

PCLReader

Limitation Notes

PCLReader.exe is a new, exclusive, standalone, single instance, client workstation, freeware program that provides most of the functionality found in our PCLWorks Program commercial product (or the PCLTool.exe that comes with the PCLTool SDK). It is the replacement for our previous freeware FormView and TaxView programs. This is a list of limitations that apply to PCLReader freeware as they relate to the PCLWorks Program.

Please keep in mind the following differences between Adobe's Acrobat Reader and PCLReader:

1. Adobe's Reader is free. However, creating 100% compatible, efficient and full-featured PDF files is not free. You need to purchase Adobe Acrobat starting at \$149.
2. Anyone with a PCL printer driver can freely generate PCL. This is why PCL viewing and conversion products have never been free. With PCLReader, PageTech has decided to give away just enough of it's commercial product's functionality to satisfy the needs of occasional end users with low page volume requirements.

PCLReader Benefits:

- I. Legacy Applications that can only generate PCL:
 1. View PCL, then **print it to any Windows printer driver**.
 2. **Convert PCL or Text into PDF** format for emailing PDF documents to third parties.
 3. **Eliminate the need to "stamp" PCL** with so that proprietary PCL viewers will work with them.
 4. **Extract the ASCII text from PCL** to migrate the data into other applications.
 5. **Convert PCL forms into TIFF or PDF** format to use as overlays in custom applications.
 6. **Test PCLReader's compatibility** with your PCL for comparison to PCL viewing and transformation products from other vendors. PCLReader comes with a suite of PCL test files for comparison testing.
- II. Generic Applications:
 1. **Save paper by previewing before you print** up to 2,000 page print files.
 2. **Save paper by re-printing only selected pages** that may not have been printed properly.
 3. **Convert PCL into PDF to eliminate the need to purchase a PDF driver**.
3. No other vendor of PCL viewing or conversion products provides anything free, except demos with watermarked output (and, so do we for our commercial product – PCLTool SDK Demo). PageTech is the first and only vendor to provide a freeware PCL viewing and conversion program.
4. There are freeware PDF drivers, but they do not work with legacy or other Windows applications that can only print to a PCL printer. And, they cannot convert PCL files coming from other sources like mainframes and other environments. They are all basically Windows TIFF drivers that just encapsulate the all raster TIFF output generated by them with PDF header information. The PDF's produced are not text searchable and lack many of the features, like security, that has made PDF format so popular.

Limitations and Restrictions

Splash screen: Initial screen requires "Agree" with license agreement, then de-activates after selection. *Why? Because we want to keep this free to end users only. We don't want third parties to profit from the distribution of this freeware.*

View PCL: View PCL in raster mode for the first 2,000 pages of a PCL file. *Why? That's more than enough viewing capacity for 95% of all PCL print streams. More than that requires a commercial product.*

Gray-out vector mode in View PCL and Search Text viewing options. *Why? Converting to vector mode is a little faster, but sometimes much more difficult to achieve. Searching text may not be possible due to the composition of the PCL or may require a commercial product.*

Print PCL: Print PCL in raster mode for the first 2,000 pages of a PCL file. *Why? That's more than enough printing capacity for 95% of all PCL print streams. More than that requires a commercial product.*

Prohibits printing to any driver that produces PDF, TIFF or any other file format. *Why? If we provide freeware to transform the PCL file into internal memory page images for printing, we don't want to make it easy for someone to bypass our restrictions by printing to another freeware product that can print any internal memory page image to PDF, TIFF or other formats. We want to provide the ability to convert up to 10 pages of PDF, TIFF or the other file formats provided.*

Converting: Converts first 10 pages to raster and raster PDF formats, with watermarks on pages 11 to 2000. *Why? That's enough conversion capacity to make our freeware a useful tool to occasional, low page volume document converters. More than that requires a commercial product.*

Gray-out all vector EMF, WMF and PMF from conversion output file types. *Why? Converting PCL with vector, text and raster objects into metafile formats is quite difficult to do because of having to remap the PCL fonts and symbol sets to TrueType fonts. If the PCL has bitmap fonts, then it's not possible. It's only possible if the fonts referenced in the PCL are printer resident scalable fonts. Since metafiles do not contain the TrueType fonts that they reference and only refer to them, we don't want users to try to distribute EMF's without the required fonts or think that they can legally send to a third party any TrueType required to render their EMF.*

Gray-out vector PDF from conversion output file types. *Why? Converting to vector mode is a little faster, but sometimes much more difficult to achieve. Searching text may not be possible due to the composition of the PCL or may require a commercial product.*

Text Extraction: Extracts only the first 10 pages of a PCL file. *Why? More than 10 pages is more functionality than what 95% of end users would require. More than that requires a commercial product.*

Page Splitting: Extracts and Normalizes only the first 10 pages of a PCL file. *Why? More than 10 pages is more functionality than what 95% of end users would require. More than that requires a commercial product.*

Search: Search Dialog is unavailable (grayed-out). *Why? Searching text may not be possible due to the composition of the PCL. Users needing search functionally will need to purchase a commercial product.*

Preferences:

Convert Preferences->Warnings	- no access to dialog.
Convert Preferences->Files and Paths	- no access to dialog.
Convert Preferences->Remove Fonts	- not selectable.
Convert Preferences->Rescan FastFonts	- not selectable.
Convert Preferences->Convert Downloaded Fonts	- not selectable.
Convert Preferences->Save Converted Fonts	- not selectable.
Convert Preferences->Save Unused Fonts	- not selectable.

Why? It's rare for even users of commercial versions to need to set these preferences. We want to minimize our exposure to technical support. If you need to set any of these preferences, you need a commercial product.

Fonts: WinFMove does not convert any FastFonts into TrueType fonts for vector formats. *Why? Since we disabled our PCL-to-vector metafile or PDF capabilities, there is no need for our TrueType fonts.*

Font map (PTC32.MAP) cannot be modified. *Why? If you need to modify the font map, you need a commercial product.*

"T" cartridge tax fonts are removed. *Why? If you need the HP "T" cartridge tax fonts, you need a commercial product.*

Converted fonts from PCL print stream cannot be saved. *Why? If you need to set this preference to increase conversion throughput speed, then you need a commercial product.*

Programs:

Program Name	Description	PCLReader Freeware	PCLWorks Program
PCLCodes.exe	Disassembles PCL files for analysis, debugging and learning PCL escape codes.	Not included	Included
FFViewer.exe	Views/Prints FastFont Typefaces	Not included	Included
Img2PCL.exe	Converts TIFF/JPEG into PCL macros	Not included	Included
Img2PDF.exe	Converts TIFF/JPEG into PDF files	Not included	Included
PCLSplit.exe	Splits PCL files several ways	Not included	Included
Filter.exe	PCL search/replace edit utility	Not included	Included
RCMgr.exe	Runcode manager	Included – only used during Setup	Included
WinFMove.exe	TrueType to FastFont Converter	Included – only used during Setup	Included

The release notes for our current release of our commercial products (including: PCLWorks Program and PCLTool SDK) is located at: <http://www.pagetech.com/docs/ptrelnot.pdf>.