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Document Structuring Conventions

PostScript has been designed as a device independent programming language. Commands for text, graphics, and images define the appearance of each page. These commands are processed by an interpreter.

When Adobe defined the PostScript standard, it also laid down some rules about how to structure PostScript documents, called Document Structure Conventions (DSC). One convention, for example, is that the start of each page should be introduced by a comment. A file that consists of valid PostScript commands and observes the syntax and semantics of the PostScript language should be capable of being output on any device

that is able to interpret PostScript.

Why should PostScript documents comply to DSC?

DSC compliance has many advantages for interpreting applications. For example, if in accordance with DSC all pages of a PostScript document are separated by comments, it is easy for a print manager to reverse the sequence of the pages or to print just particular pages.

If there is no page separation in the PostScript file, the entire document has to be interpreted completely before any printing can be done.

Applications such as font servers and postprocessing programs may also benefit from DSC comments. Likewise, imposition software needs DSC comments for processing documents.

OneVision requirements to PostScript documents

OneVision uses DSC comments when it imports PostScript

documents, which is especially useful when particular pages have to be extracted from the documents. For example, if you have a PostScript file that complies with DSC and all pages are independent from each other, you can directly access page 99 without interpreting all the 98 pages before.

What about documents that don't comply to DSC?

OneVision is able to process documents whose pages are not independent from each other and whose structures are not defined by DSC comments. But you are required to import all pages of a document, i.e. you should select the `<All>` option in the *Import PostScript* panel
(;../OneVision/MainMenu/Document/OpenPostscript.rtf;Seitenimport;↵).