

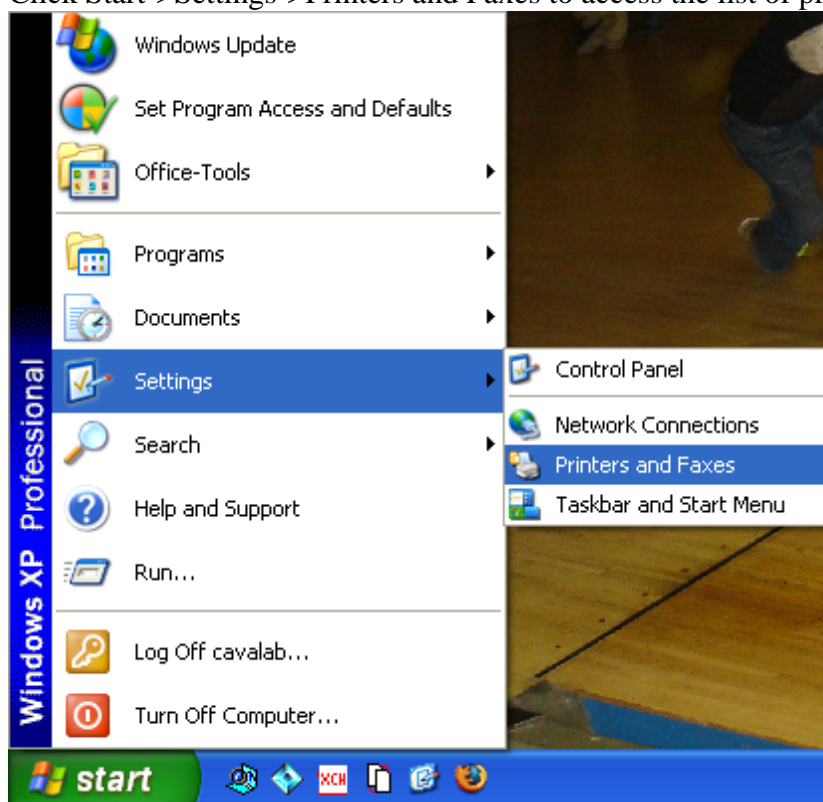
# Creating a Postscript Printer in Windows 2000/XP

## Overview

Many commercial printing firms (including journals, etc.) now only accept documents in Adobe PDF or Postscript (ps or eps) formats for printing. However, writing PDF on windows requires the full (expensive) Adobe Acrobat program. As such, writing ps or eps files is desirable. Luckily, there is an easy way to create a printer that writes a document to a postscript file (rather than actually printing it) in windows that supports the high resolution (1200 dpi, color) used in commercial printing.

## Windows 2000/XP/2003 Configuration

1. Click Start->Settings->Printers and Faxes to access the list of printers:



If there is no "Printers and Faxes" under settings, select "Control Panel" instead and then double click the "Printer and Faxes" Icon.

