

Installing Proportional Feed of Continuous Paper using the Windows Generic Text Printer Driver

Introduction

When printing from Windows it is sometimes necessary to use the Generic Printer Driver with a continuous feed Docket printer. The issue that arises from this is that Windows is setup for printing to a page printer (ie having a predefined page size that is used every time). A Point Of Sale printer is often printing dockets where each one is of a different length and the driver will feed the extra as blank paper to "finish" the page. This application note describes one way of overcoming this default state.

Step 1: Create a new "Continuous" Page

In the "Printers and Faxes" window select File -> Server Properties
Under Forms tick the Create new form box
Give the new form a name (I chose Continuous)
Set units to Metric
Set all Print area margins to 0.00cm
Set Paper Width to 10.50cm (for an 80mm wide Thermal Docket Printer this worked best)
Set Paper Height to 1.00cm
Save Form

Step 2: Set "Continuous" Page as printer default

Then in the Generic Text Only Printer driver properties make these settings.

Under the Device Settings Tab set Form Tray assignments to:
Cont. Feed No Break to "Continuous" (The new form you created)
Cut Sheet to Not Available
Cont. Feed - With Break to Not Available

Under the Printer Commands Tab: *(These are optional)*
Begin Print Job to: <1B>p0pz (To open the cash drawer)
End Print Job to: <0A0A0A0A1D>V1 (Feed paper up to cut position and cut)

Under The General Tab choose Printing Preferences:
Layout: Portrait
Paper Quality: Cont. Feed - No Break
Apply and OK.

And OK to Generic Text Only Printer Driver Properties to exit.

Summary

This method is one way of overcoming a deficiency in the Windows printing system. It is not guaranteed to be the only solution or even the best solution. Your individual situation may mean this solution is inappropriate or does not work. However if it does work you should get printing to exactly the correct length every time, no matter how many lines of data you are printing.