Open Prepress Interface—Version 2.0

28 August 1995

This is a draft proposal. It is not yet final, and may change significantly before final release.

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If you have comments or suggestions regarding OPI, please send them to:

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1 Introduction

The Open Prepress Interface (OPI) is a collection of PostScript® language conventions that allow low-resolution proxy images to be used for page layout. The high-resolution versions of the images are automatically stripped in later. Both desktop prepress software and non-desktop prepress systems can use OPI to minimize network traffic and image storage requirements.

1.1 Terminology

OPI Producer: An application that writes OPI comments—typically, a page layout program.

OPI Consumer: An application that reads OPI comments and (usually) inserts high-resolution image data into the PostScript language stream. This is typically an OPI server, but other prepress applications can also be OPI Consumers.

An application can be both an OPI Producer and an OPI Consumer. In fact, all OPI Consumers must also be valid OPI Producers if they wish to write out an altered PostScript language stream, since some other OPI Consumer may need to do things to the stream, too. An application should never assume that there is no other application between it and the imagesetter.

Bitmap: A 1-bit deep image, typically imaged using the PostScript operator **imagemask**.

Grayscale image: A monochrome image that is deeper than 1 bit per pixel (typically 8 bits).

OPI context: Everything between "%%BeginOPI: 2.0" and the matching %%EndOPI comment, inclusive. OPI contexts may be included in EPS files that may be incorporated into other PostScript language streams.

Proxy image: The lower-resolution version of the image that is imported into a page layout program or other OPI Producer.

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Main image: The high-resolution version of the image, as it was scanned or otherwise acquired, from which the proxy image is created.

1.2 References

1. PostScript Language Reference Manual, Second Edition, Adobe Systems Incorporated. In this specification, we use the terms "Red Book" or "PSLRM" to refer to the PostScript Language Reference Manual.

2. Adobe Technical Note #5001, "Document Structuring Conventions—Version 3.0," also found as Appendix G in the PSLRM. The name "Document Structuring Conventions" is sometimes abbreviated to "DSC."

3. "Proposal for Color Separation Conventions for PostScript Language Programs," Adobe Systems Technical Note #5044, dated 12/14/89.

4. TIFF Revision 6.0, Aldus Corporation, June 3, 1992. As of June 1995, the TIFF specification is available in Adobe Acrobat PDF format at:

   http://www.adobe.com/Support/TechNotes.html
   or
   ftp://ftp.adobe.com/pub/adobe/DeveloperSupport/TechNotes/PDFfiles

   Free Acrobat Readers (PDF viewing/printing) can be downloaded from:

   http://www.adobe.com/Software/Acrobat
   or
   ftp://ftp.adobe.com/pub/adobe/Applications/Acrobat

5. OPI White Paper, 1995, Apple Computer, Inc., 1 Infinite Loop Cupertino, CA 95014-6299. (408) 996-1010.

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