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Graphical Data Display Manager (GDDM): File Format Specification

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GDDM, Graphical Data Display Manager, is a graphical, character-encoding scheme used for displaying graphics. Two other graphic display schemes are Vector and All Points Addressable (also known as "APA" or "Raster").

Using GDDM to display a box on a display screen might consist of sending four character codes. You might expect the four codes to consist of two parallel-horizontal lines and two vertical-parallel lines, all with end points touching. But instead, one of the character codes might look something like the letter "L". The second would be an "L", but flipped upside down. The third would look like an "L" flipped horizontally, and the fourth character would display like an "L" flipped vertically and horizontally.

Therefore, these "L"s could be used to construct a rectangle on the display. GDDM uses a variety of graphical characters, some looking like "L"s, to construct graphical displays.

Vector graphics, of course, define lines bound by two points. APA (Raster) graphics provide control of every point.

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