

NOTE: This Technical Note has been [retired](#). Please see the [Technical Notes](#) page for current documentation.

Technical Note TN1057

Querying PostScript Printers at dtp Creation Time the QuickDraw GX Way

CONTENTS

[Necessary Requirements for Querying Your Printer](#)

[Implementing Message Overrides](#)

[Additional Dialog Handling Functions](#)

[The Query Code](#)

[Summary](#)

[References](#)

[Downloadables](#)

Important for all Apple Printing and Graphics Developers:

The information in this Technote is still relevant up to and including [Mac OS 7.6](#) with QuickDraw GX 1.1.5. Beginning with the release of Mac OS 8.0, however, Apple plans to deliver a system which incorporates QuickDraw GX graphics and typography **only**. QuickDraw GX printer drivers and GX printing extensions will **not** be supported in Mac OS 8.0 or in future Mac OS releases. Apple's goal is to simplify the user experience of printing by unifying the Macintosh graphic and printing architectures and standardizing on the classic Printing Manager.

For details on Apple's official announcement, refer to [</technotes/gxchange.html>](/technotes/gxchange.html)

For some time now, Apple developers have asked how they can query their PostScript printers at dtp creation time using the same methods as the LaserWriter GX printer driver. This Technote discusses how the LaserWriter GX driver does it at query time and provides you with the printing messages you need to override in order to achieve the same functionality.

You may need to change or add to the code

in this Note. For example, if you want to query for the number of paper trays or query for an envelope tray, you will need to modify this code, as explained later in this Note.

This Note is intended for QuickDraw GX printer driver developers who wish to query their PostScript printer at dtp creation time.

Updated: [July 1 1996]

Necessary Requirements for Querying Your Printer

In order to query your printer at dtp creation time, you must:

- adhere to PostScript calling conventions, as documented in Adobe's PostScript Language Reference Manual
- send valid PostScript query code -- again, as specified in Adobe's PostScript Language Reference Manual
- use two-way synchronous device communications with your printer. Currently, GX does not have messages that support three-way communications

Note:

The method presented here is only good for two-way synchronous device communications. At some point in the future, GX may add new printing messages to support three-way communications via OpenTransport. The third channel in this configuration is the 'status' channel.

[Back to top](#)

Implementing Message Overrides

In order to query your printer at dtp creation time, you need to override several QuickDraw GX messages. The LaserWriter GX driver overrides `gxInitialize`, `gxShutdown`, `gxDefaultDesktopPrinter`, `gxJobStatus`, `gxJobIdle`, and `gxPostScriptQueryPrinter`. If you want to duplicate the LaserWriter GX functionality, you need to override these same messages in your GX driver.

`gxInitialize`

QuickDraw GX sends the `gxInitialize` message at the start of a new printing job. You should override `gxInitialize` so that your driver may use global data.

Within this override, you need to set up an A5 world for your globals (GX 1.1.3 and earlier). The LaserWriter GX driver does this by means of a call to `NewMessageGlobals`. This function is documented in *Inside Macintosh: QuickDraw GX Environment and Utilities*, page 6-17.

`gxShutdown`

QuickDraw GX sends the `gxShutdown` message at the end of a print job. You should override `gxShutdown` to clean up your driver's global data.

Within this override, you need to dispose of your globals and deallocate the memory used by your driver for globals. The LaserWriter GX driver does this by means of a call to `DisposeMessageGlobals`. This function is documented in *Inside Macintosh: QuickDraw GX Environment and Utilities*, page 6-18.

gxDefaultDesktopPrinter

QuickDraw GX sends the `gxDefaultDesktopPrinter` message when the user creates a new desktop printer with the Chooser. You should override `gxDefaultDesktopPrinter` to open the connection to the currently selected printer during dtp creation time. The LaserWriter GX override of this message opens a connection to the printer by means of the `GXOpenConnection` message and then queries the printer to find out what type of printer is currently selected.

The LaserWriter GX override of `gxDefaultDesktopPrinter` also puts up a dialog box, providing the user with one of two options: either use the automatic setup for the printer (i.e., gets the paper source and imaging options), or cancel out. You can expand this dialog and the printer query, for instance, to get the number of paper trays from your printer. The various query comments that you can check for are documented on pages 690-696 of *PostScript Language Reference Manual*, Second Edition.

gxJobStatus

QuickDraw GX sends the `gxJobStatus` message to display the current status of a print job during spooling and despooling. You should override `gxJobStatus` to show status in your dtp window. The LaserWriter GX driver does this by means of the `GXWriteStatusToDTPWindow` message.