2. Double click "add printer" icon to start the printer wizard:



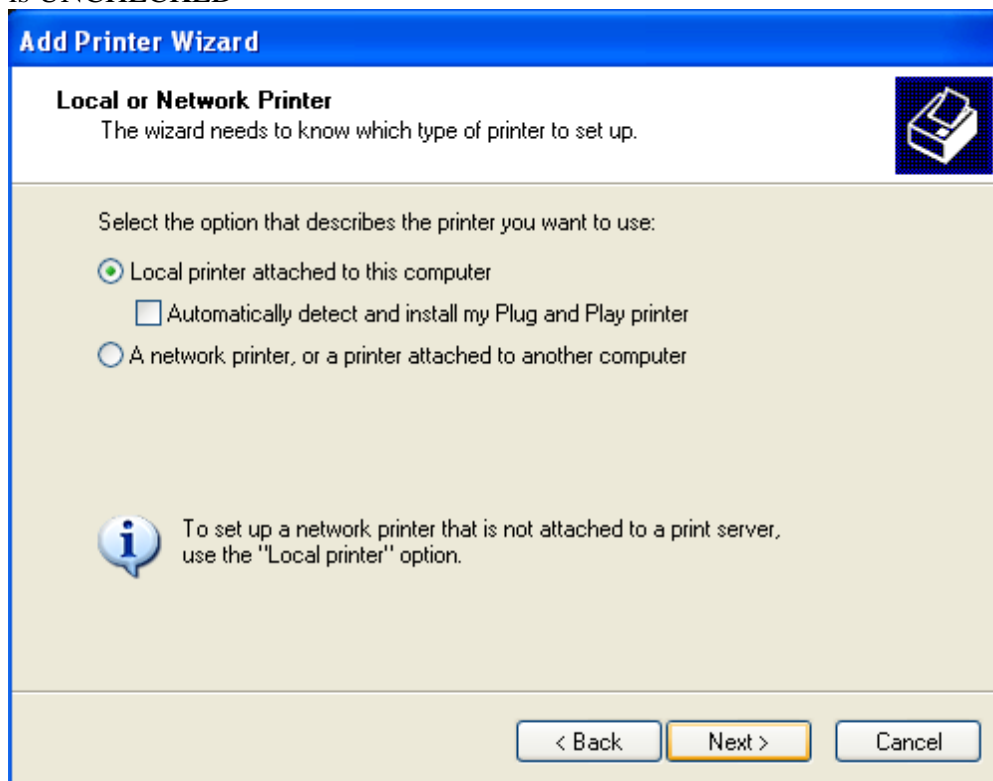
Note that instead of being an icon like shown, "add printer" may be listed as a task on the left side of the window; in that case, single click it to start the wizard.

3. The add printer wizard:



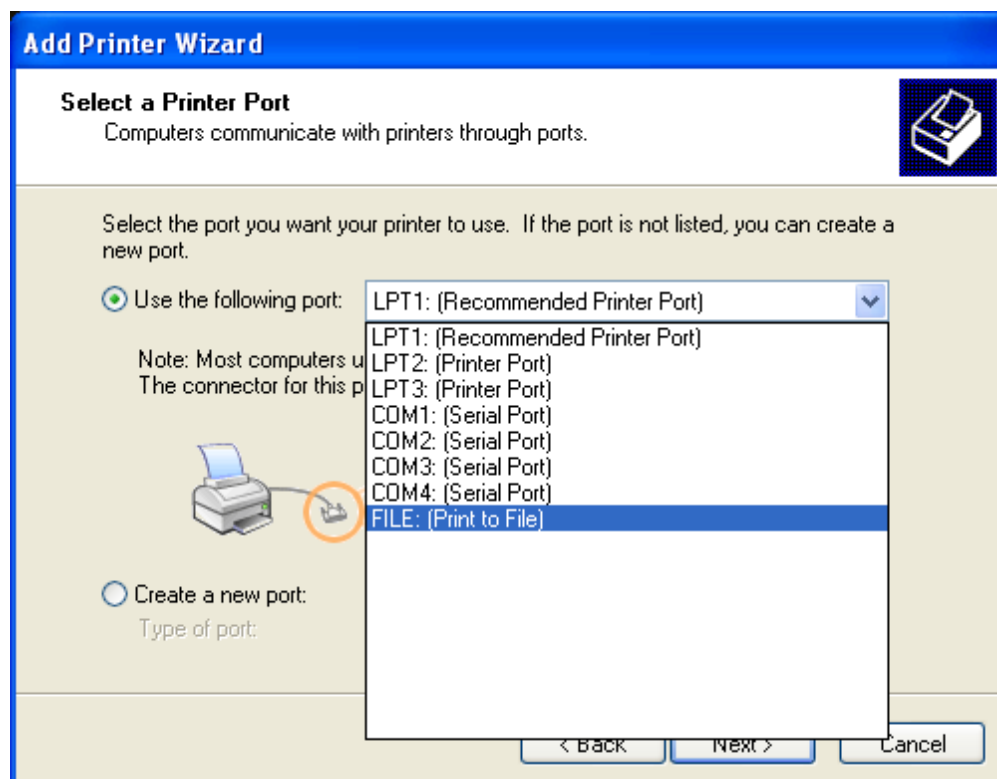
will appear. Click next.

