

# Acumen Training **PostScript for Support Engineers**

Course Description

A PostScript Course for Troubleshooters

PostScript for Support Engineers (PSSE) is a course in the PostScript language for people who work with PostScript output files. It is devoted to understanding and fixing the problems common to PostScript output.

Students who take PSSE handle PostScript-related support questions with speed and assurance. Because they can answer a broader range of questions, they less often need to hand support calls up to a higher-level engineer.

The class consists of two parts, which may be taken separately:

**PostScript Short Course (3-days, hands-on)** is an introduction to PostScript programming and structure. Topics emphasize those parts of the PostScript language that contribute regularly to problems in PostScript output or are needed for understanding or fixing such problems. Prerequisites: None.

**Real-World PostScript (2-days, hands-on)** examines PostScript as it actually is used in printing and publishing systems. We discuss how drivers manage fonts, the structure of PostScript output files, how to debug PostScript output, and what to do about specific common PostScript problems. The students examine PostScript output from a variety of popular PostScript-generating applications. Prerequisites: *PostScript Short Course* or *PostScript Foundations*.

## Objective

Teach the student to understand the content of PostScript output files and to correctly diagnose and fix PostScript problems.

## Audience

Printer engineers, software engineers, advanced software and hardware support personnel.

## Sign up now!

Regularly-scheduled PSSE classes are conducted in Orange County, California, near the Santa Ana/Orange County airport. Acumen Training will also conduct psse on corporate sites.

For class schedules and pricing, on-site class information, or to register for a class, please contact John Deubert at Acumen Training any of the following ways:

- Email: [john@acumentraining.com](mailto:john@acumentraining.com)
- Web: [www.acumentraining.com](http://www.acumentraining.com)
- Telephone: 949-248-1241

## Course Outline

### Day 1 - PostScript Short Course

- Background to PostScript
- Basics: fonts, coordinate system, stack
- CTM Operators: *scale*, *translate*, *rotate*
- Paths: lines, line width, colors
- The Graphics State & the GS stack
- Circular arcs

### Day 2

- Procedures and variables, the dict stack
- Loops, Comparison and conditional execution
- User Space and Device Space
- PostScript objects and data types
- Execution stack and debugging
- Binding
- Bezier curves
- Memory management
- The *setpagedevice* operator

### Day 3

- Files & Filters
- Images
- Transfer functions
- Variations on show
- Error handling
- Font contents
- Changing fonts

### Day 4 - Real-World PostScript

- How computers print: drivers
- Fonts and font problems
- EPS files and their problems
- Document Structuring Convention
- Sample PostScript output files

### Day 5

- PPD files
- Using the AKI ErrorHandler
- The Ideal debugging environment
- Debugging techniques and tools
- Fixing common PostScript errors