PrintKit

PrintKit network printing

software for OpenVMS systems

is compatible and manageable

– and it lets you choose the

printer.

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The PrintKit Network Printing Interface software provides "open architecture" printing services for the OpenVMS environment. This means you can: choose the printer models from your preferred vendors that match your usage profile; implement a printing strategy that puts those printers on the network as shared resources; retain the security of compatibility with the OpenVMS printing architecture; and enhance your ability to stay abreast of changing technology.

Network printing services

for OpenVMS that adapt

to your printing needs

The PrintKit software consists of a print symbiont that is integrated with the OpenVMS printing services, and an accompanying management utility. Its design reflects knowledge gained from Northlake's decade-long experience delivering printing solutions to OpenVMS customers.

PrintKit is designed to work with printers in standard network configurations using TCP/IP based protocols – so you can just take the printer out of the box and plug it in. This "off the shelf" technology also offers fewer points of failure than solutions based on specialized hardware interfaces and is easier to trouble-shoot when problems do occur.

The product's support plan provides assistance when you need it, by telephone or e-mail. It provides updates for new printer models, and periodic software revisions.

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We had an established way of doing printing that was familiar to our users – but we needed the freedom to choose our printers and keep up with the newest technology. That's what we got with PrintKit – and our users hardly noticed.

Standard, compatible printing services

PrintKit provides compatible OpenVMS printing services. It matches the DECprint user and application interfaces, including the full parameter set and ANSI-PPL3 (LN03) emulation. This allows migration of applications without re-engineering, and it allows applications to use a single, consistent printing model. It also means your users can continue to use familiar printing operations.

Where PrintKit extends the DECprint model, the new features are consistent with the ISO 10175 (Document Printing Application) standard on which the DECprint interface is based.

Effective printer controls

PrintKit gives you full control over features, such as tray selection and duplexing, that are provided by the printer model you are using.

You can select printer features in a consistent fashion (standard tray names, for example) and specify requirements in a portable manner (paper selection by size, color, weight and type, for example). This makes it easier to use printers interchangeably in a mixed configuration, and it makes printing more dependable.

The information to provide these controls comes from PostScript Printer Description (PPD) files, a standard developed by Adobe Systems – a PPD file describes the features of a particular printer and provides the printer-specific commands required to control the printer. PrintKit ships with a database of validated printer model definitions, and Northlake supplies updates as we validate new printer models. (You can also define your own models.)

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It seems like every printer sets up differently – anything that helps reduce the guesswork is a big help to me. With PrintKit, I don't have to worry about special hardware, and I like the interactive software configuration.

Administration and operations

Configuration of the PrintKit software is managed by an interactive administration utility, KITCP.

KITCP lets you define, modify and display queue configurations. To make this task easier, configuration information is preloaded for each printer model. A typical queue configuration requires that you select the queue name, and the printer's address and model – the software determines details such as communications requirements and printer features from its configuration database.

KITCP provides similar capabilities for managing job specifications (document format, media selection, imposition specifications). Advance definition of job specifications simplifies the printing process and makes it more reliable.

For printing today – and tomorrow

Support for stock printer configurations and standard networking protocols, interoperability with the standard OpenVMS printing interface, compatibility with network printers from all the leading manufacturers, and the ability to "plug in" new printer models as they become available – these capabilities contribute to PrintKit's practical flexibility.

The PrintKit software allows you to assemble a printing configuration that meets your business needs. And as your needs change, your printing services will be able to keep up.

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Product Description

Version 2.3, November 2009

The PrintKit software functions as a symbiont process, managed by the OpenVMS Job Control Program. It can be accessed through the DCL PRINT command, DECwindows PRINT FileView Widget, and standard applications print interfaces.

PrintKit

User Interface

Full DECprint parameter set
> BORDERS, DATA_TYPE, FONTS_USED, INPUT_TRAY, LAYUP_DEFINITION, MESSAGES, NUMBER_UP, OUTPUT_TRAY, PAGE_LIMIT, PAGE_ORIENTATION, PAGE_SIZE, ROUTE, SHEET_COUNT, SHEET_SIZE, SIDES, TAB

Includes advanced LAYUP_DEFINITION controls [1]
> ALTERNATE, BORDERS, FIRSTPAGE, GRID, MARGINS, PAGEORDER, PAGESPERSHEET

Media selection parameter
> DEFAULT_MEDIUM

Finishing parameter set
> FINISHING, FINISHING_INCLUDES_DOCUMENT

Document specification parameter
> INITIAL-VALUE-DOCUMENT

Default job parameter configuration using generic or logical queues

Multiple device control libraries, each with associated data type

Administration utility

Defines, modifies and displays PrintKit queues and configuration database definitions
> DCL command line and interactive interfaces

