Filename : Callpdf.pdf

This is a demo program on how to call Adobe Acrobats .PDF reader from
GFA Basic using the Exec command.

.PDF is a popular format for displaying and printing files. They are
created with Adobe Acrobat which is quite expensive for the average user.
This file was converted from an ascii text file to the .PDF format
using the program MAKEPDF.EXE. This program is available for download
from the internet and is free for all to use.
Although MAKEPDF lacks many of the features of Adobe Acrobat, which
supports hyper text links and some graphics formats it does provide a way
to create an .pdf format file from a text file.

Also available as a free download is the program GYMNAST which allows
the choice of fonts, font size, font color, background color and text color.

The program uses Adobe's Acroread.exe to load and display the file.
Acroread is free and can be downloaded from the Adobe web site.

There are numerous ways to display a text file from GFA. The one I like best
by far is Bev Browns 'LIST' routine in Bevs GFADLL4.DLL. It is versatel and
quite nice in its display. NOTEPAD.EXE may also be called from GFA to
display a text file. This demo just demonstrates a different way that a
text file can be displayed when it has been converted to an Adobe .PDF
file.

Usng a program called GYMNAST a .txt file may be converted to a .PDF
file. Although somewhat limited, the font, font size, back ground color
and text color may be chosen. Following is some details on GYMNAST.

****
                            Gymnast
****
Gymnast converts text files to Adobe Acrobat .PDF format, without the
need for the more expensive compiler or printer driver from Adobe!

Gymnast supports hypertext jumps, so you can use it to create neat
README files or any other electronic publishing document.

Code and dox by Robert Schifreen (gymnast@oakworth.demon.co.uk)

Gymnast is Shareware. Please register if you find it useful.
Registration brings you the full source code in Visual Basic 3.0.

GYMNAST.EXE and GYMNAST.DOC are freely distributable. The source
code, GYMNAST.FRM, is for registered users only.
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This file comprises the documentation for Gymnast, a utility for
converting ASCII text files to Adobe Acrobat format.

The M= line above is a hypertext destination marker - see below for
details on how to use hypertext links in Gymnast.

This program, and its author, have no connection whatsoever with Adobe.

IMPORTANT: Gymnast is a Windows application. It requires VBRUN300.DLL
and THREED.VBX, which are freely distributable components of Microsoft
Visual Basic 3.0 and can be found on any online system or BBS.

Gymnast takes plain ASCII text files as its source, whereas
Acrobat Distiller and Acrobat PDF Writer "compile" PostScript.
Therefore, you should ensure that the file you wish to convert
is in plain text format, with a hard return at the end of each
line.

NOTE: Gymnast does not wrap lines. If a line of text is too long, it will
run off the edge of the page. To remedy this, use a smaller font size
or put hard returns in the file where necessary.

To create a PDF file:
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1. Start Gymnast by running the GYMNAST.EXE file.
2. Select an existing text file. Why not try GYMNAST.DOC?
3. Select a font from the standard 3 that are listed
4. Choose a type size.
5. Choose a page size, either European A4 or US Letter.
6. If you'd like an annotation on the first page, type some text
    in the Annotation box. If you don't want an annotation, leave
    this box empty. (But try it, it's fun!).
7. Press F5, or select "Make PDF" from the "File" menu.

Your .PDF file will be created. The name and location of your PDF file
will be the same as the original text file, except for the .PDF extension.

To view your PDF file, use the Adobe Acrobat Reader 2.0. This is available
for DOS, Windows, Mac and Unix.

If you created an annotation, this will appear as a yellow icon on
the first page of your document when you view it. To read the note,
click the icon.

To be able to create notes in PDF files, you need Acrobat Exchange. The
free Acrobat Reader does not have this facility.

If you want to understand the .PDF file produced by Gymnast, you need "The Portable Document Format Reference Manual", written by Adobe and published by Addison-Wesley. ISBN 0-201-62628-4. Updates to the book are available as a 46-page PDF file from Adobe known as Technote 5156. The book itself is not available in machine-readable format.

The basic structure of the PDF file, as you will see, is a series of "objects". Each is numbered, and starts with an "obj" and ends with "endobj". The list of numbers in the trailer section at the end of the PDF file contains the byte offsets of the start of each object, so that the Reader can locate them quickly.

If you want to produce industrial-strength .PDF files, without the limitations that Gymnast imposes, you need either PDF Writer or Acrobat Distiller. Both are produced and sold by Adobe, in packages known respectively as Adobe Acrobat and Adobe Acrobat Pro.
Here is a jump to the top of the file.

Hypertext Links

You can add hypertext jumps to your text file.

Here is a jump to the top of the file.

