Laser Printer Initialization

Who Should Read This Document

Anyone configuring a new Senior Service Manager (SSM) system on a Windows platform, either single or multi-user, or anyone adding a new laser printer to an existing SSM system.

System Requirements

General Requirements

- PCL Level 4.5 Compatible (or better)

- Printers must be compatible with non-Windows operating systems (Linux, Unix, DOS). This means that Windows Printers (sometimes called Win-Printers) may not be used.

- Printer drivers must be properly installed in Windows.

Network Requirements

- Printer must be "shared" through Windows to the network.

- The share name, as with the computer name, can not have any spaces in it.

Conceptual Explanation

The Laser Initialization Program ("M\m_lasini.p") automatically configures all print routines in SSM to use the proper "laser forms" for that particular laser printer. Laser initialization must be run for each printer port on the system.

On a single user systems with one printer, the procedure is quite straightforward as it only needs to be run once. However, on a multi-user system, the procedure needs to be run more than once, such that each PC on the system can print properly to any printer on the network.

Laser Initialization Procedure

Single User Systems

From the main menu, open Administration Setup Printers {ASP}. This will bring up the print routine configuration program. From this screen press SHIFT-F12 to start the Laser Printer Initialization program. There are four (4) fields on this screen which require some form of user input. Each field is explained below. Read each carefully as you proceed through this screen.

1: LASER PRINTER/PORT NAME This is the location or port that a printer is connected to. Press F3 to bring up the list of available printers ("printers pick list") on this particular PC.

- The list is built from the printers you have installed on this PC or mapped from your network.

- If a printer does not appear in your Printers folder, it will not appear on the pick list in SSM.

Select the first printer and press enter. The system will locate your printer and enter the location/port name into the field. Do not be surprised if the results of your selection differ slightly once you have made your selection (as compared to how the printer name appeared in the printers pick list). This is normal. Press enter to move to the next field.

2: CONFIGURE FOR CHECKS Enter Y if you plan print laser checks to this printer. Otherwise enter N. Press enter to move to the next field.

3. CONFIGURE FOR LABELS Enter Y if you plan to print laser labels to this printer. Otherwise enter N. Press enter to move to the next field.

4. DELETE OLD FORMS Enter N. This field should always be entered as N unless otherwise directed by a GenesisFour Support Technician. Press enter.

The Laser Initialization Procedure will run very quickly. When "Press spacebar to continue" appears on your screen, do so. Laser initialization is now complete for this printer.

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Repeat this entire process for each laser printer which appears on the printers lick list when you press F3 in the Field 1 section above.

Multi-User Systems

Most users want to be able to print to most or all of the printers on the network from most or all of the PCs on the network. What follows is an explanation of how to configure the system to be able to print proper laser output from any PC on the system to any printer on the system.

How to make sure all combinations get configured

In order to cover all the possibilities, you will need to run laser initialization on two separate computers on your system – one which has a local printer attached to it (otherwise the system will not know about any local printers), and one which has no printer attached to it.

Procedure

1: Install printer drivers on each PC. You must install the proper printer drivers that were supplied by the laser printer manufacturer on each PC that SSM will be printing from.

2: Share printers as needed. Be sure that each PC on the network knows about and is configured to print to each printer that this PC will need to be able to print to from within SSM. Printer sharing methodology is not explained in this document.

3: Run laser initialization as follows:

- Select 2 PCs on your system – at lease one which has a printer connected to it. Either of the PC's may be configured first.

- Working from the first selected PC, run through the entire sequence as explained in the "Single User Systems" section above. Remember to run the laser initialization procedure for each printer which appears in the printers pick list.

- Then, working from the second PC, run through the entire sequence again. Remember to run the laser initialization procedure for each printer which appears in the printers pick list.

Testing

Create an estimate in SSM. Print it from each PC to each printer. In all cases it should look proper – landscape format, heavy black boxes and lines, perfect fit on the page, and so forth. If on any given PC-to-printer combination, printed output appears to be going across the page, is partially cut off along the edge, and there is no heavy use of black boxes, you have not properly initialized for laser forms on this port.

Network (ethernet) printers

Ethernet printers will function perfectly with SSM but they do pose some additional complications. Much like Windows Printers (Win-Printers) Ethernet printers are software driven. This creates a problem as SSM prints directly to the printer and does not use any of the printer drivers.

In order to allow SSM to access the printer, it must print though a printer server rather than directly to a printer. This means that one PC will need to share this printer to the rest of the network. After doing this, the PC's in the network will print though the print server rather than though the printers software driver. For example:

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Before: <Windows PC> ---> <Network Printer>

 After: <Windows PC> ---> <Print Server> ---> <Network Printer>
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The only limitation of this method is that the "print server" will be unable to print to the printer itself without several configuration changes (changes that are beyond the scope of the document). For this reason, GenesisFour suggests that the Network Server also be the Printer Server as this PC is the least likely to require printing to the ethernet printer from SSM.

To initialize for laser forms for an ethernet printer, simply run the laser initialization procedure from any PC on the system other than the print server.