Note:

When support for three-way communications is added to QuickDraw GX, more than likely you won't have to override this message.

gxJobIdle

QuickDraw GX sends the `gxJobIdle` message when a printer driver, a printing extension or an application calls the `GXJobIdle` function to release idle time. You should override `gxJobIdle` to idle the printer. The LaserWriter GX driver overrides this message to show dialog actions during the dtp creation query and to give idle time to the automatic setup dialog.

gxPostScriptQueryPrinter

QuickDraw GX sends the `gxPostScriptQueryPrinter` message to gather configuration information before imaging begins. You should override `gxPostScriptQueryPrinter` to perform the actual query of the printer. In this message override, you need to add your PostScript queries and then save the results to the dtp by means of `GXWriteDTPData`.

[Back to top](#)

Additional Dialog Handling Functions

This section introduces you to two optional dialog handling functions.

DisposeQueryDialog

This function disposes of the automatic setup dialog used for the queries in the message override of `gxDefaultDesktopPrinter`. The LaserWriter GX driver disposes of the dialog by means of `DisposDialog`. `DisposDialog` is documented in *Inside Macintosh: Macintosh Toolbox Essentials*, page 6-120.

LoadQueryDialog

This function loads the automatic setup dialog used for the queries in the message override of `gxDefaultDesktopPrinter`. The LaserWriter GX driver loads the dialog by means of `GetNewDialog`. `GetNewDialog` is documented in *Inside Macintosh: Macintosh Toolbox Essentials*, page 6-113.

[Back to top](#)

The Query Code

The following query code shows the message overrides for Apple's specific line of PostScript printers. You may have to make changes to this code in order to adapt it to your driver's needs.

Globals

```
// -----
// GLOBALS
// -----

// variables for performing our query

enum
{
    kMaxQueryTimeBeforeStatus= 60    // ticks before we put up
                                     // status
};

Boolean        gNormalStatus= true;    // should the status query go
                                     // through normally?
long           gQueryIdle= 0;          // time before presenting a
                                     // dialog during query
DialogPtr      gQueryDialog= nil;     // dialog used for status
                                     // during query
short          gQueryItemHit= 0;      // item that was hit in the
                                     // querying dialog.
```

