Creating a Windows 95 driver
for PostScript production

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Abstract:

By default, Windows 95 PostScript™ drivers are setup for speed. They strip unneeded information for desktop printers. This information needs to be included when creating files for prepress & production.

The default PostScript drivers also add special instructions to PostScript to activate unique device features. Often these special commands can mess up other printers.

This document will guide you through a process create a driver for production-quality PostScript files.

Files generated by the new driver have the following attributes

1. Fonts will be embedded in the PostScript files, except for the the standard 35 LaserWriter fonts. This ensures fonts printed in production match fonts on laser proofs.

2. PostScript files are page-independent according to Adobe's Document Structuring Conventions. These conventions are needed to perform electronic imposition.

3. Generic Level 2 PostScript commands are used to select paper size.

4. Resolution is set 2400 dpi to provide sufficient resoltuion for film artwork as well as demand-print needs.

1. Download Adobe's PostScript driver:

Using your favorite network browser, go to http://www.adobe.com. Click on <u>Free Plugins & Updates</u>. Then scroll down to print drivers and click on <u>Windows</u>. Download the file, <u>AdobePS 4.2.3 -- U.S. English</u>. Unpack the ps423.zip file with a tool such as WINzip. This will create a directory named <u>423cd</u>.
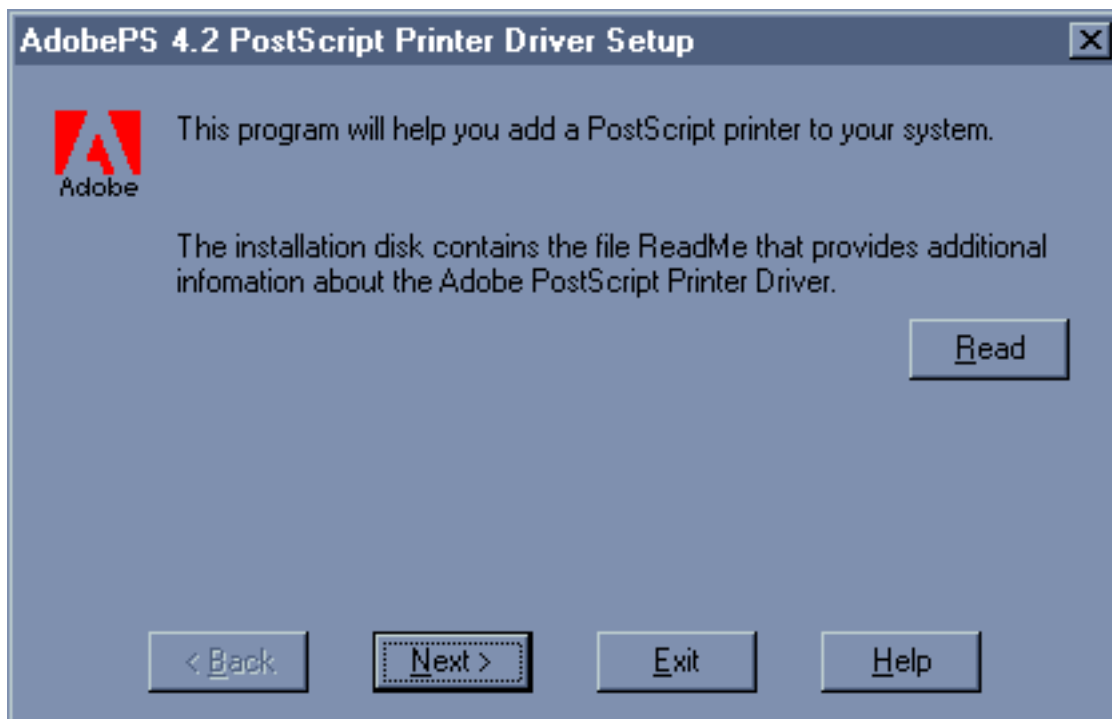
2. Obtain the SSB.PPD file:

You should also obtain the SSB.PPD file (PostScript Printer Description) from SSB-A Prepress Services. Put SSB.PPD in the directory <u>423cd</u>.
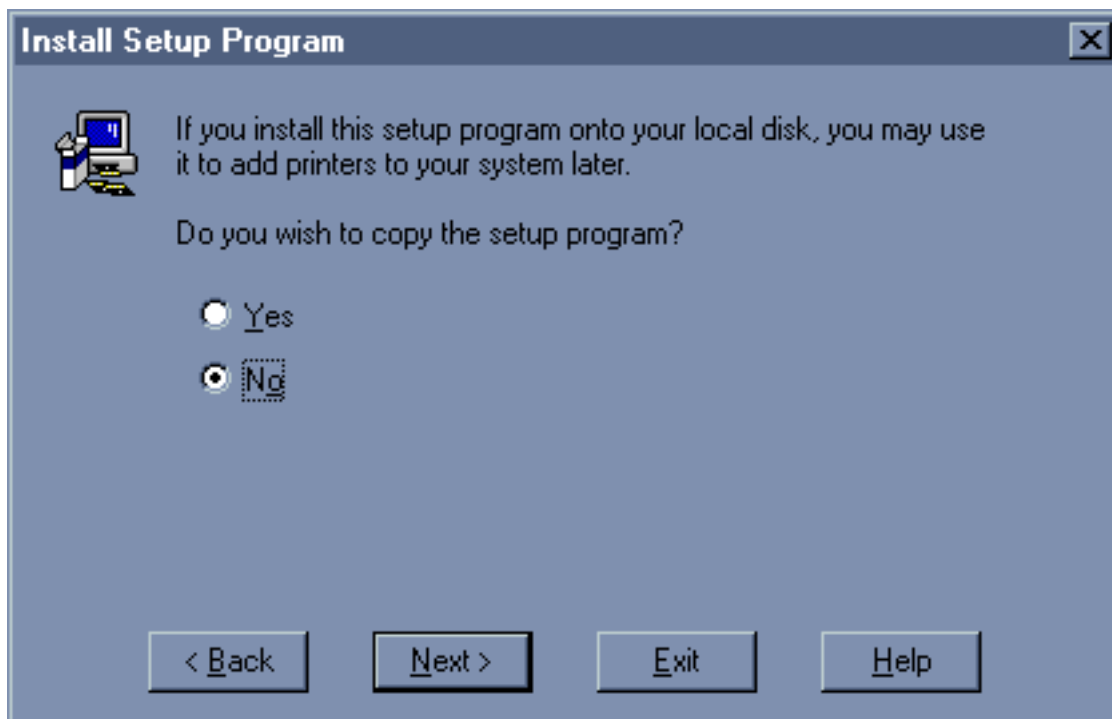
2a.Install Setup Program

To create an SSB print driver, run the file <u>setup.exe</u> located in the directory <u>423cd</u>. (Note: do not use <u>Add Printer</u> in your Printer window as this will create a Microsoft print driver.)

