

Generic / Text Only Printer Driver Help Index

Use the scroll bar to see index entries not currently visible in the Help window.

Help Topics

[About This Printer Driver](#)

[Adding, Modifying, or Removing a Printer](#)

[Entering Control Codes](#)

[No Page Break](#)

[Paper Size and Paper Feed](#)

[Printing Extended Characters](#)

[Supported Fonts](#)

[Wide Carriage](#)

About This Printer Driver

You can use the Generic / Text Only printer driver with any printer for printing text with no graphics. Since this driver uses the printer's internal character set (or sets), it is a convenient driver for printing quick drafts of large documents or spreadsheets.

To use the Generic / Text Only printer driver, select Text Only from the Printers list box. The printer setting Text Only lets you print text on any printer. However, you may want to customize this printer setting by adding your own special control codes and escape sequences.

You can configure the Generic / Text Only driver for any printer using a single fixed-width typeface. For dot-matrix printers, it can be configured to print several different typefaces. It can also print most of the extended ANSI characters on many printers.

Related Topics

[Adding, Modifying, or Removing a Printer](#)

[Entering Control Codes](#)

[Printing Extended Characters](#)

Adding, Modifying, or Removing a Printer

You can add or remove printers displayed in the Text Only printers list box. You can also change the printer name or printer control codes when adding or modifying a printer.

To add a printer:

- 1 Choose the Add button from the printer setup dialog box.
- 2 Type the printer's name in the New Printer Name text box.
You may not leave this box blank.
- 3 Type your printer's control codes (escape sequences) in the appropriate edit fields (as described below).
For example, to enter the control code Esc Ctrl+K A (decimal 027 011 065), press Esc, then press Ctrl+K, then press the letter A.
These control codes should be described in your printer's manual.

Printer Code	Function
Reset	Resets the printer to its power-on state. The printer's default font will be selected.
10 c.p.i. font	Prints 10 characters per inch.
12 c.p.i. font	Prints 12 characters per inch.
16 c.p.i. font	Prints 16 or 16.7 characters per inch.
Begin double-width	Prints double width (if the printer is currently in 12 c.p.i., it will print in 6 c.p.i.).
End double-width	Ends the double-width mode.

- 4 Choose OK.
Your new printer name now appears in the Printers list box. To take advantage of the control codes you entered, make sure you select the new printer name as the default printer.

To modify a printer's name or control codes:

- 1 Choose the Modify button from the printer setup dialog box.
- 2 Make the appropriate changes to the printer name or printer control codes.
See the above table for a description of the control code edit fields.

To remove a printer:

- 1 Select the printer name in the Printer drop-down list box.
- 2 Choose Modify.
- 3 Choose Delete.
- 4 Choose OK to confirm that you want to remove this printer from the list.
You cannot delete the printer name Text Only.

Related Topics

[Entering Control Codes](#)

Entering Control Codes

Printer manuals describe control codes and extended character codes in several formats:

- * Symbol characters
- * Control-letter sequences
- * Decimal digits
- * ASCII mnemonics
- * Hexadecimal digits

The Generic / Text Only driver supports the first three of these formats. If your manual describes control codes with ASCII mnemonics or with Hexadecimal numbers, you must convert them using the ASCII conversion table.

To enter symbol characters:

- * Type the code as it appears in your printer manual and on your keyboard.
For example, to enter Esc+P, hold down Esc and then press the letter P.

To enter control letter sequences:

- * Type the characters and control-letter combinations as they are described in your printer manual.
For example, to enter Ctrl+X, hold down Ctrl and then press the letter X.

To enter decimal character codes:

- 1 Press and hold down the Alt key.
- 2 Type a 0 (zero).
- 3 Type the numbers from the numeric keypad.
For example, to enter the ANSI decimal character code for the accented "a", you would type 225.
- 4 Release the Alt key.

The driver will convert the code to a Ctrl+Char sequence if the character is not printable (like Backspace) or to a symbol character if it is printable (like the letter H).

No Page Break

Selecting the No Page Break option allows you to print continuously without form feeds between pages.

To select the No Page Break option:

- * Select the No Page Break check box in the printer setup dialog box.
To turn off continuous printing, select the check box again.

Paper Size and Paper Feed

The Generic / Text Only printer driver supports four paper sizes and two paper feed options. You should choose the paper feed option and paper size you want to use when printing from a specific Windows application.

Printing Extended Characters

If you want to print any of the characters contained in the ANSI extended character set, use the Characters option to enter its position in your printer's character code table.

To print an ANSI character:

- 1 Choose Characters in the printer setup dialog box.
- 2 Select the ANSI character from the On Screen list box.
The number displayed to the left of the character indicates its position in the ANSI character set.
- 3 Enter in the On Printer edit box the character's position in your printer's character code table.
When printing, the ANSI character is translated to the same character on your printer.
Not all ANSI characters may be available on your printer. See your printer manual for more information about the characters supported by your printer.

Supported Fonts

You can use this driver with any printer, but it is intended especially for dot-matrix printers, or printers which have similar font sets. These printers generally have two to six fonts, all of the same height, some of which are selected by a 'double-width' escape.

This driver supports a maximum of six fonts with the following typeface names:

- Roman 10 c.p.i.
- Roman 12 c.p.i.
- Roman 17 c.p.i. (16 c.p.i. or technically 16.7 c.p.i.)
- Roman 5 c.p.i. (10 c.p.i. in double-width)
- Roman 6 c.p.i. (12 c.p.i. in double-width)
- Roman 8 c.p.i. (17 c.p.i. in double-width)

For an application to use any of the first three fonts, their control codes must have been defined in the Add and Modify dialog boxes. For an application to use the double-width fonts (in addition to the first three fonts), their control codes must also have been defined. (Several printers support all of these fonts except the Roman 8 c.p.i.)

If no fonts were defined, the standard setting for this driver is Roman 12 c.p.i. If your printer's font set doesn't fit the scheme described above, define an escape for 12 c.p.i. or for none.

In a word processor, you will see the width of the characters on the screen change when you select the above fonts only if a screen font set with the same face names as above is available.

Wide Carriage

Selecting the Wide Carriage option allows support for printing more than 80 characters across the paper.

To select the Wide Carriage option:

- * Select the Wide Carriage check box in the printer setup dialog box.
To turn off wide carriage printing, select the check box again.