4. Make sure "local printer" is selected and that "Automatically detect and install my plug and play printer" is **UNCHECKED**



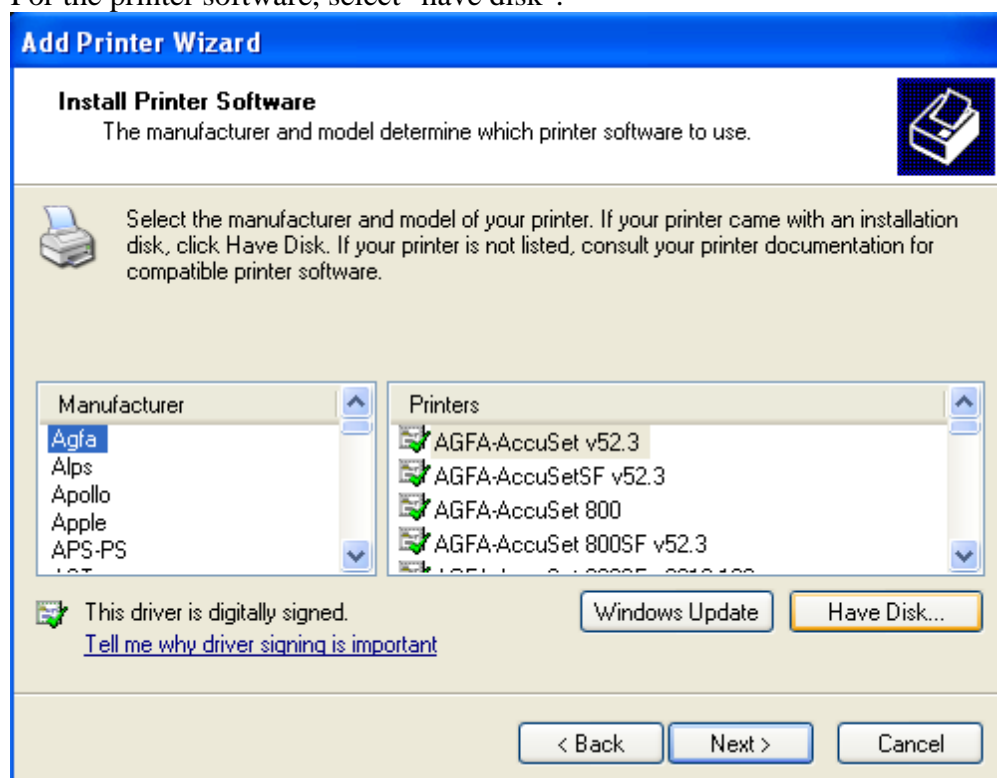
This prevents windows from futilely searching for a real printer that doesn't exist. Click next.