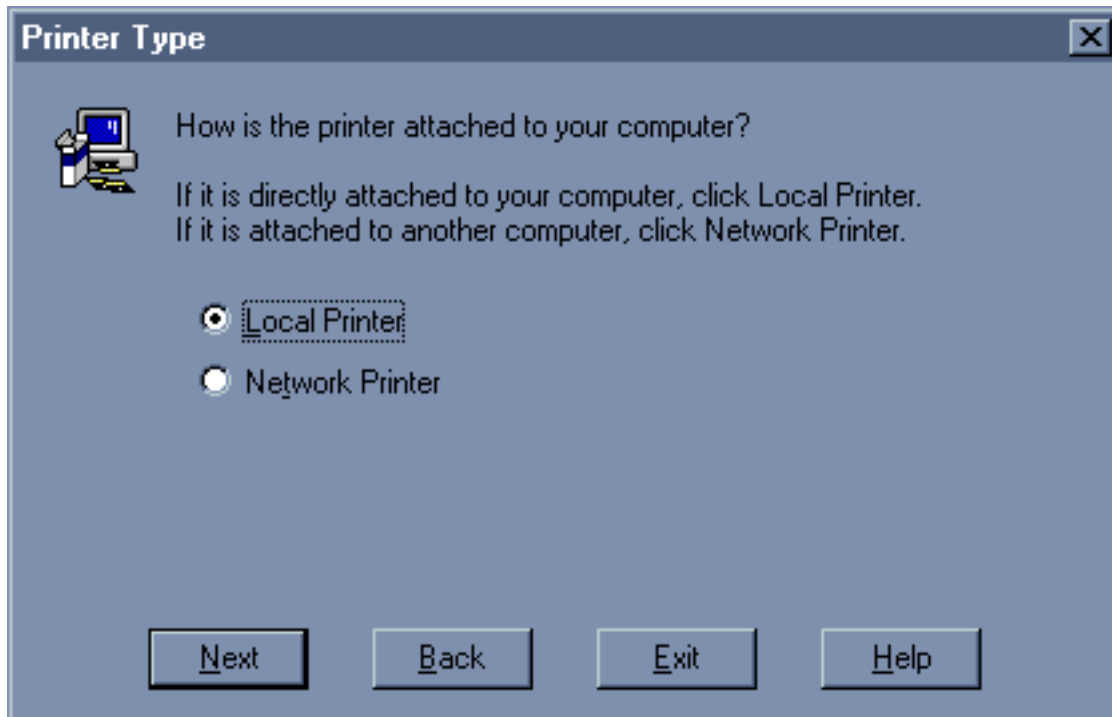The following setup window will appear. Click <u>Next</u> to continue.

The following setup window will appear. Click <u>Next</u> to continue.

Install Setup Program

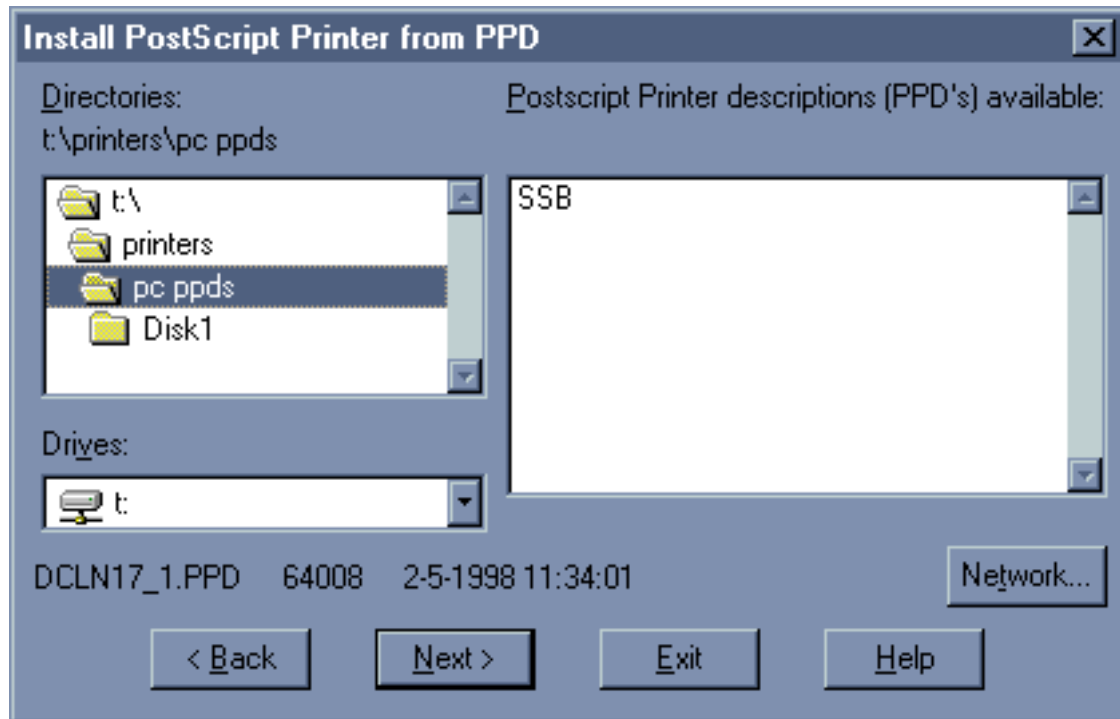If you install this setup program onto your local disk, you may use it to add printers to your system later.

Do you wish to copy the setup program?

○ <u>Y</u>es

◉ N<u>o</u>

[< <u>B</u>ack] [<u>N</u>ext >] [<u>E</u>xit] [<u>H</u>elp]

2b. Printer Type

Settings should be left as shown. Click <u>N</u>ext to continue.

```
Printer Type                                                    [×]

   🖥️      How is the printer attached to your computer?

           If it is directly attached to your computer, click Local Printer.
           If it is attached to another computer, click Network Printer.

              ◉  Local Printer
              ○  Network Printer




         [  Next  ]      [  Back  ]      [  Exit  ]      [  Help  ]
```
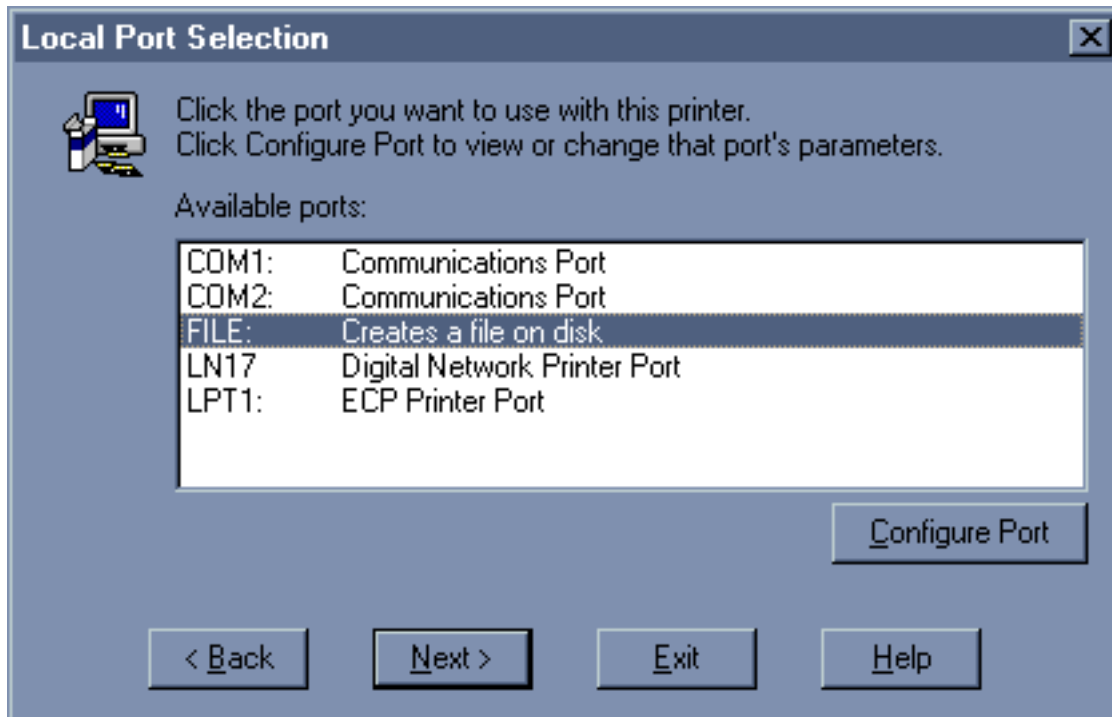
2c.Install PostScript Printer from PPD

