PStill Info

27.May 2003, Copyright Frank Siegert

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How to setup the Windows printer driver for best results

1. The 'old' way, PStill – Version 1.61.3 and older

To create PostScript for PStill please install a new printer in Windows:

1. **Open the dialog: Workplace -> Printers -> New Printer**

2. **Select 'continue'**

3. **Make it a local printer**

4. **Select an apropriate type, for best results use either the settings for**

> **Apple Laserwriter II NTX (for black/white work)**

or

> **Canon PS-IPU Laser Copier (for black/white & color work)**

Other printer types may work too, including some HP and XEROX printer drivers. As you can change the printer type later again you can experiment with the setup here.

By default the windows PostScript printing mechansim may choose to writes fonts as 'bitmaps'. These can look blocky in Reader. You may want to open the Windows printer setup dialog and

• Set the font download setting to 'use printer fonts' (Be sure to install your used fonts with PStill as Type 1 - that are files with names like 'abcdef.pfb' - otherwise they will appear in Courier and PStill will issue a warning that some fonts are not found)

• Set the font type of downloaded fonts to 'outlines'

• Set the min. point size for using bitmap fonts to a small value (eg. 6)

• If possible by your application export files as EPS (do not use the printer driver to write EPS however, use the applications export function) and use these for PStill

For EPS or manual PostScript generation it is usually a good idea to select "Export as PS Level 1" (if possible). Otherwise the driver may write fonts as TrueTypes in the PostScript job. PStill can use embedded TrueTypes but will auto convert them to Type 1 PostScript fonts in the PDF result, using native PostScript fonts may look better and process faster.

2. The 'new' way, PStill – Version 1.65 and newer

The Windows PostScript printer driver has the nasty habit to include TrueType fonts not in one single piece, but slice by slice. So a font definition does not happen in one place but all over the document the driver inserts little pieces into a font and changes it all the time. Older PStill did however change any TrueTypes to Type 1 on the fly during runtime. Usually this worked fine but as the driver code did change them and the change relies on their being of type Type 42 (embedded TrueType) while they did become Type 1 in PStill this could lead to an error.

A new font handling scheme has however been included in PStill 1.65 to specifically remove this restriction and allows for very good and small results using the TrueType-way of the PostScript driver.

To use it follow this path:

1. **Open the dialog: Workplace -> Printers -> New Printer**

2. **Select 'continue'**

3. **Follow the instructions as given in the PStill Network Setup whitepaper, instead of a local „network" setup you can also have the printer „print to file", however the new „network mode" is often much more convenient.**

This additional setup should be done for the printer for best results:

- Choose **Start -> Settings -> Printers** and select the printer

  a. Chose **File -> Printing preferences** and **Advanced** in the printing preferences dialog

  b. Set True Type Font to **Download as Softfont**

  c. Under PostScript options select

    - **Outline for True Type Font Download**

You are now set. Print a sample page and run it through PStill.

Things to keep in mind:

PStill will still work with the 'old' way as described on the previous page

PStill now assumes the system truetype fonts are installed in the „Fonts" directory of your Windows installation. It will search there for TrueType fonts.

If you install a new font there please restart GPStill to make it „known" to the conversion machinery. If PStill cannot locate a font it needs for the replacement process it will tell so in the log but the result may be incomplete in some cases.

The information in this document is given in the hope of being useful but without any warranty of any kind
If you find something in error please notify me at frank@wizards.de.