



Print Solutions from Atac

Newsletter for Asia Pacific Region

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More information at...

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

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BHCS – Available Modules

Barr Systems' Host Communications Suite (BHCS) is a PC-based enterprise output management system designed to receive data from multiple sources (e.g. mainframes, AS/400@s, TCP/IP hosts, network users/locations) and distribute data to multiple destinations (e.g. printers, branch offices, report distribution systems and electronic storage).

Optional software modules available for BHCS include:

BARR/RJE & BARR/NJE – gives access to large host computers or mainframes with powerful computer languages, large databases and increased computational capacities. These solutions facilitate enterprise output management by connecting to mainframes via ESCON, Bus & Tag, Synchronous Port (SDLC) or Ethernet.

RJE supports bi-directional transfers of data files and printing to remote printers without the need for channel-extender technology.

NJE acts as a mainframe peer, facilitating blazing fast bi-directional transfers utilising mainframe routing via JCL.

BARR/Print TCP-IP – allows BHCS to receive files from Unix, AS-400, mainframe systems and other BHCS systems using the LPR/LPD protocol. LPD header flags provide for content in EBCDIC or ASCII, with ASA or Machine carriage control, fixed or variable length records, in plain text / binary / Barr's proprietary Archive format.

Barr/Print TCP-IP also allows transmission from BHCS via LPR, as well as bi-directional IP Socket communications.

BARR/Print Channel – Replace mainframe channel-attached printers with a Barr PC, with NO CHANGES to your mainframe. Barr will emulate one or more FICON / Escon (or even Bus & Tag) printers, soaking up mainframe print as fast as it can be sent. Print can then be relayed to another remote Barr PC, anywhere on Earth, for subsequent print/archiving.

Print data can begin printing at the remote site, even as it is still being received from the mainframe.

BARR/Print EPS – Print to Fuji EPS printers with DJDE/LCDS and Metacode support. Optimise slow Metacode print via record combining into rated-speed print streams driving the fastest printers flat-out.

Perfect handling and optimisation of legacy print data to legacy printers.

Remote Spool Windows (RSW) – Provides viewing and control of one or more BHCS systems from one or more PCs without compromising security. Complete user/group-centric granular operational control, providing restricted or complete viewing of all printers and documents.

The first RSW license is free and is already provided as part of your base BHCS system.

Contact Atac to discuss your print & spool requirements today.

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Output Manager – Available Functionality

Output Manager is a software solution that provides a vendor-independent output strategy for multiple print and presentation platforms. It enables applications for one printer format (Printer Description Language or PDL) to be output to devices of different formats.

Output Manager can achieve a rapid conversion rate by processing the input in small segments and commencing output processing while the input is still being received. Output can begin almost as soon as input is started.

Output Manager accepts resources from a variety of hosts and a wide range of data stream PDL formats:

- Hosts such as UNIX, PC, MVS, z/OS etc.

Data stream formats are:

- Xerox – LCDS/Metacode/Linedata
- AFP – AFP line data/AFPDS/Mixed mode
- PCL
- PostScript
- PDF

Output Manager can output, irrespective of the original data type, a variety of different PDLs including:

- IPDS, PostScript, Metacode and PCL
- IJPDS for Kodak Versamark printers
- TIFF and PDF files for viewing on PCs
- AFPDS files for printing, archiving or viewing

Measurements are expressed in Inches, Millimetres, Dots or Points. Dot measurements depend upon image resolution. For example, a dot is 1/240 of an inch at 240 dpi or 1/300 of an inch at 300 dpi. Measurements may also be expressed in VIP Units, which measure 1/14,400 of an inch.

Resources such as Forms/Overlays, Fonts and Images can be converted as-is, or they can be replaced, updated, coloured and/or resized. New resources can be added, such as 2D or 3D barcodes, full-colour images or pre-populated virtual insertions.

Documents can be re-sorted, grouped, split or co-enveloped to achieve postal discounts or handling efficiencies. Postal Manifest reports can be prepared automatically as jobs are processed.