PPD files are PostScript-Printer-Descriptions. Navigate to the directory where SSB.PPD was installed and select SSB.
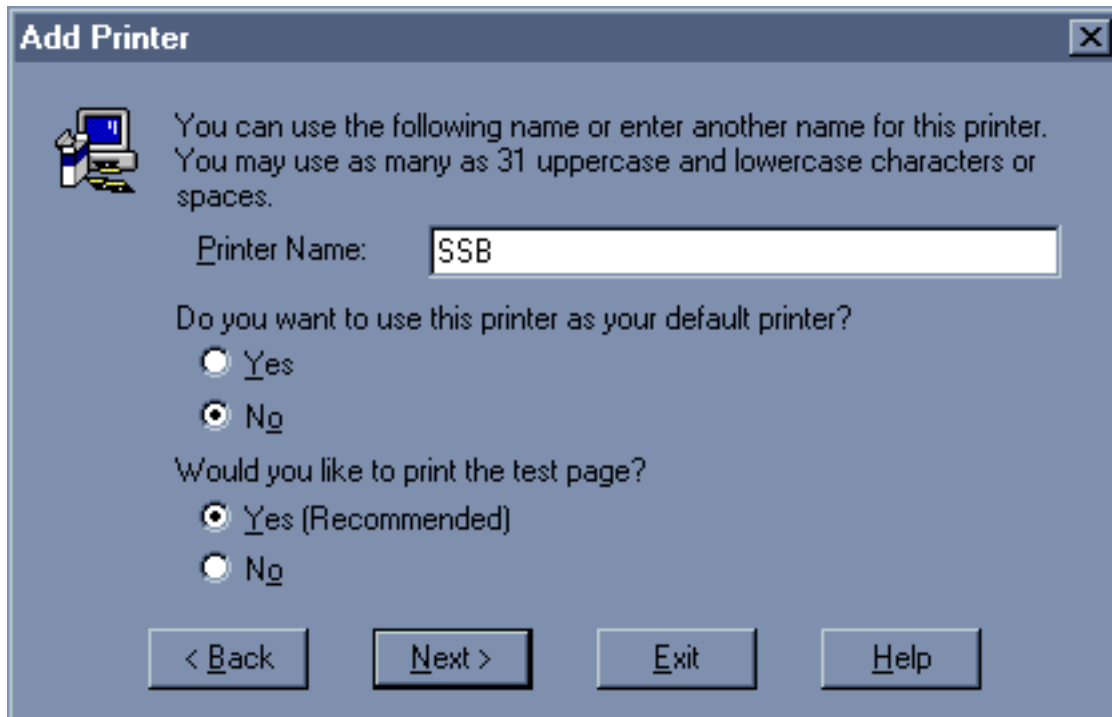
Install PostScript Printer from PPD

Directories:
t:\printers\pc ppds

- t:\
- printers
- pc ppds
- Disk1

Postscript Printer descriptions (PPD's) available:

SSB

Drives:
t:

DCLN17_1.PPD   64008   2-5-1998 11:34:01

Network...

< Back   Next >   Exit   Help

2d. Local Port Selection

Select the **FILE:** port. This means the driver will write to a PostScript file.

Local Port Selection

Click the port you want to use with this printer.
Click Configure Port to view or change that port's parameters.

Available ports:

COM1:	Communications Port
COM2:	Communications Port
FILE:	Creates a file on disk
LN17	Digital Network Printer Port
LPT1:	ECP Printer Port

Configure Port

< Back   Next >   Exit   Help

2e.Add Printer

The Printer Name: is chosen here. We suggest you give it a name such as SSB
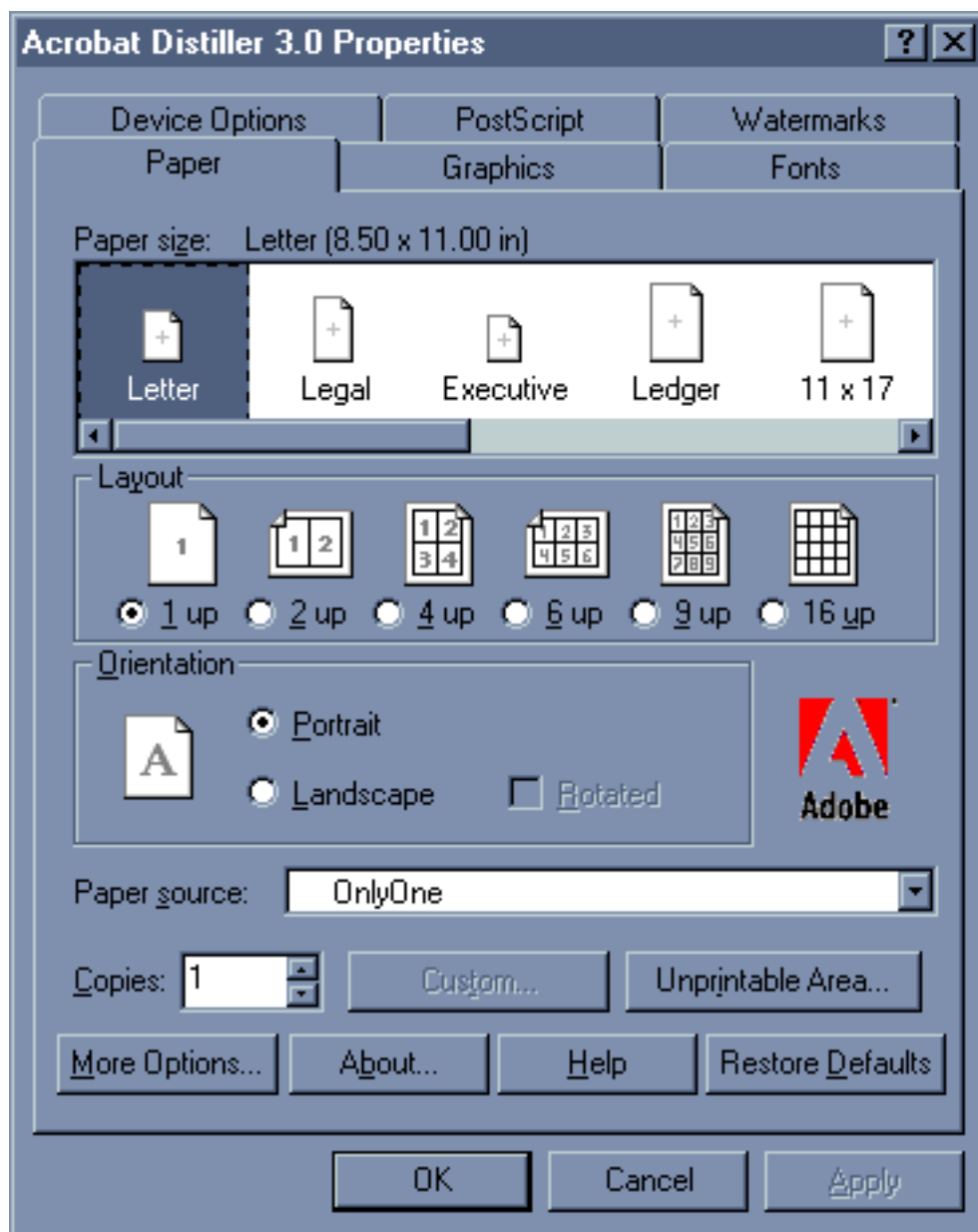
Other settings may be left as shown.