Message Overrides

```
// -----
// MESSAGE OVERRIDES
// -----

// DriverInitialize: This override lets us use global data.

OSErr          DriverInitialize(void)
{
    OSErr        anErr;

    anErr = NewMessageGlobals(A5Size(), A5Init);
    return(anErr);

} // DriverInitialize

// -----

// DriverShutdown: This override cleans up our global data.

OSErr          DriverShutdown(void)
{
    DisposeMessageGlobals();
    return(noErr);
}
```

```
}// DriverShutdown

// -----

// DriverDefaultDesktopPrinter: This override is invoked when a
// new desktop printer is created.

OSErr      DriverDefaultDesktopPrinter(Str31 dtpName)
/*
    This call is made to setup a newly made desktop printer.

    We override this message to perform a query during creation time
    to determine the type of the printer.
*/
{
    OSErr      anErr;
    Handle      configHandle;
    ResType      commType;

    gQueryDialog = nil;

    // make the printer first
    anErr = Forward_GXDefaultDesktopPrinter(dtpName);
    nrequire(anErr, DefaultDesktopPrinter);

    // initialize the status informational state
    gQueryIdle = TickCount() + kMaxQueryTimeBeforeStatus;

    // determine communications type
    anErr = GXFetchDTPData(dtpName, gxDeviceCommunicationsType,
        gxDeviceCommunicationsID, (Handle*)&configHandle);
    nrequire(anErr, FetchCommType);
    commType = **(ResType**)configHandle;
    DisposeHandle((Handle) configHandle);

    // query PAP devices for configuration information
    if (commType == 'PPTL')
    {
        short      curResFile = CurResFile();
        short      hit;

        // we don't yet have a status dialog, get one
        LoadQueryDialog();

        if (gQueryDialog)
        {
            Str32      printerDeviceName;
            Handle      theHandle;
            short      theKind;
            Rect      theRect;

            // set up keyboard for cancel button and ok button
            SetDialogCancelItem(gQueryDialog, cancel);
            SetDialogDefaultItem(gQueryDialog, ok);
        }
    }
}
```

```
// fill in the name of the printer we are querying
GXGetPrinterName(GXGetJobOutputPrinter(GXGetJob()),
    printerDeviceName);
ParamText(printerDeviceName, "\p", "\p", "\p");

// setup our user items
SetUserItem(gQueryDialog, iQueryIcon, (ProcPtr)
    DrawLaserWriterIcon);
SetUserItem(gQueryDialog, iTITLEUnderline, (ProcPtr)
    DrawRectangle);
SetUserItem(gQueryDialog, iStatusOutline, (ProcPtr)
    DrawRectangle);

// and reveal all to the user
ShowWindow(gQueryDialog);
// We can take status text now
gNormalStatus = false;

// make the cursor an arrow

InitCursor();

// if the user wants to, do a query
ModalDialog(nil, &hit);

if (hit == cancel)
{
    anErr = gxPrUserAbortErr;
    DisposeQueryDialog();
}
else
{
    // disable the setup button -- because we
    // have started the query
    GetDItem(gQueryDialog, ok, &theKind,
        &theHandle, &theRect);
    HiliteControl((ControlHandle) theHandle,
        255);
}
}

if (anErr == noErr)
{
    // open the connection in order to query the printer
    anErr = Send_GXOpenConnection();

    if (anErr == noErr)
    {
        // here we do the actual query -- if we get
        // an error we should allow the
        // user to select the printer type directly
        Handle          imageDataHdl;
```

```
        imageDataHdl = NewHandle(0);
        anErr = MemError();
        if (anErr == noErr)
        {
            anErr = send_GXSetupImageData(imageDataHdl);
            DisposeHandle(imageDataHdl);
        }

        // all done with the printer connection now
        (void) Send_GXCloseConnection();
    }
}

else
    anErr = noErr;
}

// No more status text, thanks.
gNormalStatus = true;

// if during the query we put up a dialog, get rid of it
if (gQueryDialog)
{
    Handle          theHandle;
    short           theKind;
    Rect            theRect;
    long            ignore;

    // Get the OK or cancel button--whichever was selected
    if (anErr == noErr)
        GetDItem(gQueryDialog, ok, &theKind, &theHandle,
                &theRect);
    else
        GetDItem(gQueryDialog, cancel, &theKind, &theHandle,
                &theRect);

    // Our jobIdle rtn stores the item hit (if any) in
    // gQueryItemHit. We do it this way so that we don't
    // invert the ok or cancel buttons if the user already did
    // that. Instead, we only auto-invert if we auto-
    // dismissed the dialog. If gQueryItemHit is 0, the user
    // didn't dismiss the dialog, we did.

    if (gQueryItemHit == 0)
    {
        HiliteControl((ControlHandle) theHandle, inButton);
        Delay(10, &ignore);
        HiliteControl((ControlHandle) theHandle, 0);
    }

    DisposeQueryDialog();
    // if we have a query error, we can just ignore it. This
    // is not fatal to the DTP creation process
```

```

        if (anErr != noErr)
        {
            short          curResFile = CurResFile();

            UseResFile(GXGetMessageHandlerResFile());
            StopAlert(kQueryFailedAlert, nil);
            UseResFile(curResFile);

            // we could allow the user to select the printer
            // type themselves but there are UI issues here.
            anErr = noErr;
        }
    }
}
FetchCommType:
DefaultDesktopPrinter:
    return(anErr);

} // DriverDefaultDesktopPrinter

// -----
// DriverJobStatus: This call is made to status a printer.

OSErr          DriverJobStatus(gxStatusRecord *pStatus)
/*
    This call is made to status a printer.

    We override this to perform nothing (ie, no status dialog) during
    our create printer query.
*/
{
    OSErr          anErr = noErr;

    if (gNormalStatus || !gQueryDialog)
    {
        anErr = Forward_GXJobStatus(pStatus);
        nrequire(anErr, JobStatus);
    }
    else
    {
        gxDisplayRecord    theDisplay;

        theDisplay.hPicture = nil;
        anErr = Send_GXWriteStatusToDTPWindow (pStatus,
            &theDisplay);
        nrequire(anErr, GetStatusString);

        if ((theDisplay.useText) && (gQueryDialog))
        {
            Handle          theHandle;
            short           theKind;
            Rect            theRect;
            GrafPtr         oldPort;

            // Now, draw the updated status message in

```

```

        // the dialog. We don't use SetItemText
        // here, because it uses more memory than
        // TextBox.

        GetPort(&oldPort);
        SetPort(gQueryDialog);
        GetDItem(gQueryDialog, iQueryStatusField,
                &theKind, &theHandle, &theRect);
        TextBox(&theDisplay.theText[1],
                theDisplay.theText[0], &theRect,
                teFlushDefault);
        SetPort(oldPort);
    }
    if (theDisplay.hPicture)
        DisposeHandle(theDisplay.hPicture);

    }

// FALL THROUGH EXCEPTION HANDLING
GetStatusString:
JobStatus:

    return(anErr);

} // DriverJobStatus

// -----
// DriverJobIdle: This call is made to idle a printer connection.

OSErr      DriverJobIdle(void)
/*
    This call is made to idle a printer connection.

    We override this to do dialog actions during our create printer query.
*/
{
    OSErr          anErr = noErr;

    anErr = Forward_GXJobIdle();
    nrequire(anErr, JobIdle);

    if ((gQueryDialog != nil) && (gNormalStatus == false) &&
        (TickCount() > gQueryIdle))
    {
        // conduct the dialog if it's open
        EventRecord      theEvent;
        DialogPtr        dPtr;
        short            hit;

        // setup our user items (the code may move each time)
        SetUserItem(gQueryDialog, iQueryIcon, (ProcPtr)
                DrawLaserWriterIcon);
        SetUserItem(gQueryDialog, iTitleUnderline, (ProcPtr)
                DrawRectangle);
        SetUserItem(gQueryDialog, iStatusOutline, (ProcPtr)

