Using the DEClaser 3500 FAX Option from OpenVMS, Ultrix, or DOS

Here's a description of how to use the DEClaser 3500 printer with a FAX option to send FAXs from any operating system which does not already have a FAX driver. If you are running Microsoft Windows 3.1 or later, or a Macintosh System 7 or later, you can get a FAX driver which will allow you to FAX directly from your application as simply as you can print. The details below outline a method by which you may use your printer as a FAX sender on any system which has the capability to send PostScript files directly to the printer.

For the sake of brevity, this following discussion is primarily VMS based. Although not required, it is assumed that the DECprint Supervisor V1.1A or later is installed on your system, which in turn requires OpenVMS Alpha V1.5 or later, or OpenVMS V5.5-2 or later.

The basic premise here is to edit a header file with pertinent information and then append the PostScript or text file to the header and send the combined file to the printer. The combined file is always sent to the printer as a PostScript file, even if a document to be FAXed is a text file.

Getting Started

As a minimum, there are a few things that you should know before sending a FAX.

- The name and phone number of those whom you will be sending a FAX.
- The type of file you will be FAXing.
    - text
    - PostScript
- Type of FAX to send.
    - standard group 3 CCITT low resolution (default)
    - group 3 CCITT high resolution
    - PostScript

There are additional items which you may want to modify from their default setting.

- Whether a cover sheet is sent with the FAX. The default is YES.
- Whether a confirmation page is printed on you printer after the FAX is sent. The default is YES.
- Whether you want the speaker controlled better. The default is to have the internal speaker ON until the connection is made to the receiving FAX machine. The speaker can be turned OFF completely, or left ON all the time if you wish.

- Whether you want to allow other people to send you PostScript FAX. The default is YES. Remember, PostScript is a relatively powerful programming language and there are abusive PostScript programs which could be sent to your printer.
- The number of rings before the FAX option will answer the phone. The default is 1, but if you are sharing a telephone with the FAX option, you may want to adjust this.
- You may want to disable one part of the FAX facility, such as receiving, or sending, or you may want to disable it completely.

Four different header files

Each of the header files is heavily commented to provide plenty of information about how and what to edit. The files may be opened with any text editor. All of the following files uses the default settings described above.

- **DL3500_SEND_FAX_PS.PS**

This file is used to FAX a PostScript file in the CCITT data format. It can send to any FAX machine.

- **DL3500_SEND_FAX_PS_SENDPS.PS**

This file is used to attempt to send a PostScript file as a PostScript data FAX. This can only be used if the receiving FAX machine is capable of interpreting the data. If the receiving FAX machine is not PostScript, then the DEClaser 3500 will hang-up the line, recompute the data into standard CCITT data format, re-dial, and resend the FAX. Since two phone calls are required if the receiver is not PostScript capable, you might want to use this header file only when you are sure of the capabilities of the receiver.

- **DL3500_SEND_FAX_TEXT.PS**

This header file is used to FAX raw text files. The text file is converted to a simple fixed Courier font style suitable for letter-sized paper. The file is sent as CCITT FAX format suitable for all FAX receivers.

- **DL3500_SEND_FAX_TEXT_SENDPS.PS**

This header file is used to FAX raw text files in the PostScript-FAX data format. The pages are formatted in the fixed Courier font style described above and the same restrictions apply for FAX receivers as described for the DL3500_SEND_FAX_PS_SENDPS.PS file.

We are ready now........

Edit one of the header files above and insert the phone number and the names of both the sender and the receiver of the FAX. This information is required to do the dialing and to fill out the FAX cover sheet.

You may want to create a small private collection of header files with appropriate names, such as:

FAX_TEXT_BOB_WHITE.PS
FAX_PS_BOB_WHITE.PS
FAX_TEXT_KAREN_BLACK.PS

Then, for instance using VMS and DCPS, you would issue a PRINT command like this:

PRINT/PARAM=DATA=POST/QUE=*quename*
FAX_TEXT_BOB_WHITE.PS,*file_name.ext*

where *file_name.ext* is the name of the file you are FAXing, and *quename* is the name of the printer queue. Note that all files sent to the printer for FAXing are sent as PostScript files. Text files are treated as data records and converted to PostScript.