Subject: Direct printing to a specific printer
Posted by Giorgio on Mon, 09 May 2016 09:28:40 GMT
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Hi there,
I have been asked to send a report directly to a specific printer. I understand how to send a report directly to the default printer, but in this case I should send the report to a printer that is not the default one. I know this makes little sense - generally speaking - , but in this case the application is installed in few PCs that I manage, so printer names are set by me. I told user that choosing the printer in the dialog window does not seem a big deal, but this chap is a bigmouth and told that in VB x.y you can do that, so I am investigating.
Thanks,
Gio

Subject: Re: Direct printing to a specific printer
Posted by Lance on Tue, 10 May 2016 22:37:44 GMT
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You should have no problem doing that. Maybe not out of box.

Look into Upp code PrinterJob.cpp, in particular Execute0()

```
bool PrinterJob::Execute0(bool dodlg)
{
 pdlg = new Win32PrintDlg_;
 PRINTDLG& dlg = *pdlg;
 dlg.Flags =
PD_DISABLEPRINTTOFILE|PD_NOSELECTION|PD_HIDEPRINTTOFILE|PD_RETURNDEFAU
LT;
 dlg.nFromPage = current;
 dlg.nToPage = current;
 dlg.nMinPage = from;
 dlg.nMaxPage = to;
 if(from != to)
  dlg.Flags |= PD_ALLPAGES;
 dlg.hwndOwner = 0;
 dlg.Flags |= PD_RETURNDEFAULT;
 dlg.nCopies = 1;
 if(!PrintDlg(&dlg)) return false;
 if(dlg.hDevMode) {
  DEVMODE *pDevMode = (DEVMODE*)::GlobalLock(dlg.hDevMode);
  pDevMode->dmOrientation = landscape ? DMORIENT_LANDSCAPE : DMORIENT_PORTRAIT;
  ::GlobalUnlock(dlg.hDevMode);
 }
 HDC hdc;
 if(dodlg) {
```

```
  dlg.Flags =
PD_DISABLEPRINTTOFILE|PD_NOSELECTION|PD_HIDEPRINTTOFILE|PD_RETURNDC|PD_
USEDEVMODECOPIESANDCOLLATE;
  Vector< Ptr<Ctrl> > disabled = DisableCtrls(Ctrl::GetTopCtrls());
  bool b = PrintDlg(&dlg);
  EnableCtrls(disabled);
  if(!b) return false;
  hdc = dlg.hDC;
 }
 else {
  DEVNAMES *p = (DEVNAMES *)::GlobalLock(dlg.hDevNames);
  const char *driver = (const char *)p + p->wDriverOffset;
  const char *device = (const char *)p + p->wDeviceOffset;
  if(dlg.hDevMode) {
   DEVMODE *pDevMode = (DEVMODE*)::GlobalLock(dlg.hDevMode);
   hdc = CreateDC(driver, device, NULL, pDevMode);
   ::GlobalUnlock(dlg.hDevMode);
  }
  else
   hdc = CreateDC(driver, device, NULL, NULL);
 }
 if(dlg.hDevMode)
  ::GlobalFree(dlg.hDevMode);
 if(dlg.hDevNames)
  ::GlobalFree(dlg.hDevNames);
 if(hdc) {
  draw = new PrintDraw(hdc, Nvl(name, Ctrl::GetAppName()));
  page.Clear();
  if(!(dlg.Flags & PD_PAGENUMS)) {
   dlg.nFromPage = dlg.nMinPage;
   dlg.nToPage = dlg.nMaxPage;
  }
  for(int i = dlg.nFromPage - 1; i <= dlg.nToPage - 1; i++)
   page.Add(i);
  return true;
 }
 return false;
}
```

Pay attention to this line:

```
 if(hdc) {
  draw = new PrintDraw(hdc, Nvl(name, Ctrl::GetAppName()));
```

That says with a standard win32 HDC, you can create a PrintDraw, which speaks U++. So your

task is how to use win32 api to create a HDC with a given device (printer) name. The above listed Execute0 also gives you a lots of clue, some of the relevant code can be boiled down to

```
  DEVNAMES *p = (DEVNAMES *)::GlobalLock(dlg.hDevNames);
  const char *driver = (const char *)p + p->wDriverOffset;
  const char *device = (const char *)p + p->wDeviceOffset;
  hdc = CreateDC(driver, device, NULL, NULL);
```

now remaining question is what dlg.hDevNames is, how to map your printer name to that particular handle. This is probably a viable path. This is not the say that it's the smartest or shortest path. Check with somebody who is really familiar with Win32 programming.

Subject: Re: Direct printing to a specific printer
Posted by Lance on Tue, 10 May 2016 23:18:23 GMT
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Turns out it's even easier. The following code succeeded on my windows 8 system.

```
{
 HDC hdc = CreateDC( "WINSPOOL", "Microsoft XPS Document Writer", NULL, NULL);

 if(hdc) {
  One<PrintDraw> d = new PrintDraw(hdc, "My Printing Job Name");
  LOG("Printer Draw OK");

  d->DrawText(10,20,"Test",StdFont().Height(720),Black());

  d->EndPage();

  DeleteDC(hdc);
 }
}
```

You should replace "Microsoft XPS..." with your actual printer name (who doesn't need to be the default printer.

HTH,

Lance

Subject: Re: Direct printing to a specific printer
Posted by Giorgio on Wed, 11 May 2016 12:45:37 GMT

As usual... thanks a lot!

Subject: Re: Direct printing to a specific printer
Posted by fzx374cn on Wed, 19 Nov 2025 12:09:02 GMT

Lance wrote on Wed, 11 May 2016 01:18Turns out it's even easier. The following code succeeded on my windows 8 system.

```
{
 HDC hdc = CreateDC( "WINSPOOL", "Microsoft XPS Document Writer", NULL, NULL);

 if(hdc) {
  One<PrintDraw> d = new PrintDraw(hdc, "My Printing Job Name");
  LOG("Printer Draw OK");

  d->DrawText(10,20,"Test",StdFont().Height(720),Black());

  d->EndPage();

  DeleteDC(hdc);
 }
}
```

You should replace "Microsoft XPS..." with your actual printer name (who doesn't need to be the default printer.

HTH,

Lance