5. Select "use the following port", and use the dropdown menu to select "FILE:":

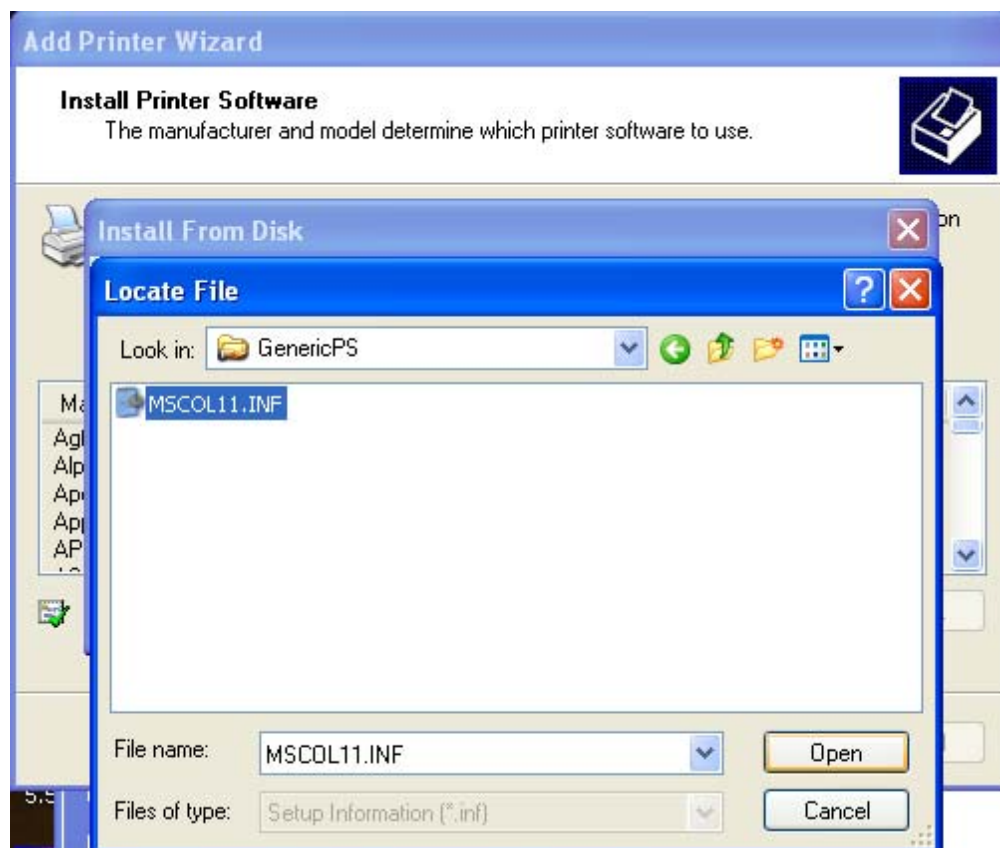


This tells windows that this printer will 'print' to a file rather than a real printer. Click next.