Note that you can't split jumps across lines, and markers must be on

a line of their own. Markers are not case-sensitive.

To see how you mark the destination, see the top of this document.

A jump to a non-existent marker will produce an error and Gymnast
will halt. You should fix the error and re-compile.

Hypertext links will be displayed with a thin border around the jump itself.
Click within the border to jump. You can choose at compile time between
red, green, blue or black borders, and a border of 0 to 5 pixels thick.

Display Mode

You can choose to have your PDF file displayed in normal or in full-screen mode.

In full-screen mode, the Acrobat Reader or Acrobat Exchange will not display its
menu bar, status line or any other screen "furniture". You can use your hypertext
links to navigate the document in full-screen mode.

To display the screen furniture when in full-screen mode, press Escape.

The Adobe Acrobat Reader can be configured to turn the pages of a PDF file
automatically, without user intervention, after a user-defined number of seconds.
This is useful for preparing self-running demos. See the option settings menu
on Acrobat Reader for access to this feature.

Page Breaks

To insert a page break in a source file, use [P] on its own line.

Notes on Printing .PDF Files

If you wish to print an actual PDF file for studying, note that copying
it to a PostScript printer may *not* work. This is especially true if
you have a printer which automatically senses PostScript and, say, HP PCL
data.

The problem arises from the %PDF line at the top of the PDF file, which
should be treated as plain text but which may fool the printer into
thinking that a PostScript file is being sent.

To print a PDF file, load the file into a word processor and print from
there.

Notes and Limitations

The current release of Gymnast lacks many of the fancy facilities

found in the full Adobe Acrobat package.

Gymnast is primarily designed to allow you to produce electronic documentation
files in a format for which a powerful, multi-platform reader is freely available.
Gymnast is not designed as a substitute for Adobe's Distiller and PDF Writer
products. If you need graphics, compression, encryption, thumbnails and proper
support for fonts and point sizes, use Adobe's products rather than Gymnast.

Among the features that I plan to add to Gymnast are as follows. Those not
listed here will probably not be added, at least in the foreseeable future.

o   Change default encoding mechanism to allow access to high-bit ASCII
     characters.

o   Treat ASCII form-feed characters as [P] page break commands.

o   Change hypertext jump metacommand to match HTML

o   Implementing these codes. Use HTML commands instead?

     This is [B]bold[b] text
     This is [U]underlined[u] text
     This is [I]italic[i] text
     This is [L]large text[l] text
     This is [X]extra large text[x] text
     This is [S]small text[s] text

o   Add support for more fonts.

o   Support for generating an outline, the rather neat
     hierarchical Table of Contents that is displayed in a separate
     window by the Acrobat Reader.

     Use heading level commands as found in HTML.

                        Revision History

0.30   1 Aug 95   First alpha release.
0.31   8 Aug 95   Tidied up top and bottom margins. Now set to 1".
                  Source file lines longer than 250 chars get truncated in PDF file.
                  Lines containing parentheses caused errors in PDF file.
0.40 22 Aug 95   Added support for hypertext links. Links go to the right page,
                  but not to any particular point on the page. This will be fixed
                  in a later release.
                  Left/right margins set to 0.5".
0.41 25 Aug 95   Added [P] command for page break.
                  Added page rotation.
                  Added page foreground and background colour.
1.0   29 Aug 95   First non-beta version.
                  Raised limit on maximum length of PDF file that can

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                        be produced, from 40 to around 800 pages.
1.01  15 Dec 95    Fixed a couple of bugs.
1.02  02 Feb 96    Added a very basic command-line parameter facility.

                      Usage: GYMNAST sourcefile font size papersize
                    Example: GYMNAST LETTER.TXT TI 10 A4

                   **  Note that you MUST specify ALL 4 parameters. **

                      sourcefile   The name of the file to be converted.
                                   Wildcards are not yet supported.

                            font   Required font.  Times-Roman, Helvetica or
                                   Courier.  Case is insignificant.  You don't
                                   need to specify more than 2 characters.

                            size   Font size.

                       papersize   US or A4.  Case is insignificant.

1.10  24 Feb 96   Added portrait/landscape selection facility
                  Added more font sizes.  Now supports between 4pt and 36pt.
1.11  26 Feb 96   Fixed minor bug where page orientation options disappeared
                  from screen after user views help or registration info.
                  Changed name of "Compile" menu option to "Make PDF".
                  Couple of cosmetic changes to look better at 640 x 480.
2.00  04 Aug 96   Fixed some major bugs (eek!) and made the user interface
                  look neater.
2.10  30 Aug 96   Made some small improvements to the compilation speed.
2.11
Here is a jump to the top of the file.


- end of file -


- end of file -


Dale Bryant
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