Configuration database

Printer model definitions
> /DEFAULT (COMMUNICATIONS, EMULATIONS, JOB_CONTROL, OPTIONS), /INPUT_TRAY_SUBSTITUTION, /JOB_CONTROL (AIS, PJL, POSTSCRIPT), /OUTPUT_TRAY-SUBSTITUTION, /PPD, /VERSION
> Adobe PostScript Printer Description (PPD) files used for configuration

Queue definitions (attributes supplement OpenVMS queue definitions)
> /AUTOSTART_ON, /BASE_PRIORITY, /BLOCK_LIMIT, /CHARACTERISTICS, /COMMUNICATIONS (protocol, ADDRESS, PORT, LOCAL_ADDRESS, LOCAL_PORT, GATEWAY, OPTIONS), /DEFAULT (BURST, DOCUMENT, FEED, FLAG, FORM, SHEET_SIZE, TRAILER), /DESCRIPTION, /ENABLE_GENERIC, /FORM_MOUNTED, /GENERIC, /LIBRARY, /NOTIFY (DEFAULT, PRINTER, QUEUE), /ON, /OWNER_UIC, /PRINTER (EMULATIONS, JOB_CONTROL, MODEL, OPTIONS), /PROCESSOR, /PROTECTION, /PROTOCOL, /RETAIN, /SCHEDULE, /SEPARATE (BURST, FLAG, TRAILER, SHEET-PACKAGE)

Document specifications
> /DATA_TYPE, /DEFAULT_MEDIUM, /DESCRIPTION, /FINISHING, /FIN-INCL-DOC-SHEET, /FONTS-USED, /INPUT_TRAY, /LAYUP_DEFINITION, /MESSAGES, /NUMBER_UP, /OUTPUT_TRAY, /PG_LIMIT, /PG-ORIENTATION, /PG-SIZE, /SHEET-COUNT, /SIDES, /TAB, /VERSION

Medium specifications
> /COLOR, /DESCRIPTION, /OVERLAYS, /SIZE, /TYPE, /WEIGHT, /VERSION

Imposition (layup) specifications
> /ALTERNATE, /BORDERS, /DESCRIPTION, /FIRSTPAGE, /GRID, /MARGINS, /PG_ORDER, /PAGES_PER_SHEET, /SIGNATURE, /VERSION

Finishing specifications
> /DESCRIPTION, /SPECIFICATION (STITCHING, BINDING ,FOLDING), /VERSION

Sheet package specifications
> /DESCRIPTION, /SHEETS, /VERSION

Document data types

Automatic document data type sensing, based on document content

PostScript (printer based) [2]

PCL/HPGL (printer based) [3]

ANSI-PPL3 (translated to PostScript) [2]
> complete implementation
> Sixel graphics, soft fonts, color operators, paper selection, duplexing

Forms overlays

Electronic forms overlays [1, 2]

Uses PostScript Forms Resources to define forms

Front and back sheet sides

See current Forms Design Software list for compatible forms creation packages

PrintKit

Printer emulations

PostScript, PCL 4/5
Automatic emulation switching as required by
document data types

Printer job control

PostScript
Hewlett-Packard Printer Job Language (PJL)
PostScript or PJL based accounting 4
Error handling and reporting 4

Communications interfaces

TCP/IP Socket (HP LaserJet JetDirect protocol)
  Compatible with all commercial TCP/IP
  interfaces for OpenVMS
  If no TCP/IP interface is configured, uses self-
  contained TCP/IP services (Northlake Software
  PEP, lightweight TCP/IP services for printer
  communications)
lpr/lpd
  Same TCP/IP interfaces as TCP/IP Socket
  Compatible with UNIX, Windows NT print
  servers
LAT
  Internal interface card or separate server
  Bidirectional or unidirectional interface
Serial
  Bidirectional or unidirectional interface

Print job status and logging

Job log file
  Job specification, errors and completion status
  Job-generated messages from printer 4
Job status, printer attention messages directed to
user terminal
Printer attention messages directed to operator
terminal

Printer compatibility

See current Supported Configurations list for
printer models and communications interfaces

Selected application compatibility

PATHWORKS, DQS, ALL-IN-1, WordPerfect, Interleaf,
MASS-11

Installation and configuration

VMSINSTAL installation
Interactive configuration utility, configuration
checklists

Documentation

User Manual
OpenVMS HELP facility supplement

Prerequisites

VMS 5.4 or later, License Management Facility
16K blocks disk space

1. ANSI-PPL3 and PostScript only   2. requires Level
1 or 2 PostScript emulation on printer   3. requires
PCL emulation on printer   4. requires bidirectional
communications interface