2f.Paper

Page size: should be set for the size paper you are printing to. In the US, this will likely be either Letter or 11x17. You can also create custom paper sizes such as 7.5 x 9 by scrolling the Paper Size pane to the right and clicking on a Custom icon.

Orientation should be set as necessary for your document. Most of the time, this will be Portrait.
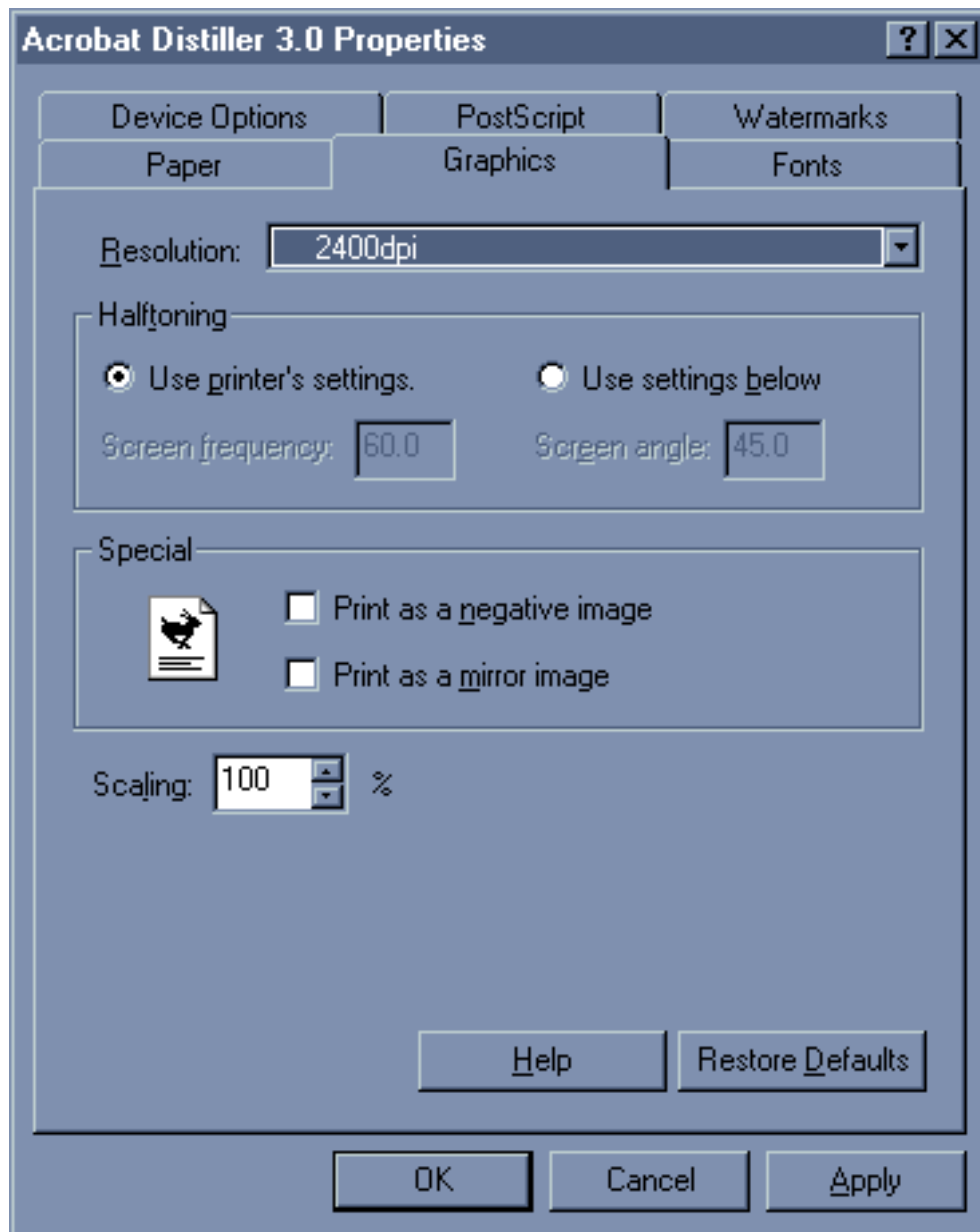
Other settings should be left as shown.

Click on OK to go to the next window.

Acrobat Distiller 3.0 Properties

| Device Options | PostScript | Watermarks |
| Paper | Graphics | Fonts |

Paper size: Letter (8.50 x 11.00 in)

Letter   Legal   Executive   Ledger   11 x 17

Layout

○ 1 up   ○ 2 up   ○ 4 up   ○ 6 up   ○ 9 up   ○ 16 up

Orientation

A   ● Portrait

○ Landscape   ☐ Rotated

Adobe

Paper source: OnlyOne

Copies: 1

Custom...   Unprintable Area...

