

KeyesOverlay™

IBM i Spooled File Overlay Methods

Introduction

KeyesOverlay is a revolutionary new tool that rapidly converts standard *SCS printer data into professional graphical documents with overlays, in either black & white or full color. The original methods for generating documents with overlays, such as IBM's AFPDS and Third Party PCL generating tools, have provided a good printing solution for the past 3 decades. But, in this modern age of document distribution via the Internet, these Legacy applications have a number of drawbacks that prompted Computer Keyes to develop a better solution.

Companies no longer want to just print their documents as much as they want to archive their documents or instantly deliver them directly to their end users and customers. PDF has rapidly become the preferred document type that can be both archived and distributed via email or smart device.

Converting AFPDS or PCL spooled files into PDF documents can be done, but the results are time consuming to produce and can result in file sizes that are too large to distribute efficiently. Programs cannot read the AFPDS or USERASCII spooled files for indexing and archiving. KeyesOverlay was created to solve these issues by producing fully graphical PDF documents directly from standard *SCS printer data. The conversion process was made very fast (in the order of 20 pages per second) and the file sizes were made quite small (averaging about 1K bytes per page).

Pros and Cons of the three Overlay Methods

AFPDS:

IBM's AFPDS overlay solution requires special IPDS capable printers for direct printing. They have developed Host Print Transform interfaces that can convert the AFPDS documents for other printer languages, but this can use a lot of resources. Converting the documents to PDF can be time consuming and the resulting PDF's can be quite large. Automated indexing of AFPDS spooled file data is impractical.

USERASCII:

PCL solutions (USERASCII) can print directly to any type of LaserJet for a better graphical printing solution, than AFPDS. However, converting the USERASCII spooled files to PDF is very processor intensive and always results in large file sizes. If you attempt to deliver more than a handful of pages at a time, an email approach becomes unworkable. The USERASCII spooled files cannot be programmatically read for archiving or indexing.

KeyesOverlay:

KeyesOverlay's PDF solution is very fast and efficient. It can convert thousands of pages into full color graphical PDF's in minutes. It can even put bookmarks in large reports for easy navigation. The resulting PDF file sizes will be small enough to make storage and distribution very efficient. Direct printing of PDF's from the IBM i can be done using any LaserJet that recognizes the PDF language. Most Postscript printers have this capability. In addition, using our free KeyesMonitor software, we have provided a way for you to print PDF's using spooled writers running on PCs that can be used with any type of printer, including InkJets. Archiving and indexing of the original *SCS printer data is quite easy.