
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

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As usual... thanks a lot!