More Options...   About...   Help   Restore Defaults

OK   Cancel   Apply

2g.Graphics

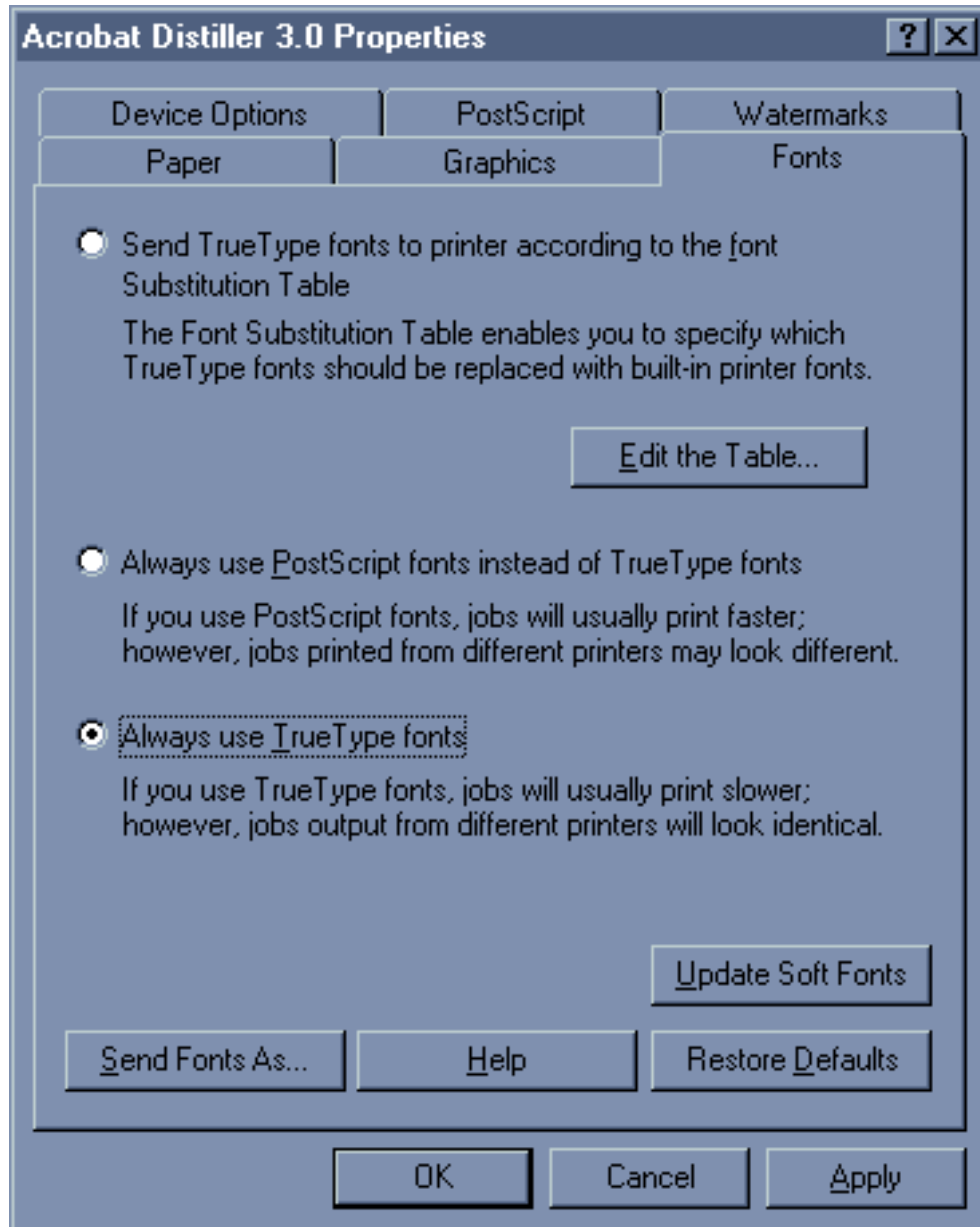Resolution should be set to 2400.

Other settings should be left as shown.

2h. Fonts

Select the option for <u>Always use TrueType fonts.</u> This will ensure production jobs match laser proofs.

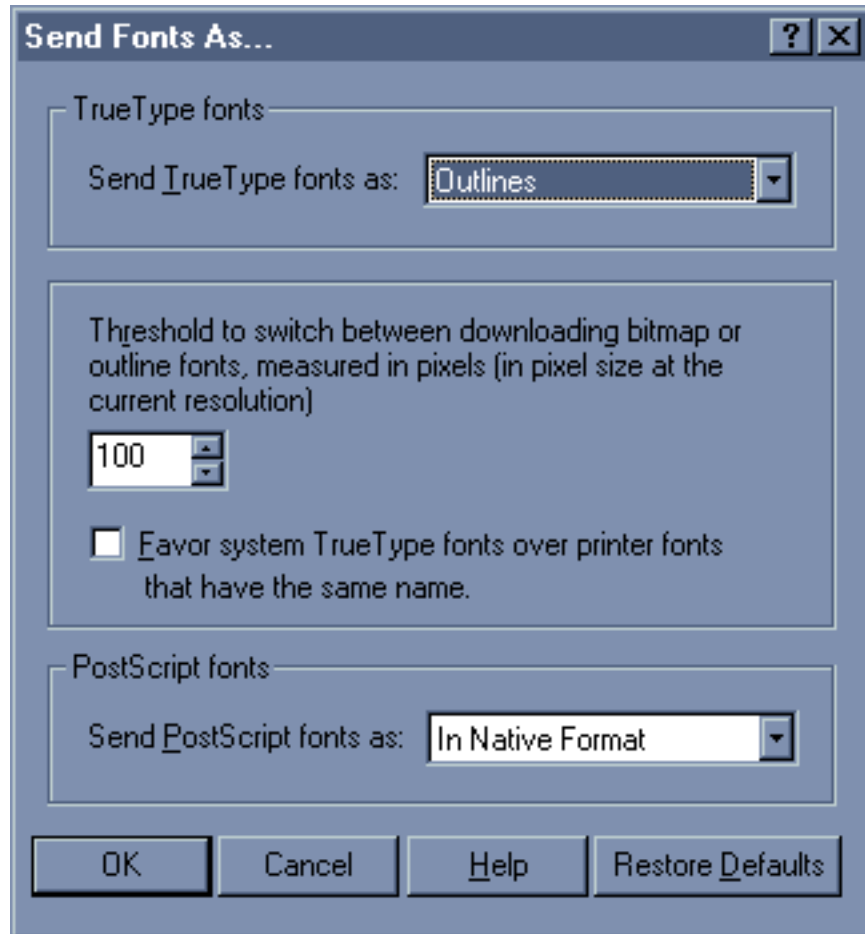Click on <u>Send Fonts As...</u> to go to the next window.

2i.Send Fonts As...

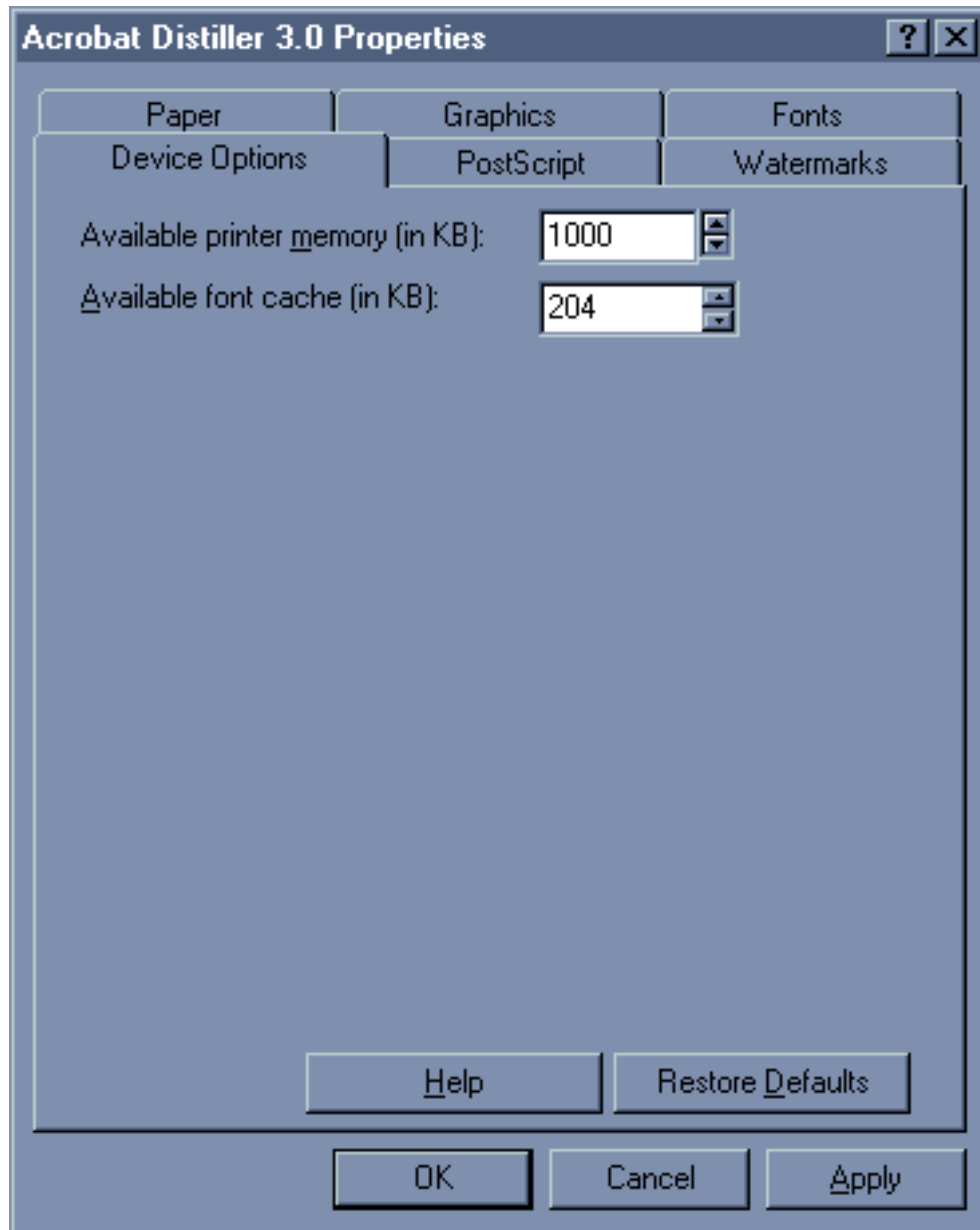To get to this window, click on <u>Send Fonts As...</u> in the previous Fonts window.

