

PrintKit and Forms Overlays



The PrintKit software has the capability to add forms overlays to a document as it is being printed. Forms overlays provide a flexible replacement for preprinted

paper stock, and they allow overlay graphics to be prepared separately from the document.

They provide a path for migrating traditional line printer output to page printers, which can

produce documents that are both visually more attractive (and easier to read), and

potentially more economical (consider duplexing, multi-up printing).

How forms overlays work

PrintKit uses forms overlays that are coded as PostScript Level 2 Form resources. This encoding can be processed efficiently, so even complex forms print at full speed. Forms can be used with PostScript documents, and with text and ANSI-PPL3 (LN03) documents (which PrintKit translates to PostScript for printing).

Forms overlays are stored on your OpenVMS system in PrintKit's device control libraries. When you use one, PrintKit sends it to the printer as part of the print job. For each page of the document,

PrintKit first prints the overlay, then the variable document data. It can print separate front and back side overlays. Production PrintKit has the added ability to print different overlays on selected sheets.

Creating forms overlays

There are several forms design products that produce overlays in the format required by PrintKit. To use them, you create the form in a PC-based graphical forms editor, then transfer it to your OpenVMS system for use with PrintKit.

You can also manually create Form resources, starting from Encapsu-

lated PostScript (EPS) files (the PrintKit documentation describes how). This lets you use the EPS files generated by a wide variety of graphics programs. However, it is a tedious task, and feasible only if you understand PostScript programming.

Alternatively, Northlake Software can prepare forms overlays to your specifications, working from either hardcopy or electronic sources. Please contact us for additional information on requirements, scheduling and pricing.



Forms Design Software

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These PC-based forms design software products are capable of producing forms overlay definitions compatible with the PrintKit software.



Elixir Technologies Corporation

Elixir Forms Editor

An advanced WYSIWYG forms tool to create and edit forms for Xerox, HP-PCL, and PostScript printers.

PO Box 1559
Ojai, California 93024
805-641-5900
Fax 805-641-5920
www.elixir.com

Lytrod Software

ProForm Vision+, ProForm III

A WYSIWYG forms designer and a multi-pass optimizing forms compiler for XES/UDK, HP-PCL, and PostScript printers.

2573 Claybank Road, Suite 4
Fairfield, California 94533-1656
707-422-9221
Fax 707-429-5179
www.lytrod.com

Red Titan Limited

Page Designer

A WYSIWYG forms designer based on Xerox FDL, for use with a wide range of printers.

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