Base Language - Feature #12189

PDF printer: PUT CONTROL, control bytes and PAGE-SIZE in redirected printer output

11/16/2026 03:33 PM - Greg Shah

Status:	New	**Start date:**	
Priority:	Normal	**Due date:**	
Assignee:		**% Done:**	0%
Category:		**Estimated time:**	0.00 hour
Target version:			
billable:	No	**reviewer:**	
vendor_id:	GCD	**production:**	No
case_num:		**env_name:**	
version_reported:		**topics:**	
version_resolved:			

Description

History

#1 - 11/16/2026 03:33 PM - Greg Shah

Problem

Character-mode reports written with OUTPUT TO PRINTER (or OUTPUT TO PRINTER VALUE(name)) commonly assume a line printer:

```
OUTPUT TO PRINTER VALUE(cPrinter) PAGE-SIZE 60.
PUT CONTROL cInitCodes.          /* e.g. CHR(27) + "E" + CHR(27) + "(s16.66H" */
FOR EACH ...:
   DISPLAY ... WITH FRAME f-detail.
END.
PUT CONTROL CHR(12).
OUTPUT CLOSE.
```

In FWD's GUI client, printer output becomes a PDF delivered to the user's browser. How that PDF treats PUT CONTROL data, raw control characters written with PUT UNFORMATTED, form feeds, and PAGE-SIZE is currently not defined: escape sequences meant for the printer can appear in the PDF as stray characters, and a very large PAGE-SIZE (for example 999, used to mean "unpaged" for continuous stationery) can produce one very long page or unexpected page breaks.

Work

1. Establish OpenEdge's behaviour for the stream itself (what reaches the printer for PUT CONTROL, PAGE-SIZE, PAGE, CHR(12) in data, PAGED and PAGE-SIZE 0), as the baseline for pagination.
2. Define and implement the PDF printer's handling of control data:
   - PUT CONTROL output is not rendered as text;
   - common printer command languages (PCL and ESC/P escape sequences, and ESC/POS for receipt printers) are recognised and dropped as whole sequences, not byte by byte, so their parameters do not leak into the text;
   - other non-printable characters are dropped;
   - a form feed starts a new PDF page;
   - the behaviour is configurable (drop, or keep as visible placeholders for debugging).
3. Pagination: honour PAGE-SIZE for page breaks, headers and footers exactly as the 4GL computes them. For sizes larger than the physical page, break at the physical page length (configurable), and document the behaviour.
4. Pitch and font hints: where a recognised escape sequence selects a condensed pitch or landscape, optionally apply it to the PDF page (configurable), so that wide reports fit.
5. Document the behaviour in the printing documentation.

Testcases

- A report with PCL initialisation codes, PAGE-SIZE 60, headers and footers: the PDF has the same page breaks as OpenEdge's printed output and no stray characters.
- PAGE-SIZE 999 and PAGE-SIZE 0 reports longer than one physical page.

- Form feeds in PUT UNFORMATTED data; ESC/POS sequences (cash drawer kick, cut) written to a printer stream.
- The same programs with the "keep placeholders" setting.