<u>Send TrueType fonts as</u> should be set to <u>Outlines</u>

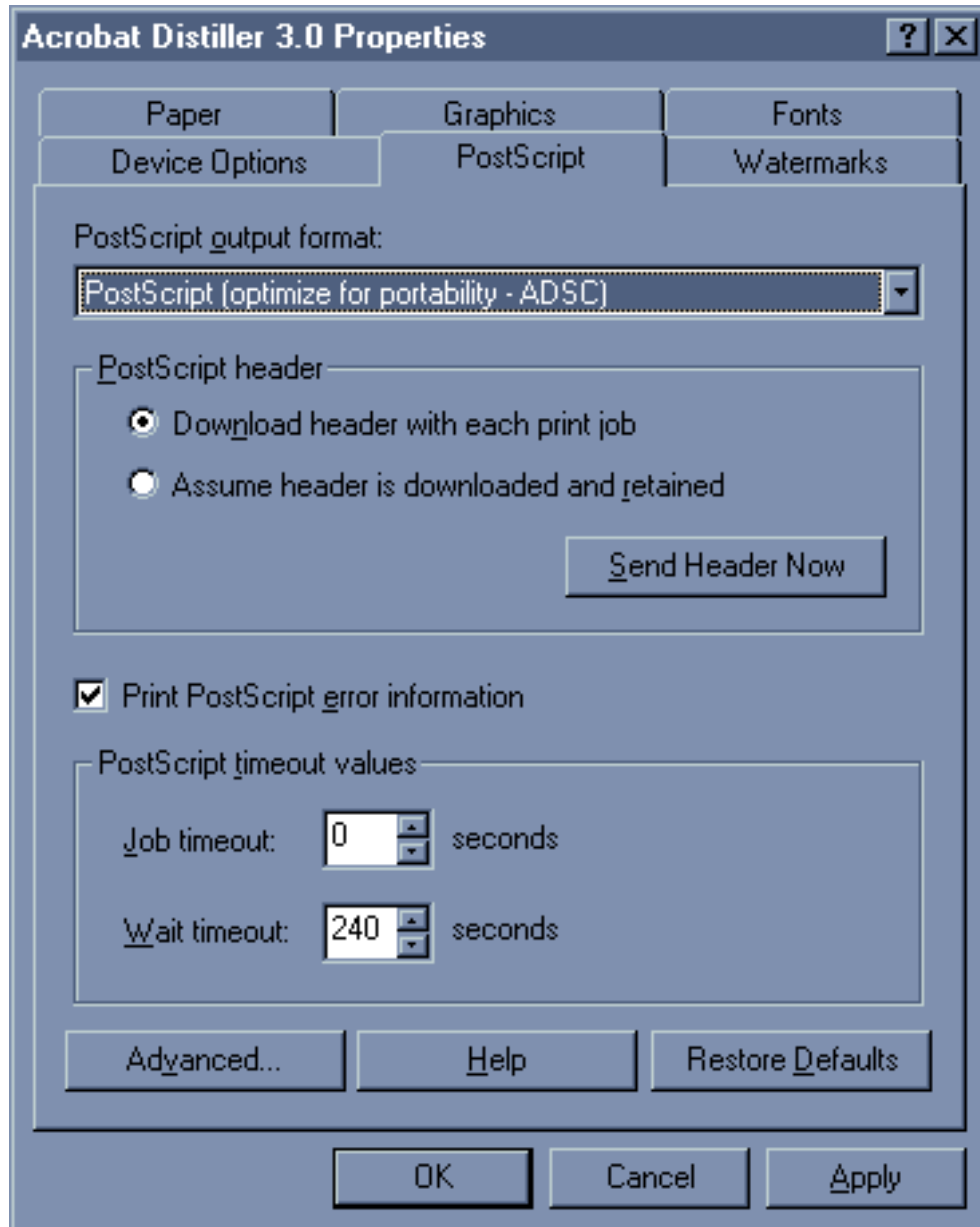<u>Send PostScript fonts as</u> should be set to <u>In Native Format</u>.

2j.Device Options

Available printer memory (in KB): should be left at 1000.

