Print Solutions from Atac

In This Issue

More information at…

https://www.atac.com.au

Email David Kirk

or call +61 (419) 962 386

Barr Systems Releases BHCS 7.3.1.18

Barr Systems has released BHCS 7.3.1.18 as the "standard release" for 64-bit systems. The software can be downloaded from barrcentral.com now, via "Downloads" in the left-hand sidebar.

This release includes many cosmetic and functional corrections as follows:

21803 – The Remote Spool Window (RSW) online help now opens via the View Help button.

21804 – Closing the main view of the RSW will no longer cause an unhandled exception.

21805 – When receiving encrypted data, if NJE-IP and/or NJE-IP-TLS become disconnected, the NJE service will shutdown and attempt to connect every 2 minutes.

21806 – New "User Rights Configuration" utility created using .NET framework.

21807 – Minor cosmetic fixes made to the main window ribbon section of the RSW.

21811 – Multiple restarts of the NJE service are no longer needed in NJE-IP-TLS.

21812 – Within the RSW, the Retain window Document ribbon buttons are now enabled when there is 1 file in Retain.

21813 – Within the RSW, when a View file is selected as Default, its name now shows in the Tab title. If the Default View is set to the system default, then the Tab is titled "Main View".

21814 – Barr RJE call WinRUIStartup SNA HIS client no longer fails with Barr error code 0xA00B0506. The Operator Console log now shows the return code from the HIS client.

21815 – When using the RSW locally, the WCF service no longer counts this RSW connection against the RSW license.

21816 – In the RSW, the Serial number is now displayed in the title bar as well as the Connection Detail form.

21818 – In the RSW, the Connected Users' form has a "Disconnect Selected User" button that appears only if the current user has the "Shutdown SpoolCore" right.

21819 – During an Upgrade Install, the Setup program now checks to see if the 2017 C++ redistributable needs to be installed.

21820 – LicenseUpdater.exe is now installed in the 64-bit version of BHCS.

Download the software and run SETUP | UPGRADE to update your BHCS system today. Contact Atac for any assistance or advice required.

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, NJE or TCP/IP 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. As a Spooler, BHCS is unsurpassed with local reprinting in full or partial modes.

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.

More information at…

https://www.atac.com.au

Email David Kirk

or call +61 (419) 962 386

Migrating RJE or NJE from SNA to Enterprise Extender (TCP/IP)

Barr Systems' RJE & NJE modules in the BEPS environment can connect to the Host via three protocols; SNA, MS-LUA or EE.

MS-LUA requires an existing connection to the Host via Windows HIS Server (Host Information Server) or SNA Server (older version). BEPS RJE also provided a built-in SNA protocol, which required special (DLSW) routers to transport the RJE traffic.

In the BHCS product, native support for the SNA protocol has been dropped in favour of Enterprise Extender (EE). This is in line with industry-wide moves to eliminate SNA devices outside the "glass-house".

EE is IBM's built-in TCP/IP protocol to transport SNA frames, encapsulated within standard Ethernet packets.

EE is also sometimes referred to as HPR/IP or "High Performance Routing over IP". This means no special routers are required as TCP/IP connectivity over standard routers will suffice.

To change from using native SNA to EE communications is a VTAM (transport) change. When an RJE or NJE connection is successfully moved from SNA to EE, data flows identically in terms of content. Output to disk or printer is unchanged.

Atac has successfully overseen several migrations from SNA to EE, as customers move away from SNA for compliance reasons. Our expertise extends end to end, from mainframe to Barr PC and on to final output.

Contact Atac today for help migrating your RJE or NJE system from SNA to EE.

Q & A

Q. How large can a print file be and still be handled properly via Barr Host Communications Suite (BHCS) and/or Output Manager (OM)?

A. Both BHCS and OM are 64-bit programs with the capability of handling files up to the limit imposed by the file system in use. FAT32 has a maximum file size of four gigabytes. NTFS files can be up to 256 terabytes in size.

Q. We are experiencing IPDS Converter disconnections from the HOST. How can we determine where the issue lies?

A. IPDS Converter can trace data as it is received from the HOST. Packet info is captured, so you can see print data, control info, sense code data etc. both from and to the HOST. A running Trace should be setup so when the next disconnection occurs, it can be examined to see why the link was dropped. Atac can help with the setup of the Trace and analysis of a captured disconnection.

Q. Our jobs are PDF input to Output Manger. Some jobs need to be "flattened" and this ties up a PDF input client, sometimes for hours, while this occurs. How can we overcome this?

A. The best place to fix this is at the client site when the data is composed. Files should be optimised or supplied in PDF 1.3 (Acrobat 4) format. Clients can be advised that un-flattened PDF may require some dedicated pre-processing resources, costing them extra $$$.

The next best place to flatten PDF files is via Acrobat Pro or similar optimisation as a pre-process step before files hit Output Manager. Again, dedicated resources at the print shop to achieve this can cost clients time and money.

If unflattened files are hitting Output Manager, it may be time to consider an extra, dedicated PDF input client, specifically for the customer's data. Customer job profiles can point at a specific PDF-IN client, which will not be utilised for other customers' work.

Subscribe

If you would like us to send a copy of this newsletter to additional people, send us an **email** containing their email address(es).

Previous recent newsletters can be accessed at www.atac.com.au/newsletters.

Unsubscribe

If you would prefer not to receive this newsletter, send us an **email**.

Atac's Privacy Policy

At Atac we value your input, and we keep it private. We will never make any of this information available to any other company, nor will it be sold or traded in any way.