PCL XL (PCL Level 6)

PCL XL is a Hewlett-Packard LaserJet printer language optimized for printing from graphical user interfaces (GUIs) like Microsoft Windows and OS/2.

LaserJet 5, 5M, & 5N

The PCL XL language commands are designed to optimally match the graphics printing requirements for GUI-based applications. New features include: a unified, device-independent coordinate system with coordinate transformation matrix support; path-based vector graphics; and the ability to clip any printed object to an arbitrary-shaped region.

In most cases, for every graphics print command that a GUI wishes to perform, there is a matching PCL XL language command. This reduces the number of commands required to describe a graphics page.

Each command in the PCL XL language is designed to require minimal data transfer from the host PC to the printer. This reduces the amount of data required to describe a page.

Microsoft Windows GDI Escapes

The following is a list of escapes that should be used for maximum PCL XL performance:

GDI Escape(s)	Functionality
EXT_DEVICE_CAPS	Used to query the driver about various capabilities.
BEGIN_PATH **END_PATH**	Used to define complex vector paths, both for drawing purposes and for clipping regions (see **CLIP_TO_PATH**).
SET_ARC_DIRECTION	A minor feature (it allows arcs to be drawn clockwise). Not utterly necessary.
CLIP_TO_PATH	Whenever possible, clipping to complex areas should be done using **CLIP_TO_PATH** instead of the default Windows clip-to-rectangle.
SET_POLY_MODE	This should be used to implement Bezier curves in Windows 3.1/3.11. **Note:** In Win95,the **OS_BEZIER** style can be used instead.