

What print driver works best with JetPCL?

JetPCL is designed to work with output from any PCL-4, PCL-5 or PCL-5e print driver or application that produces this type of PCL data. However, JetPCL works well with the standard LaserJet-5 print driver that comes with most Windows systems.

Furthermore, the following simple modification to any of the modern LaserJet print driver settings will improve the quality and usefulness of the PCL output from the print driver with regard to JetPCL.

Follow these steps to enable these modifications:

1. click on Start, Settings, Printers to get to the Windows printers that you have installed,
2. right click on the LaserJet printer you would like to modify and select Properties,
3. select the Device Settings tab,
4. click on the plus sign next to the Font Substitution Table to expand the list of fonts,
5. each font in the table will probably have a setting of “<Don’t Substitute>”, we will change some of these fonts to substitute using the printer resident font by the same name,
6. find the font Arial and click on the drop down box to the right of it and scroll until you find Arial as a selection so that you end up with “Arial : Arial”, (this means substitute Arial with Arial, see the notes below for why we do this)
7. do the same as above for each of the following fonts: Arial, Time New Roman, Courier, CG-Times, Univers, Letter Gothic, CG-Omega, Garamond, Albertus, Albertus Extra Bold, Antique Olive, Clarendon Condensed, Coronet, Marigold, Symbol, Univers Condensed, Wingdings,
8. when finished with the Font Substitution Table click OK to close the Properties window.

In order to understand what these settings do, you must realize that the Font Table is a list of all the fonts available to your Windows system and when you click the drop down box you are looking at all of the standard fonts that come resident in a typical PCL-5e LaserJet printer. These fonts (also called Typefaces) are also listed in the JetPCL documentation. If you do not see any one of the fonts I mention above do not be concerned, just modify the ones your system has. In short, what you are telling the print driver is to use the resident fonts in the printer instead of the fonts, by the same name, that are part of your Windows system. In other words, to substitute the Windows system fonts with the printer resident fonts, by the same name, when printing.

I am not sure why the print driver defaults to downloading the system fonts to the printer instead of simply selecting the resident printer fonts when they are available. For whatever reason, the result is a much larger PCL file with less extractable text. In most cases the modification above will result in smaller PCL files that printer faster and have more extractable text. Extractable text allows the JetPCL Text Extraction and PDF Selectable Text features to work properly.