Print Solutions from Atac

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Barr Systems Releases BHCS 7.1.49.12

Barr Systems has released version 7.1.49.12 of the Barr Host Communications Suite (BHCS). If you haven't already upgraded to 7.1.49.9 to overcome the memory leak issue, this version is strongly recommended.

You can download the latest version of BHCS or order a CD at barrcentral.com. Choose Downloads from the sidebar, enter your serial number and follow the prompts. With the latest version in hand, simply run SETUP and choose UPGRADE to bring your BHCS system up to the latest level. It's as simple as that.

Changes include the following:

Issue 21425 BHCS file port intermittent failure when writing now reschedules the job and doesn't increment counter.
Issue 21553 BHCS writing to a file port with a field defined to select a sub-folder now errors if sub-folder doesn't exist.
Issue 21573 LPR printer failure temp files are now cleaned up, instead of filling up system.
Issue 21624 RJE service stops after specified Link Active time.
Issue 21638 "Failed to connect to SNA Gateway" message changed to "Mainframe connection has failed".
Issue 21645 user rights not granted when BHCS system and users are in different domains.
Issue 21650 change to allow 14 character password field for RJE as supported by IBM z/OS 2.3.

Contact Atac for any assistance or advice when installing or upgrading BHCS.

Barr and Output Manager Integration

Many Output Manager users also have Barr Host Communications Suite (BHCS) machines. Typically, BHCS is used to transport print data from the client site, then Output Manager is used to enhance the print. In some cases BHCS then picks up the enhanced print and transports it to one or more specialised printers, or off to branch offices.

Barr transport options are the fastest available, and cater for almost any client infrastructure. If a client is mainframe based, RJE or NJE may be used to output with BHCS receiving it at the print site. If channel-attached printers are being outsourced with the print, Barr has channel extension hardware to catch-and-forward the print, as well as directly connecting to the channel-attached printers and feeding them at the print site (at rated speed). Barr also has high-speed TCP/IP transport options with Compression and Encryption to safeguard print data as it is transferred.

Output Manager enhancements can include adding integrity (barcodes), sorting and grouping for co-enveloping and postal discounts, adding or replacing logos, virtual personalised inserts, colour etc. Output Manager can also help to achieve compliance with current legislation for legacy print streams.

Applications putting out AFP or Xerox (legacy) print streams are sometimes "frozen"; programmers have long left, nobody is sure the current source code IS the current source code etc. Yet Government legislation sometimes mandates changes to this legacy output which must be implemented in relatively short timeframes. Output Manager can ingest a print stream, make any required changes and then output the revised print, in the original PDL (Page Description Language) or any other.

BHCS is often used to pick up the revised print from a shared folder and print it directly to a specialised printer or forward it to a branch office, local or overseas, for subsequent actions.

So, think BHCS for transport and Output Manager for transformation. Both products are best-of-breed, with rapid-response support in your time zone. The combination provides complete client-to-printer capabilities, incorporating secure and rapid transport along with unlimited document enhancements (added value) and one-stop support for the entire process.

Contact Atac today to discuss Barr and Output Manager working together in your environment.

Output Manager Support for PDF/UA

Governments are increasingly requiring their agencies and contractors to deliver accessible products and services. From websites to forms, regulations, product manuals and reports, documents in the US Federal Government must comply with Section 508 accessibility regulations, in effect since 2001. Similar laws are present in Canada, various EU member states, Australia and elsewhere.

PDF/UA (PDF/Universal Accessibility) is the informal name for ISO 14289. PDF/UA utilises the PDF format to enable user accessibility by, for example, tagging the "real content" in logical reading order, tagging to represent the document's semantic structures (headings, lists, tables etc.) and including alternative text descriptions for meaningful graphics.

Output Enrichment and PDF output have been enhanced to provide support for PDF/UA although this will not be used in normal Output Manager work-flows. The intent is to process individual PDF documents, or mail pieces, according to a set of rules, using the new companion product EngageOne® Accessibility. EngageOne® Accessibility provides a graphical accessibility rules designer and rule template storage and utilises Output Manager components to modify the PDF files.

The PDF/UA support in PDF output is licensed under the new client-specific capability PDFUA.

Contact Atac today to discuss your PDF/UA requirements.

Q & A

Q. Can we renew our Barr maintenance for two months only, to align it with our printer vendor contract?
A. Barr Systems will not accept less than a year's maintenance, sorry. However, they'll accept a 14 month renewal which aligns with your other contract.

Q. We intend upgrading to the latest Output Manager version. We realise that every issue we've ever logged is used to regression test new code before it is released, but we want to do some in-house testing ourselves before cutting across. Can we get temporary licenses to allow us to setup and test please? We anticipate it taking 6-12 months.
A. Yes, we will supply free temporary 90-day licenses for the new test environment, with extensions as requested, for up to a year. If you wish to continue testing past this time, you'll have to pay production maintenance pricing for the licenses, also billed in 90-day increments.

Q. Our Unix host was upgraded to a different supplier and one job is not paginating properly any more. The print creeps down the page, further with each document.
A. Investigations revealed the system lines-per-page variable was returning a different value than the old system (greater than the page length) and this report was the only one utilising the variable. The report was modified to use a hard-coded lines-per-page value, and the issue went away.

Feedback

Your feedback is valuable to Atac and helps us provide the high standard of service which you have come to expect from us, and which we are proud to deliver. Whether you have questions about our product range, a story to share regarding your experiences, or you would like to comment on our newsletter, just send us an **email**.

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