All of the above and more can be achieved without dedicated operators, in a lights-out, non-stop operations environment.

Contact Atac to discuss your document enhancement strategies today.

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Barr Systems' IPDS Converter

Barr Systems' IPDS Converter enables any printer to print IPDS from AFP enabled host systems such as mainframes (zSeries), AS400s (iSeries) and more.

It is software which can be installed in a matter of minutes on a Microsoft Windows PC, where it runs as a Windows Service.

Similarly to hardware solutions such as embedded cards and conversion boxes, this product leverages your investment in IBM's AFP/IPDS technology but offers a much wider range of printing choices.

You can produce PDF documents, with accompanying XML attribute files. PDF file naming and directory placement is controlled within the PDF output module by job parameters, replaced with actual values at print time.

You can use the Barr IPDS Converter for both workgroup and high-volume production printers.

You can combine it with BHCS to run hundreds of distributed printers and MFPs, or manage your high-volume production printing operations.

IPDS Converter supports:

- Bitmap, Outline, Truetype & OpenType fonts
- Double-Byte Character Set (DBCS) fonts
- Font/Image auto-scaling
- Advanced N-Up support
- Multiple input trays and output bins
- Finishing support (Offset, Hole Punch, Staple)
- Edge-to-edge printing
- Cut Sheet and Continuous Forms
- Many paper sizes, including Ledger, A3, Folio etc.
- Up to 600 dpi resolution
- SNMP printer status for errors & page recovery

The IPDS Converter software can replace an existing IPDS printer with NO CHANGE to the Host definitions.

IPDS Print Platforms supported include:

- PSF for OS/390, z/OS, VM, VSE & AS-400
- InfoPrint Mgr for AIX & Windows
- LRS VPS/IPDS
- Oce Prisma

Atac provides free test systems, with unlimited free support, to enable you to test and prove the software in your environment.

Contact Atac to arrange your free test IPDS Converter system today.

Q & A

Q. Is it possible to load our Xerox resources via BHCS?

A. BHCS can load Labelled Xerox resource files by either of two methods.

1. As normal print files. Use Print Utility to “poll” the resources in from any accessible drive, with the file type set to “Xerox and VBM formats”. Use the Settings button to assign default values for CLASS (or similar) so you can identify the files from normal print files.

When you print these files to your Xerox channel-attached printer, BHCS will insert a DJDE record before the resource, to tell the printer to load the resource to disk rather than attempt to print it. You can find the settings for the DJDE's IDEN, SKIP, OFFSET and character set on the NT printer itself, under CONTROL PANEL | PRINTERS. Look on the DEVICE SETTINGS tab; these settings are ONLY used for resource loading, and are never applied anywhere else.

2. As Overlay referenced resource files. This method allows you to control all aspects of resource loading, including whether the resources are left on the printer at job END (Permanent), or removed (Temporary). Once the process is set up, you can print any job to any printer, with no regard to whether you have the necessary resources present on the printer or not.

Q. How does the “SEND TO” feature work on the right-click menu for a BHCS SPOOL job?

A. You can send documents to programs of your choice, in the Send-To folder (\\Program Files\\Barr\\Spooler\\SendTo). To set up destination programs, either create program shortcuts or copy programs to the SendTo folder.

Once you have established destination programs, they will appear in the Spool Window's **Send To** list. A maximum of 20 destination programs can display in the **Send To** list.

To send a document to a destination program, use one of the following methods in the Spool Window:

- On the menu bar, select Document | Send To | **Program**.
- Right-click a document and select Send To | **Program**.

Q. How can I add background colour to certain pages in a print file with Output Manager?

A. You can use the ADD IMAGE command with the BACKGROUND option i.e. ADD IMAGE “imagename” ORDER BACKGROUND ...

Alternatively, if the “certain pages” equate to TRAY calls, you can simulate pre-printed stationery with the profile command
INPUT_BIN_IMAGE_<bin/feed>_<FRONT/BACK>=“imagename” ...

In this case every page normally pulled from <bin/feed> will have the “imagename” placed on it automatically.

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