

ADA news

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Lasertalk for Windows

What is Lasertalk?

Lasertalk™ is a program for PostScript™ language programmers to debug and develop PostScript programs. It can download files, give error feedback, provide interactive connections, and has some limited preview capabilities. Emerald City Software wrote the first version. Adobe obtained the program when we acquired Emerald City, in the Spring of 1990.

Originally written for the Macintosh® platform, it was ported to Windows™ 2.1 several years ago. It implemented its own editor on top of its own memory management routines. For a number of reasons, the product was not reliable enough to withstand the rigors of a PostScript language debugging session. In short, it crashed too often to be useful.

Structurally, the Lasertalk program consists of an editor, some communications routines for sending files to a printer, the on-line documentation (contents of the *PostScript Language Reference Manual, Second Edition*), and some support for a Previewer. Support for standard debugging operations is built on top of the editor.

The 1.3 version of Lasertalk for the Windows environment (hereafter referred to as Lasertalk) was rebuilt using some of the original code and off-the-shelf editor code.

What's different?

For those of you who know the Macintosh version of the Lasertalk program, the Windows version has several notable differences.

The Macintosh version determines the printer characteristics every time you connect interactively. This is mainly due to the fact that the Chooser makes it quite simple to switch printers.

The Windows version of Lasertalk relies on the user to tell it what the characteristics of the target printer are. You indicate whether it's a Level 1 or Level 2 printer, and whether it is capable of previewing the printed page on the screen (many Level 1 printers can do this via functionality added with a special hook). Since the communications settings are more variable on a serial connection, this same dialog also enables the setup of the baud rate.

Windows provides a Help Manager to handle application-based help. You provide it a .hlp file which has been compiled with a help compiler, and it does the rest. All the PostScript language operators are available on-line through the Help Manager. There is also some on-line help about Lasertalk itself. This is not a complete duplication of the user manual, but it reflects at least 90% of what is covered in the manual. (Informal surveys I've conducted show that most Lasertalk users have not read the manual.)

The Windows version of Lasertalk utilizes editor technology licensed from a third party. This provides robust and powerful editing. Lasertalk can edit extremely large files, and has a flexible search capability including grep.

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How To Reach Us

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Lasertalk for Windows

What's missing?

Support for bi-directional Centronics® was considered late in the development cycle and discarded for several reasons, mainly due to schedule. Centronics is supported as unidirectional channel, while bidirectional communication is available over serial ports. Support for cross-network connections/downloads was also suggested by a couple of beta sites. Schedule constraints prevented this from becoming a reality in Lasertalk.

What's there

Many of the powerful features of Lasertalk for Macintosh are also available in the Windows version. For instance, the Dictionary Browser is supplemented by a Resource Browser. When connected via a serial port, Lasertalk can set break points and step through PostScript language files. Lasertalk can also automatically format ("pretty print") your PostScript language code. \$

Questions Answers

Q How come I can't open a file when using `dpsexec` on Solaris® 2.3?

A SunSoft™ opted to minimize security risks by limiting the file operations performed by the Display PostScript™ extension. The `file` and `run` operators used in `dpsexec` are turned off unless the X server is explicitly started with the `-dpsfileops` option. To turn on file access, start the server with the following line:

```
openwin -server /usr/openwin/bin/X -dpsfileops
```

The `file` and `run` operations should work fine if the file permissions allow your X™ server to read and/or execute the file.

Q I am developing an application using the Solaris 2.3 implementation of the Display PostScript system. When I compile the application, I get the following error. What should I do?

```
gcc -o xepsftoxwd xepsftoxwd.c -O2 -L/usr/openwin/lib/I/usr/openwin/include
-I/usr/openwin/include/X11 -ldpstk -ldps -lXt -lXmu -lXext -lX11 -lm -lsocket
```

```
Undefined first referenced symbol in file isinf
/usr/openwin/lib/libdps.so ld:
fatal: Symbol referencing errors.
```

```
No output written to xepsftoxwd
```

A If you do not have the Sun Pro compiler (which comes with the full IEEE math library), you are likely to see this error. Include the following in your code and the error will go away:

```
#include <ieeefp.h>
int isinf(double d) {return !finite(d);}
```

In future releases of the Display PostScript system on the Solaris operating environment you will not need external references to `isinf` or the IEEE libraries.

C o l o p h o n

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Adobe PostScript

Developers Column

Smart Color '94

September 12th and 13th, 1994 at Stanford University, Stanford, CA

At Stanford's "Smart Color Seminar", five of the world's leading experts demonstrate how color technology can be used to improve the next generation of smart color scanners, printers and displays.

The speakers will be:

Dr. Roy Berns, Director of the Munsell Color Science Lab, Rochester Institute of Technology

Dr. Robert Hunt, Professor of Physiological Optics, City University, London and author of *The Reproduction of Colour*

Dr. Louis Silverstein, Chief Scientist and Founder of VCD Sciences, Inc.

Dr. Gary Starkweather, Apple Fellow, Manager of Color Imaging

Dr. Brian Wandell, Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience, Stanford University

Smart Color is designed for engineers and senior management. The seminar will present an in-depth technical analysis of device independent color technology and its application to the design and control of imaging peripherals.

The seminar topics will include:

- An overview of color science, color engineering, and color standards
- Application of color technology to accurate color reproduction
- Colorimetric matching and appearance matching
- Design and calibration of color scanners, displays, and printers
- Color imaging and software in the digital office

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