

Printing Graphics

An introduction to capabilities of
the HP Printer Control Language

Escape-sequences

- The PCL language employs some special sequences of ASCII control-codes, known as 'escape' sequences (since they begin with the code for the escape-key: 0x1B)
- The character-sequence '\e' may be used to generate this special non-printable byte
- The punctuation-symbols, numerals, and alphabetic characters that follow specify a specific command to the HP laser printer

Printer Communication

- An application that wishes to do printing can create a textfile containing a mixture of document text and PCL commands
- This text file is then 'submitted' to the printer using a Linux command (e.g., 'lpr')
- The printer recognizes commands by the occurrence of an 'escape' code