Acrobat Distiller 3.0 Properties

| Paper | Graphics | Fonts |
| Device Options | PostScript | Watermarks |

Available printer memory (in KB): 1000

Available font cache (in KB): 204

Help   Restore Defaults

OK   Cancel   Apply

2k.PostScript

PostScript output format: must be set to PostScript (optimize for portability - ADSC. This is important for production! Files that are not set to ADSC cannot be imposed.
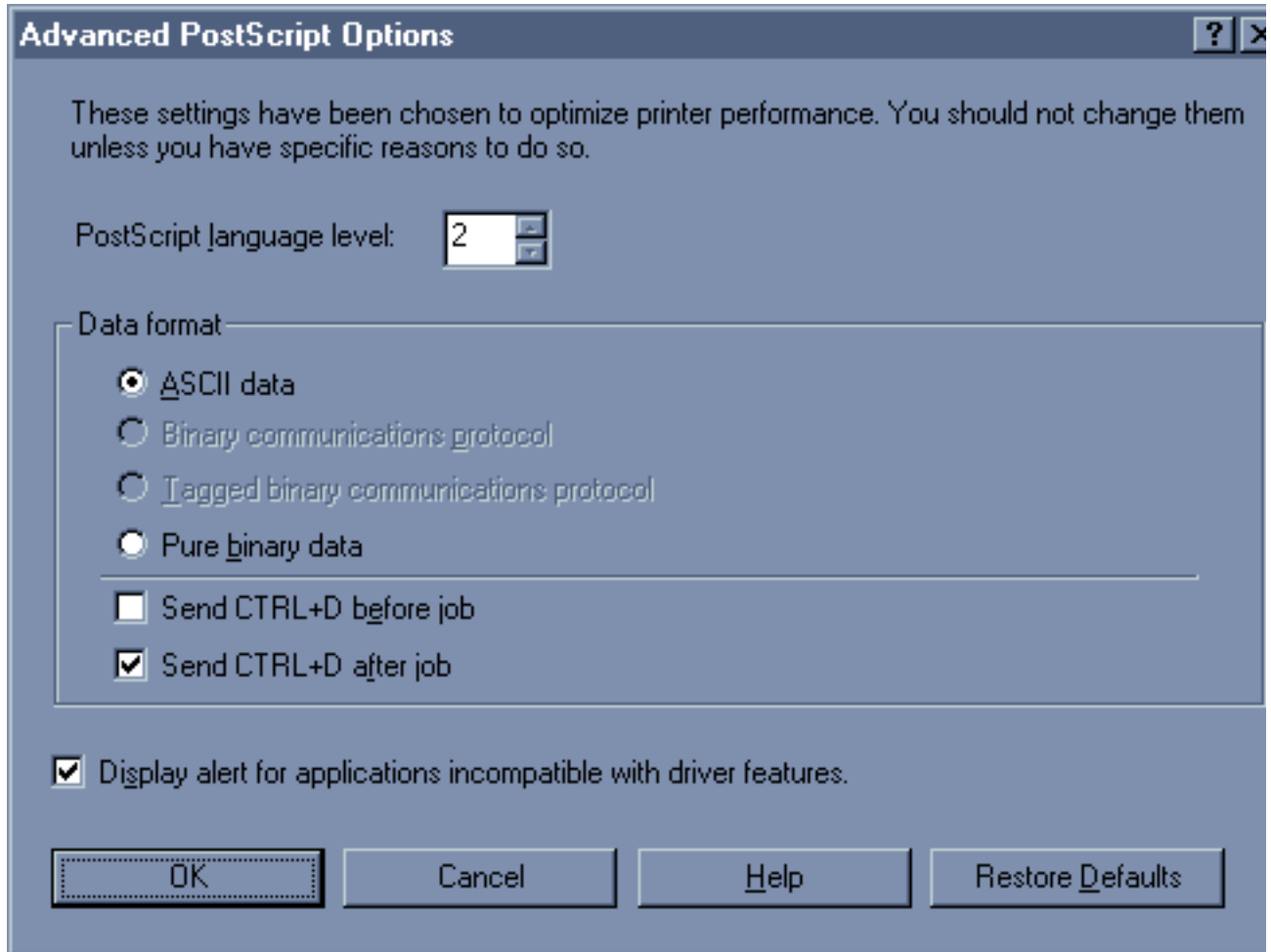
Other settings should be left as shown.

2I.Advanced PostScript Options

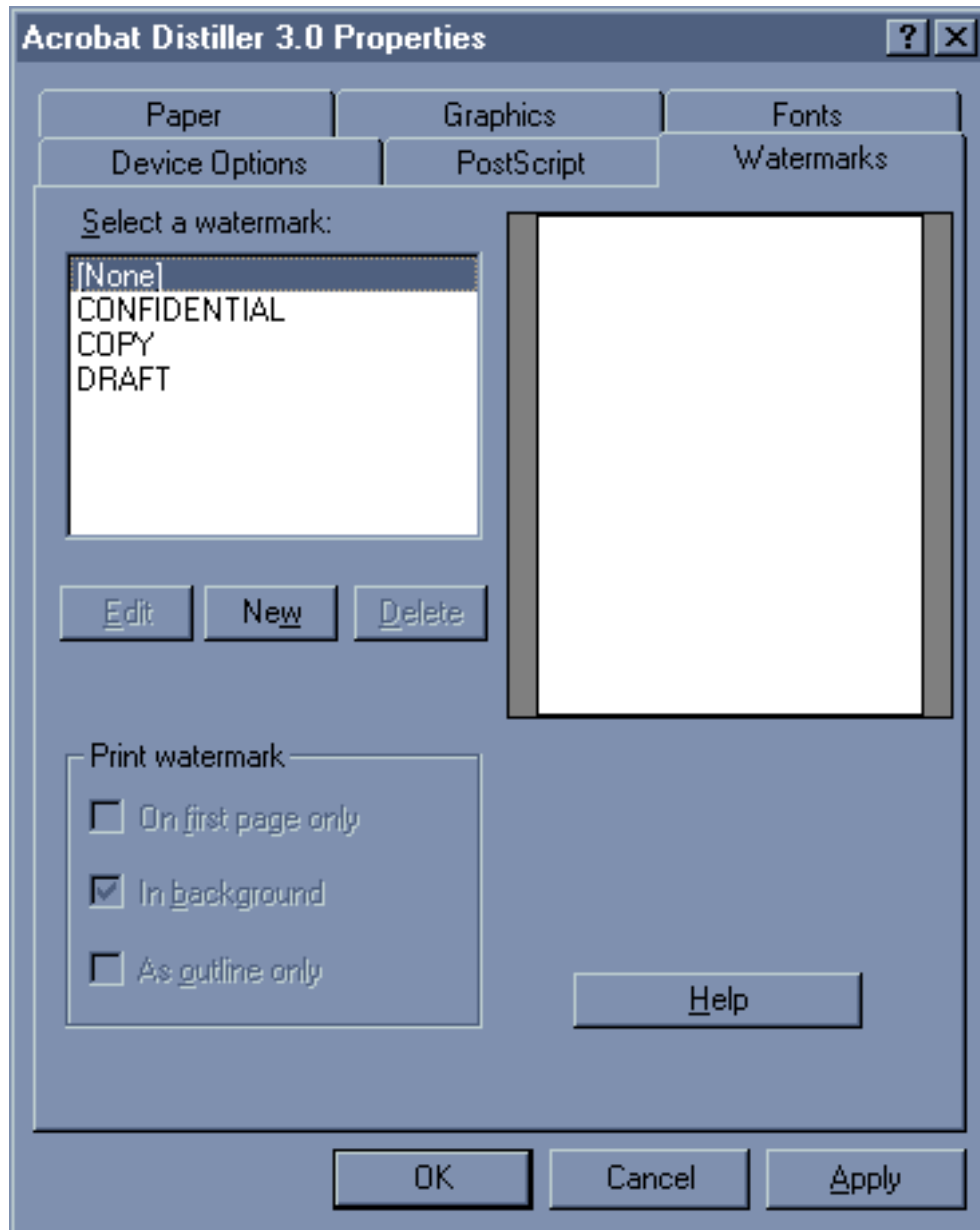PostScript Language level should be set to Use PostScript Level 2 features.

