PCL 6 FAQ - FAQs

Q: Is PCL 6 supported on the HP Color LaserJet 4500 and 8500 printers?

A: No, the HP Color LaserJet printers only support PCL 5C.

Q: Is PCL6 a superset of PCL5?
A: No, PCL6 is not an superset of PCL5. It is a completely different page description language (PDL). Some main differences are:

PCL6 has no ASCII binding. Consequently, PCL6 streams are quite smaller, and there's more development and debugging time involved in compiling and decompiling the binary streams. There are C libraries provided by HP (JetLib) for generating PCL6 streams. PCL6 provides an object-oriented imaging protocol, which has more one to one relationships with GUI objects used under environments such as Windows, OS/2 and Macintosh. PCL6 is a stack based protocol (e.g. PostScript) composed of attributes and operators that allow one to define paths, clip paths, pens, brushes, fonts, raster patterns, etc..