETURN or clicking OK, the booklet would continue to print on the other sides of each sheet. When finished, you had a completed booklet.

This worked great on my Panasonic KX-P5400 printer, but it would usually fail on the Lexmark Optra 40. The two printers feed their paper

differently. PostPrint was programmed for the way the Panasonic printer fed its paper.

Now, you have complete control over how your booklets are printed. PostPrint will still do the hard work for you. It will calculate which two booklet pages should be placed on each printed sheet and you simply pick the range of pages, the odd or even ones, and the forward or reverse order you need to use for your printer.

Let's look at an example. You have the Optra 40 printer and you want to print a 16 page booklet. This will require 4 sheets of paper with a total of 8 printed sides since two pages are printed on each side. When the print dialog box is up, you'll notice at the bottom of the screen that PostPrint has calculated that you have an 8 page document even though you created 16 pages in the layout editor. The range of pages you can print is from 1 through 8. The first page contains the front cover and back cover. These would be pages 1 and 16 in the layout editor. The second page contains pages 2 and 15 and should be printed on the back side of the first page. The third printed page contains page 3 and 14. This continues all the way to the last page (the 8th one) which is the very center of your booklet. This would contain pages 8 and 9 as found in the layout editor.

Think of the printing mode of your booklet different from the editing mode. It can be very confusing due to the layout of the pages, but once you get familiar with it, you will understand it completely and you'll enjoy creating nice booklets. You can even create full magazines with this mode.

Now, let's picture the printing process using the Optra 40 printer. The paper comes out of this printer face up. This means that if you print a multi-page document, the first page will be face up on the bottom of the stack. Your pages will be in the wrong order. For single sided copies, this is a problem. You have to manually resort the pages. Of course, PostPrint now allows you to print in reverse order to fix this problem. The Optra 40 is now very handy due to PostPrint's printing capability.

Anyway, we are not printing single-sided copies, we are printing a 16 page booklet. So, begin by printing "all" of the "odd" pages in "fwd" order. When finished, the print dialog box will reappear and the printer will eventually finish printing. You'll be left with 4 sheets of paper sitting in the output tray. Now, without rotating the sheets, keep them in the same order as they are but pick up the stack and place it back in the input tray upside down. In other words, the paper will be going through the printer in the opposite direction that it went through the first time. The printed sides should be facing the rear with the blank sides to the front. Now, print "all" of the "even" pages in "fwd" order.

When the printer finishes, you'll end up with a stack of 4 sheets of paper ready to be folded into a 16-page booklet.

For other printers, take a few moments to study how the paper travels through the printer, how it sits in the input tray and how it ends up in the output tray. You'll learn just how to properly set up the print dialog box for proper printing of your booklets as well as any other multi-page documents that you wish to print on both sides of the paper.

Some printers may need to begin with printing all the even pages in reverse order and then printing all of the odd pages in forward order. It can vary depending on the design of the paper path in each particular printer.

In booklet mode, if your layout is not an even multiple of 4 pages, PostPrint will automatically generate any required blank pages and add them to the end of the booklet. For instance, in our 16 page example, if we only created 15 pages in the layout editor, PostPrint will print your back cover blank.

You'll soon get familiar with your printer and will be ready to take full advantage of this new feature in PostPrint.

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WHAT ELSE DOES POSTPRINT HOLD IN STORE FOR US?

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This version of PostPrint also has some new surprises, but you won't even notice them. At least not until you get the new geoPublish upgrade that Todd Elliott is working on.

You'll have to wait until Todd announces his latest work before I can reveal these new features of PostPrint. When Todd releases the software, PostPrint will work with it.

Be sure to attend the debut of the new geoPublish at the LUCKY Club's Spring EXPO on Memorial Day weekend. Todd Elliott will be there in person and along with Bruce Thomas, Dale Sidebottom, and myself, Maurice Randall, will be presenting an advanced tutorial on the use of geoPublish.

For more info on the upcoming EXPO, visit luckyclub.net or email Dale Sidebottom at luckykds@iglou.com.

See you there!

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