6. For the printer software, select "have disk".

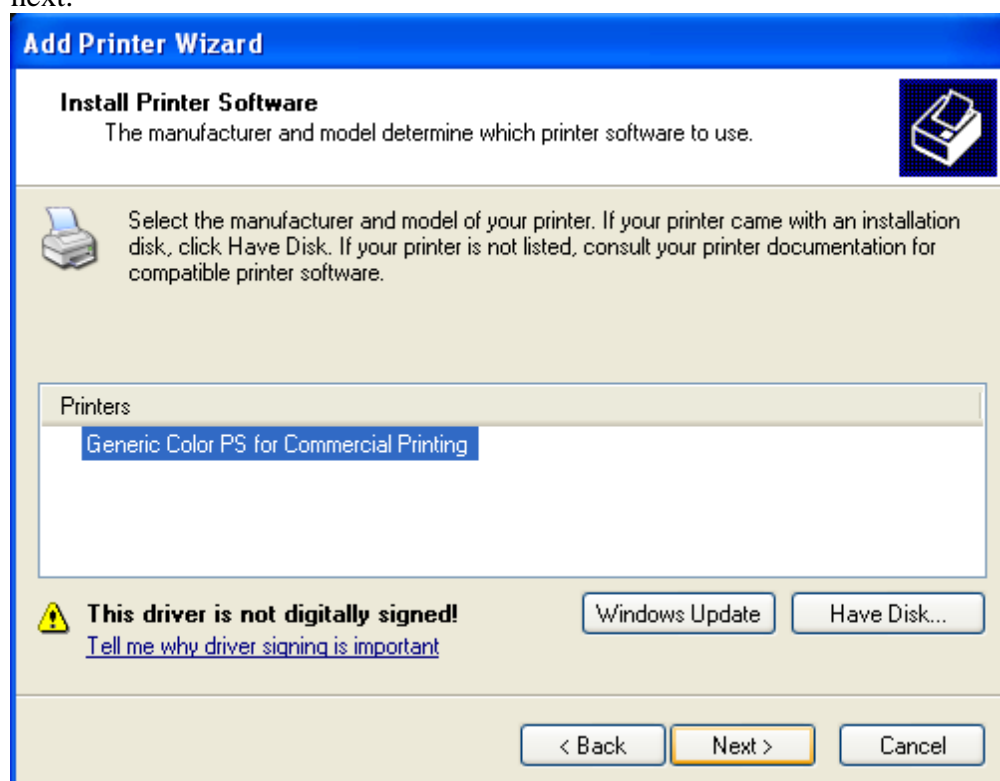


Then browse to the folder containing the files from GenericPS.zip (see link on tutorials page) and select MSCOL11.INF. Click open and then OK



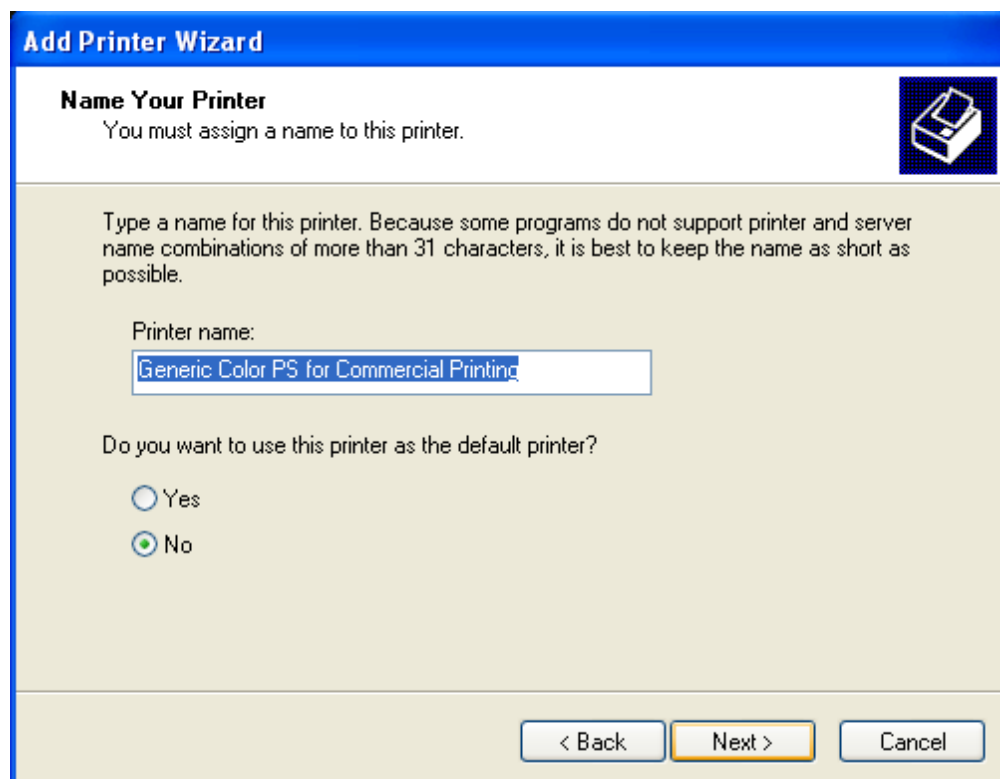
This gives windows a high resolution color postscript printer driver.

