Microsoft Knowledge Base Article - 314499

How to print to a network printer from an MS-DOS-based program in Windows XP

View products that this article applies to.

This article was previously published under Q314499

For a Microsoft Windows 2000 version of this article, see 154498.

INTRODUCTION

This article describes how to print to a network printer from an MS-DOS-based program in Microsoft Windows XP.

MORE INFORMATION

By default, most MS-DOS-based programs print directly to either the LPT1 port or to the LPT2 port. However, the output is not automatically routed across a redirector to a print share unless you use one of the following methods.

Method 1

Use the **net.exe** command to establish a persistent connection. To do this, use the following syntax at a command prompt

    net use lpt*x* *printserver**sharename* /persistent:yes

where *x* is the number of the printer port that you want to map, where *printserver* is the print server that is sharing the printer, and where *sharename* is the name of the printer share.

For example, to map LPT2 to a printer shared as Laser1 on a print server that is named Pserver, follow these steps:

1. Click **Start**, and then click **Run**.
2. In the **Open** box, type **cmd**, and then click **OK**.
3. Type **net use lpt2 \\pserver\laser1 /persistent:yes**, and then press ENTER.
4. To quit the command prompt, type **exit**, and then press ENTER.

Note In Windows XP, non-administrative users cannot map an LPT port to a network printer path when the LPT port exists on the computer as a physical parallel port.

For additional information about how to map LPT ports as a regular user, click the following article number to view the article in the Microsoft Knowledge Base:

    313644 Non-administrators cannot remap an LPT port to a network printer

Method 2

Print directly to the printer share by using the following syntax at a command prompt

    print /d:*printserver**sharename**drive*:*path**filename*

where *printserver* is the print server sharing the printer, where *sharename* is the name of the printer share, and where *drive:*, *path*, and *filename* make up the complete path of the document that you want to print.

For example, to print a document that is named letter.doc from the root directory of drive C to a printer shared as Laser1 on a print server that is named Pserver, follow these steps:

1. Click **Start**, and then click **Run**.
2. In the **Open** box, type **cmd**, and then click **OK**.
3. Type **print /d:\\pserver\laser1 c:\letter.doc**, and then press ENTER.

    The following command-line message appears:

C:\letter.doc is currently being printed

4. To quit the command prompt, type **exit**, and then press ENTER.

Because Novell NetWare's **CAPTURE** command is not supported in Windows XP, use the following command to map the LPT port to a Novell NetWare print queue:

net use lpt*x* \\server\queue

If the LPT port is redirected successfully, you receive the following message:

The command completed successfully.

To disconnect persistent LPTx connections, use the following syntax:

net use lpt*x* /delete

Note When you try to use the **CAPTURE** command, you may receive an error message that is similar to the following:

CAPTURE-4.01-923: An unexpected error has occurred: 255 (00FF).
(SPOOL.C: [426])

For additional information, click the following article numbers to view the articles in the Microsoft Knowledge Base:

156429 Supported 16-bit utilities and NetWare-aware applications

308028 Resources for troubleshooting printing problems in Windows XP

The third-party products that this article discusses are manufactured by companies that are independent of Microsoft. Microsoft makes no warranty, implied or otherwise, regarding the performance or reliability of these products.

The information in this article applies to:

- Microsoft Windows XP Home Edition
- Microsoft Windows XP Professional

Last Reviewed: 5/27/2004 (3.0)

Keywords: kb3rdparty kberrmsg kbhowto kbinfo kbprint KB314499

Contact Us