```

```

        DrawRectangle);

WaitNextEvent(everyEvent, &theEvent, 0, nil);

if (IsDialogEvent(&theEvent))
{
    Ptr    oldD3;

    DialogSelect(&theEvent, &dPtr, &hit);

    // The StdFilterProc has a bug that trashes D3
    oldD3 = GetD3();
    StdFilterProc(dPtr, &theEvent, &hit);
    StuffD3(oldD3);

    // This is so that we don't double-flash buttons
    // when they're pressed.  See
    // DriverDefaultDesktopPrinter.

    if ((hit == cancel) || (hit == ok))
        gQueryItemHit = hit;
    if (hit == cancel)
        anErr = gxPrUserAbortErr;
}
}

// FALL THROUGH EXCEPTION HANDLING
JobIdle:

    return(anErr);

} // DriverJobIdle

// -----
// DriverQueryPrinter: This call is made to query the printer.

OSErr    DriverQueryPrinter(long * queryResult)
{
    OSErr    anErr;

    anErr = Forward_GXPostScriptQueryPrinter(queryResult);
    nrequire(anErr, ForwardFailed);

    // Some printers (e.g. LW 16/600) close the connection if the
    // Chooser querying code initializes the printer and executes an
    // exitserver. Since the exitserver is unnecessary for the
    // Chooser query, when we do the Chooser queries, we clear the
    // query result if it was gxIntializePrinter or gxResetPrinter.
    // (For reset we also wait until the printer has reset itself.)
    // Since we never return gxResetPrinter or gxIntializePrinter
    // from the gxPostScriptQuery message (for the Chooser), the PS
    // driver will never send gxPostScriptInitialize. Therefore, an
    // exitserver will never happen during the Chooser queries.

    if (gQueryDialog && ((*queryResult == gxResetPrinter) ||

```

```
        (*queryResult == gxIntializePrinter))
    {
        if (*queryResult == gxResetPrinter)
            // Wait until the printer is ready again
            nrequire(anErr = Send_GXPostScriptResetPrinter(),
                    ResetPrinterFailed);

        *queryResult = gxPrinterOK;
    }

    if ( (anErr == noErr) && (*queryResult != gxFilePrinting) )
    {
        // Do whatever special querying you need to
        // do, and then save the results to the
        // desktop printer using GXWriteDTPData.
        // You can get the data from the desktop
        // printer by means of GXFetchDTPData
    }

ResetPrinterFailed:
ForwardFailed:
    return(anErr);

} // DriverQueryPrinter
```

Dialog Functions

```
// -----  
/*  
    DisposeQueryDialog: This call disposes of the dialog that  
    we use for the DefaultDesktopPrinter queries.  
*/  
  
void DisposeQueryDialog(void)  
{  
    if (gQueryDialog)  
    {  
        // Dispose of the query dialog.  
  
        DisposeDialog(gQueryDialog);  
        gQueryDialog = nil;  
    }  
}  
  
// -----  
/*  
    LoadQueryDialog: This call loads the dialog that we  
    use for the DefaultDesktopPrinter queries.  
*/  
  
void LoadQueryDialog()  
{  
    short          curResFile = CurResFile();  
    // Load the query dialog.  
  
    UseResFile(GXGetMessageHandlerResFile());  
    gQueryDialog = GetNewDialog(kQueryStatusDialog, nil,  
        (WindowPtr)-1);  
    UseResFile(curResFile);  
}
```

[Back to top](#)

Summary

The code you need to query your printer for information at dtp creation time is concise and straightforward. The most complicated part of implementing this code for your driver is deciding what PostScript query comments you want to use and figuring out what print messages you want to override.

[Back to top](#)

References

PostScript Language Reference Manual, Second Edition, Addison-Wesley.

Inside Macintosh: QuickDraw GX Printing Extensions and Drivers: Chapter 4

Inside Macintosh: QuickDraw GX Environment and Utilities.

Inside Macintosh: Macintosh Toolbox Essentials.

[Back to top](#)

Downloadables



Acrobat version of this Note (K).

[Download](#)

[Back to top](#)

Technical Notes by [API](#) | [Date](#) | [Number](#) | [Technology](#) | [Title](#)
[Developer Documentation](#) | [Technical Q&As](#) | [Development Kits](#) | [Sample Code](#)