7. There should be exactly one printer listed, "Generic Color PS for Commercial Printer". Select it and click next.



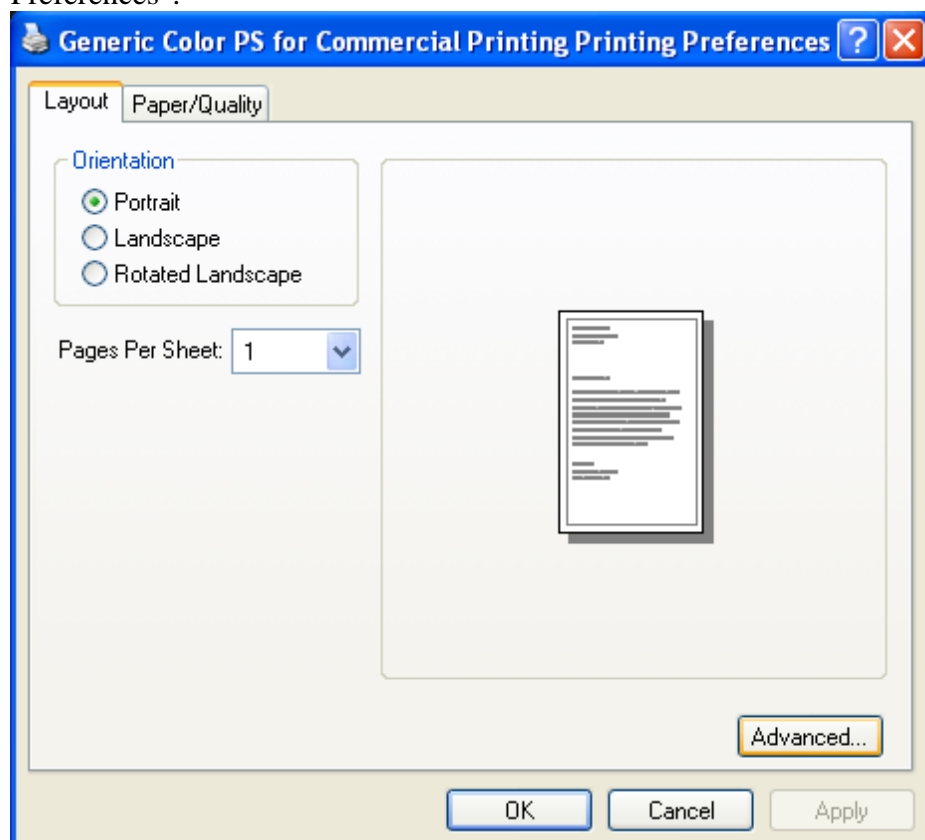
You may receive a warning about the driver being unsigned. Click "Continue anyway" to force installation of the driver (it is a Microsoft driver!).

8. Give the printer a name, and do NOT use this printer as a default printer, then click next:



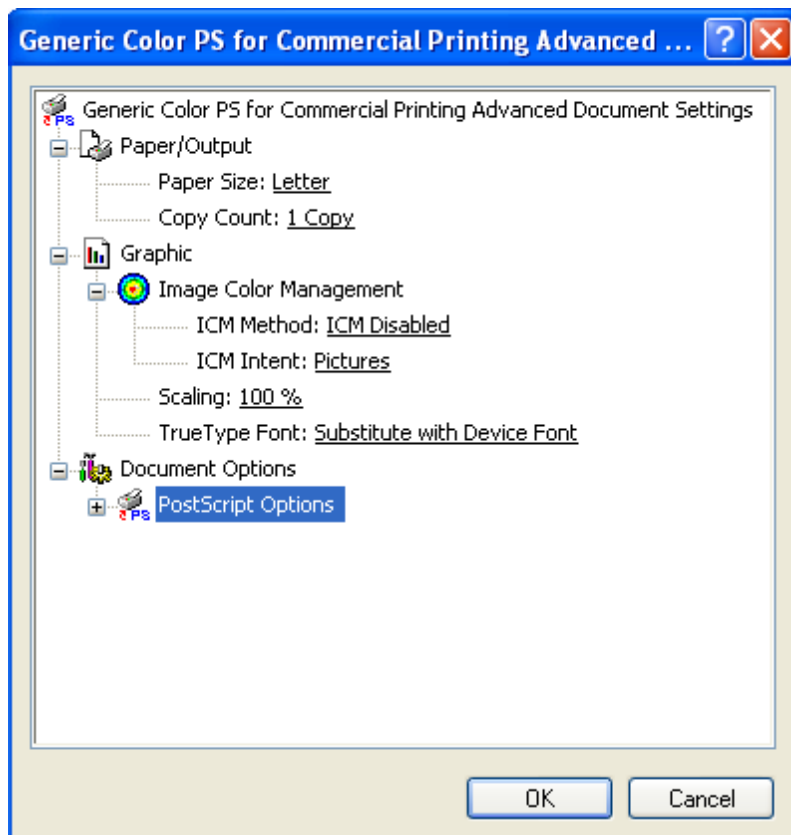
The name should be 31 characters or less for complete program compatibility. Select do not share this printer and click next. The select do not print a test page and click next. Finally, click finish to complete adding the printer.

