



Print Solutions from Atac

Newsletter for Asia Pacific Region

Third Quarter, 2024

In This Issue

- Output Manager – Postal Manifest Production
- Barr Central Website
- Output Manager – Cut Sheet Contingency for roll-fed print
- Q & A
- Who else should get this newsletter?
- Unsubscribe

More information at...

<https://www.atac.com.au>

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Output Manager – Postal Manifest Production

Over eleven million addresses in Australia have been allocated a unique eight-digit number by Australia Post that identifies the full postal address including the suburb, state, postcode, street name, postal box, level and unit number where applicable. This number is known as a Delivery Point Identifier (DPID). A file of these addresses and DPID numbers is known as a Postal Address File (PAF).

Many Output Manager systems interface with a PAF system to retrieve DPID information. An envelope with a DPID barcode costs less to post than one without. Additionally, postal items sorted into DPID sequence are in effect in “walking sequence” for postal delivery and cost less again.

Output Manager can go one step further, producing a CSV (comma separated file) which is used to produce a Postal Manifest report. The Postal Manifest report accompanies the mailing and serves as a check on the distribution of letters into mailing trays. Typically, each tray contains letters for a particular Barcode Sort Plan (BSP).

All postcodes in Australia are grouped into (currently) fifty-four BSP groups. These correspond to the Tray allocations provided by the Postal Manifest report. Consideration is made for Envelope Weights and Thicknesses, either of which can trigger use of additional postal trays if pre-set values are exceeded.

Typically, as Output Manager processes postal items, it retrieves DPID and BSP info, facilitating sorting into the most economical postal sequence. As OM processes each document, it can calculate weight based on number of Pages, Inserts and type of Envelope used. Thickness is calculated based on Pages and Inserts, how many times they are folded to fit into the Envelope and the Envelope thickness itself.

The combination of DPID and BSP allocation, sorting into optimal sequence and Postal Manifest production assure the least expensive postal rates are achieved.

Contact Atac to discuss Postal Manifest production with Output Manager, any time.

Barr Central Website

If you use Barr Systems' software, then you need to know about www.barrcentral.com. It's Barr Systems' site for everything to do with Barr software, licenses, drivers, patches and documentation. Following a brief registration, you'll be able to access the site fully, downloading Software, Software Licenses, Patches and Manuals/documentation.

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If you have any Barr issues, these can be lodged, queried and updated by the Barr Systems' Case Manager links, which provide direct communications with Barr Systems' Support personnel.

All of the above, located at barrcentral.com, means you have a one-stop, self-service website for everything relating to Barr Systems' products. Take a look today.

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Output Manager – Cut Sheet Contingency for roll-fed print

Currently the most efficient printing is achieved via huge roll-fed printers, which print multiple pages across the roll width, with corresponding page backs printed overleaf. Special barcodes, in margins outside the normal A4 page dimensions, facilitate “slicing and dicing” of the continuous feed paper into stacks of A4 documents, complete with perforations if required.

These stacks of paper are next fed through a system which matches the output pages against an Output Manager produced MRD (mail run datafile), adds Inserts where applicable, then places each document into an envelope. Machine or human errors resulting in failed envelope insertions are fed back into Output Manager for automatic spoils production. The cycle loops as many times as necessary to guarantee every document is correctly inserted into an envelope.

Failure of the roll-feed printer(s) means documents are sometimes produced on one or more local cut-sheet printers, used as contingency “fail-overs”. Production of these Cut-Sheet Contingency print jobs is achieved by unique Output Manager job profiles, tailored to produce output suitable for (one or many) cut-sheet printers.

Cut-sheet printers are generally not capable of performing page perforations. However, generation and posting of billable documents is considered a higher priority. This is a very important consideration for print customers who are outsourcing through a print bureau.

Delays in postage of financial statements can have huge cash-flow implications for the outsourcer, with every day’s delay costing big \$\$\$\$. Additionally, it may be part of the Outsourcing Contract that if documents are not lodged in a certain time frame, large financial penalties apply to the outsourcee (print bureau).

Output Manager can provide some peace of mind with Cut-Sheet Contingency jobs setup and ready to be put into action, should roll-feed printers fail for any reason. This is an additional selling point for a print bureau bidding for a financial institution’s print business.

Contact Atac to see how Output Manager can make your business case more appealing to prospects.

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Q & A

Q. Can we buy Barr software maintenance on a month-to-month or Time & Materials basis?

A. Unfortunately, Barr Systems' maintenance policy is "no part-payments and no refunds". Annually pre-paid maintenance is the best way to go, with discounts for multi-year renewals. Atac's policy is that no Time & Materials work is provided for systems without current maintenance. Systems under maintenance receive unlimited, free support.

Q. Our BHCS PC crashed and the hard disk is inaccessible. What do we do?

A. Build a new BHCS machine and restore from the latest Barr Backup. Install the BHCS license and contact Atac to get the license Deactivated at Barr Systems. Following the License Installation, you have 10 days grace in which to Activate the License, during which time full software functionality is provided. Plenty of time to get the License reset at Barr Systems before you must Activate. Consider having a TEST/DR machine prepared in advance, so there is little or no interruption to your workflow if the primary unit fails for any reason.

Q. Our customer supplies print-ready files which are Simplex. This results in higher paper usage than necessary. Can we make the jobs Duplex via Output Manager?

A. Yes, Output Manager can take a Simplex job and produce Duplex or even mixed-Plex documents on the fly, to your specification. Impression (billable) counts will remain the same but you will achieve significant paper cost savings.

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