Data Format should be set to ASCII data.
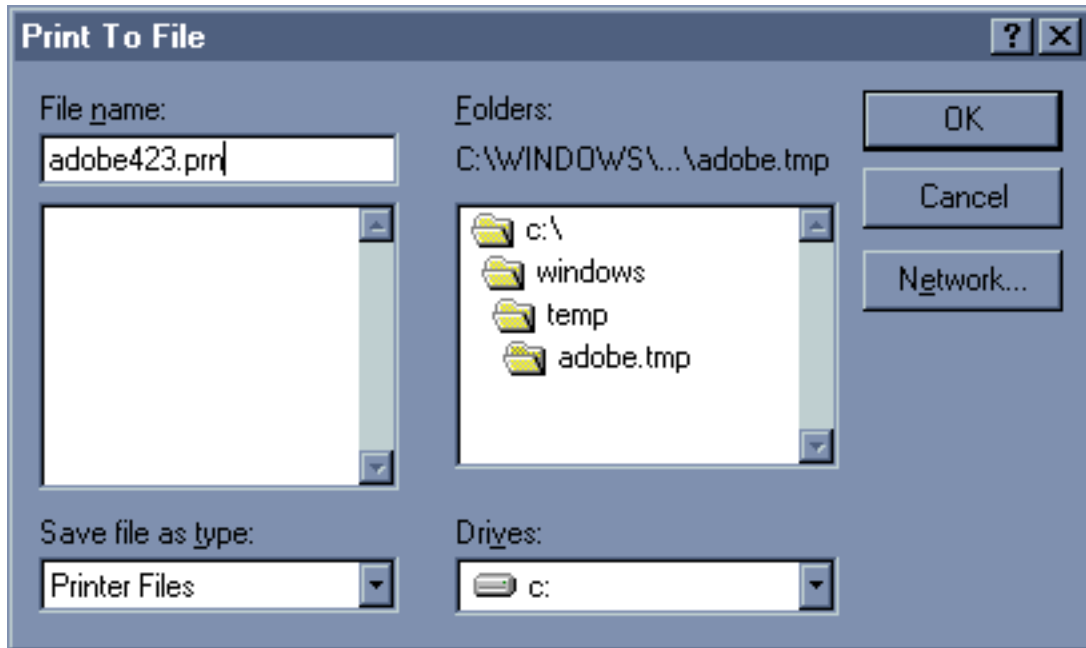
The other options may left as shown.

2m. Watermarks

Select a watermark should be set to [None]

Acrobat Distiller 3.0 Properties dialog box, Watermarks tab. Tabs shown: Paper, Graphics, Fonts, Device Options, PostScript, Watermarks. Select a watermark: list contains [None] (selected), CONFIDENTIAL, COPY, DRAFT. Buttons: Edit, New, Delete. Print watermark group with checkboxes: On first page only, In background (checked), As outline only. Help, OK, Cancel, Apply buttons.
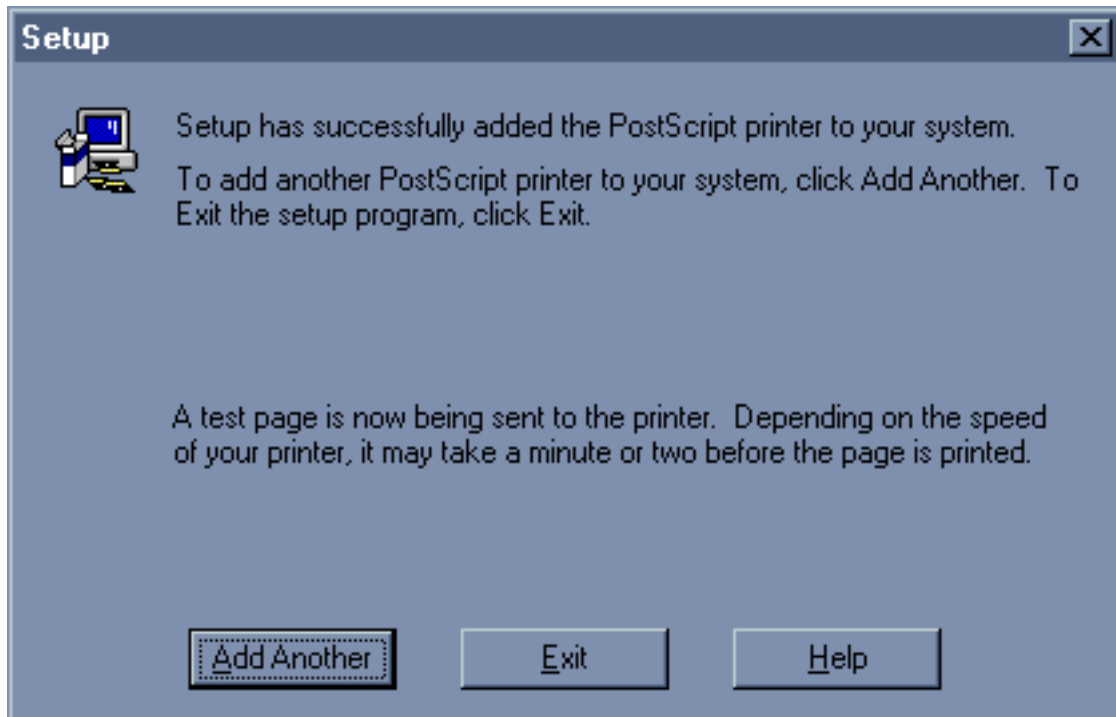
2n.Print to File

The driver will now ask for the name of a test output file. Give it a file name and location. The file can be copied to a local PostScript printer to verify that Adobe 4.2.3 is being used.

2o.Setup Complete

This completes the setup for your Acrobat Distiller driver. You should verify the settings for your Acrobat driver by inspecting the Properties of the driver. If you need to make a change, driver settings can be changed via Properties.

3.Creating a driver for a desktop printer

Now that you have created a print driver for Acrobat, it is easy to create matching print drivers for your desktop printers. Download PPD files for your printer from the Adobe Web page and install them with the <u>setup.exe</u> application in the <u>423cd directory.</u>

When the install procedure asks for a PPD, be sure to chose the printer description that matches your local printer. Many driver options will be different. In most cases you should use the defaults defined by the PPD file. Critical options are shown on sections 2h, 2i, and 2k.

2h sets the handling of TrueType fonts.

2i sets the format for TrueType and PostScript fonts.

2k sets conformance to the Document Structuring Conventions. ADSC is important when creating files for prepress production. (optimize for portability - ADSC) must be on when creating PostScript files. If the driver will only be used for local printing, (optimize for speed) will result in faster printing.

Once the driver is complete, create a test print. Drivers created with the Adobe's <u>setup.exe</u> will display the Adobe logo on the upper left corner of the printed page. Your printer should print a piece of paper. The Adobe PostScript driver will display the following header:

AdobePS 4 PostScript Printer Driver
Printer Test Page

If the page display the Windows logo, the driver was created with Microsoft's <u>Add printer application.</u>

4. Other considerations

Many decisions about print quality are outside the scope of print drivers. Your choice of authoring application application and fonts can have dramatic effects on the producability of PostScript documentation.

4a. Fonts

The best fonts for print production are PostScript Type 1 fonts. Digital's SSB carries all of the Type 1 fonts in Adobe's Font Folio 8.0. Our print suppliers have access to these fonts as well.

TrueType fonts are prone to production problems. The settings selected will cause TrueType fonts to print exactly as shown on laser proofs *if they print at all.* Working around TrueType font problems can cause delays on production.

4b. Authoring Applications

Some authoring applications change margins and re-paginate text when changing PostScript drivers. Word processing applications such as Microsoft Word and Office are prone to this syndrome. Top-quality page-layout applications don't have this problem.

4c. Graphics Applications

Graphic applications also make a big difference. The big three are PhotoShop, Illustrator, and Freehand. Other popular applications are not at par when it comes to generating production quality PostScript.

When creating graphics file, be sure not to next EPS grahic files inside one another. The only exception would be be nest a Photoshop EPS file inside an Illustrator or Freehand EPS graphic.

4d. Page Position

When printing on oversize paper, i.e. 7.5x9 on letter, page position should be indicated by crop marks. This feature can be activated in most page layout appications.