9. Next, the printer must be configured to output PS or EPS. Right click on the printer, and select "Printing Preferences":

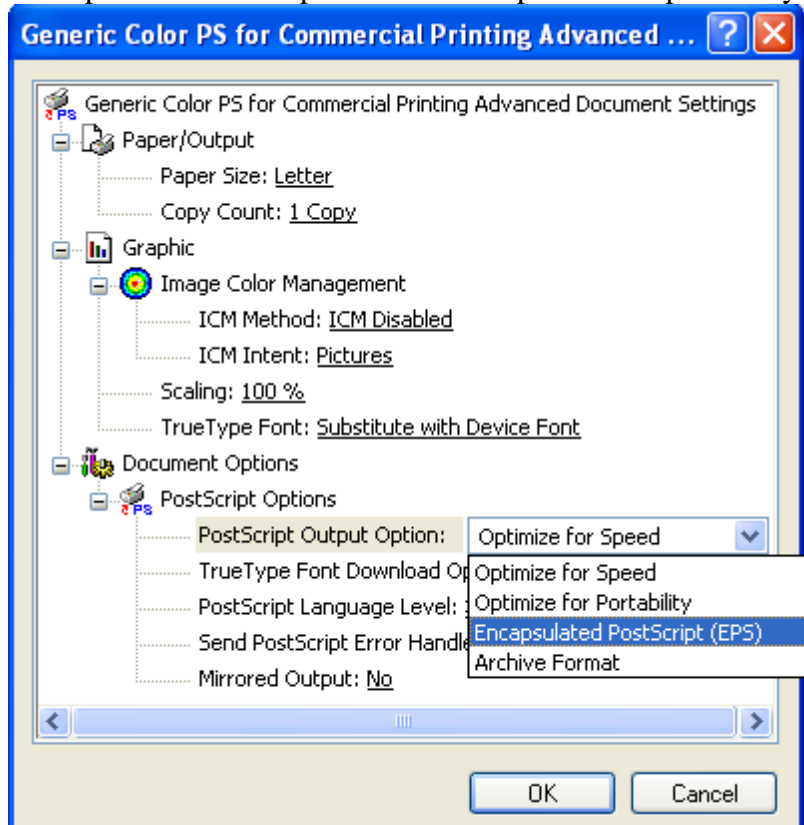


DO NOT SELECT PROPERTIES.

10. Click "advanced" and look under document options for the postscript options entry:



Then click the plus next to "Postscript Options" to expand the list, and then for "output option" select "Encapsulated Postscript" for EPS or "optimize for portability" for PS format.



This sets the printer to output EPS/PS files by default.

Use

To actually create a postscript version of your document or graphics, simply print to this printer. When you do so, you will be prompted for a filename for the output. Make sure to put ".eps" on the end if you selected the EPS format or ".ps" on the end if you selected PS format!

## **Troubleshooting**

Forthcoming...