



# Print Solutions from Atac

Newsletter for Asia Pacific Region

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## More information at...

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## BHCS – Services, Rights and Permissions

The Barr Host Communications Suite leverages existing Windows Users & Groups to allow fine control over all actions in the Spool Window. Actions such as Holding, Viewing, Releasing, Reprinting, Sorting, Deleting etc. can be allowed or disallowed, based on User or Group membership.

By using Barr's UserRightsConfig program to assign Users & Groups the Rights to use various Barr actions, you have complete control over what each User is allowed to do. As Users logon and open the Spool window, they are granted the Rights to access various Barr Spool window actions, based on the assignments you made via UserRightsConfig.

Barr must be installed by a User with Local Administrator rights. Typically, the Barr Services are assigned Username & Password (User Account) credentials.

It is important to understand how this works and why it was built this way. Think of Barr as a client/server setup; the "server" runs as a series of Windows Services which start when the machine powers on. The "client" is the Spool window, only opened when a User logs on to interact with the Spool.

The Barr Services logon automatically and route jobs from one location to another. If power goes down in the middle of the night, when the machine restarts, the Barr Services start and printing resumes without a human needing to logon.

If files are polled from a LAN (remote) location, then it is the Barr Service User Account which requires network Permissions to (1) read from the LAN and (2) delete the source files after reading etc. Additionally, the Barr Service User Account requires network Permissions to use any LAN printers/directories for output printed from the Spool window.

So, Spool window "client" actions, filtered by UserRightsConfig security, are passed to the "server" (Barr Services) to do the actual work. The "server" then passes information back to the Spool window "client" so it can apply any updates to the window.

Keep in mind that it is the Barr Service User Account doing ALL interaction with LAN resources. This is the ONLY user account which requires Windows Permissions to be assigned for any non-local resources.

Note that if the BHCS machine will have no interaction with LAN resources, the Barr Services can be installed with "Local System" context instead of a Username & Password (User Account).

Contact Atac to discuss your BHCS Services, Rights and Permissions' setup today.

## Barr IPDS Converter

When IBM introduced Intelligent Printer Data Stream (IPDS) back in 1984, it was truly state-of-the-art. However, giant strides have been made in host-to-printer technology since then. If you are still running IPDS today, you are wasting money. Many companies remain locked into their old solutions because they are reluctant to make changes to their host systems – and so they should be. However, your company can be freed from IPDS printers without a single change to your mainframe environment.

Barr's IPDS Converter can replace your expensive IPDS printer with no HOST changes required. Simply turn off the IPDS printer and install IPDS Converter to a Windows PC with the same IP address as the IPDS printer.

Your HOST will continue to send print as normal but it will be received by the PC with Barr IPDS Converter. PSF will be unaware of the destination change.

Barr IPDS Converter processes IPDS from AFP enabled Host systems such as mainframes (zSeries), AS400s (iSeries) and more. It can be installed in a matter of minutes on a Microsoft Windows PC, where it runs as a Windows Service.

The Barr IPDS Converter converts IPDS into highly efficient PDF files with encryption and an optional XML file of "meta-data" produced for each PDF file output. The XML file includes the IPDS spool file attributes received, which can be used to route the jobs.

PDF fine naming and folder placement can be assigned based on job attributes. Because Barr IPDS Converter runs as a Windows Service, it starts when the PC does; it's not necessary for anybody to login and start things off.

The IPDS Converter software emulates a large number of cut sheet and continuous feed IPDS printers as well as supporting most versions of PSF and InfoPrint Manager. Additionally, IPDS print streams from LRS VPS/IPDS and Océ Prisma software are supported.

Pricing is per connection and speed of output. Contact Atac to discuss your requirements and organise a free trial, with unlimited free support, to prove the product in your environment.

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## Output Manager – a PSF/IPM Replacement

Output Manager can transform AFP print files to more standard desktop and LAN printer formats such as PCL, Postscript and PDF. This means that you can turn off your expensive IPDS printer(s) and stop paying annual PSF or InfoPrint Manager licensing fees completely.

Output Manager can read fully-composed AFP files which contain all resources needed to print the job. Output Manager can also read partially-composed AFP files, retrieving required resources from external libraries. (This may involve a one-time transfer of AFP resource libraries from your Host to the Windows environment.)

Output Manager produces industry standard PCL, Postscript & PDF print files which look identical to the original AFP printed via PSF to an IPDS printer. Since the AFP files serve as the input to Output Manager, PSF is no longer required on the Host (and the IPDS printers are now "boat anchors"). This can mean significant savings on PSF licensing an expensive IPDS printers.

In addition to the Output Manager transformation of the AFP into PCL, Postscript, PDF etc., Output Enhancement can enhance the output by sorting, adding barcodes, colourising, changing logos or adding items/features to achieve industry or government mandated compliance of output documents, particularly in the banking/finance market.

Contact Atac today to discuss your IPDS downsizing options.

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## Q & A

**Q.** In Output Manager, we need to apply electronic stationery images to front and back of input pages based on the assigned tray for each page. In vde I extract FEED, then determine which images to apply, then add them to front and back of the page. Is there an easier way?

**A.** YES. Using the Profile command:

`INPUT_BIN_IMAGE_<feed>_<front/back>=<imagename><foreground/background>`  
where <feed> is the tray and <imagename> is the image to be added (.vdi format). If necessary, the TIF2VDI utility can be used to generate .vdi files from uncompressed .TIF files. Using this method, there is no vde involved at all; it's much easier.

**Q.** Is there any way Output Enhancement can detect a landscape page in an A4 portrait PDF?

**A.** You can test for SIDEHEIGHT, which is over 168,000 for an A4 portrait side and less than 120,000 for an A4 landscape side.

**Q.** Our Barr system belongs to Domain X but we want to allow users from Domain Y to use it. UserRightsConfig fails when we enter a user from an alternate domain (not Domain X). What gives?

**A.** Barr Systems are investigating this right now. It appears the main core of BHCS is written in C++, which has this issue. Standalone utilities written in C# do not have this issue. We'll keep you advised as Barr Systems work through this.

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