LaserWriter 8.x: Editing PPD Files (10/94)

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TOPIC --

How do I properly edit the LaserWriter 8.x PostScript Printer Description (PPD)
Files?

Specifically, I want to adjust the default paper size for "US Letter". I used a
text editor to simply modify the pixel size definition of "US Letter", but I
find that the paper size description doesn't match the document area when
opening "Page Set-up".

DISCUSSION ---

There is a 138 page document called "PostScript Printer Description File Format
Specification" (Part# LPS5003) available from Adobe Technical support which goes
into great detail about PPD files. This document outlines the format which PPD
files MUST follow in order to be used by the Macintosh Print Manager and/or
applications which parse the files.

Editing of PPD files can be done with a simple text editor since the files are
just text files, however, there are some constraints to modifying them.

In relation to your specific question on changing the default paper size, try
changing "US Letter" to be 7.5 x 11. There were no problems printing this size
page in MS Word. You are correct that the pixel size is the appropriate value
to change, but in order for it to take effect you have to modify the values in 7
different places (change the values for LETTER and LETTERSMALL in the
LaserWriter Pro 630 PPD file). You will see the effect take place in Page
Setup, as well as in the Page Layout view of MS Word. As long as you are
consistent in changing JUST values in all of the places they occur, this should
work for you.

All pixel size values map to points per inch (72 points/inch). An entry of
LetterSmall "PageSize [612 792]" in the PPD file is defining a letter sized
page, [612/72 792/72] or [8.5 11] or 8.5" x 11".

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