

February 2005

Black Ice Newsletter

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Phone: (603) 673-1019
 Fax: (603) 672-4112
 E-mail: sales@blackice.com

www.blackice.com

New - ASP Printer Driver Sample

Version 9.02 of the Black Ice printer drivers included a new ASP printing sample which demonstrates dynamic, on demand PDF generation and distribution.

The last few years have seen a dramatic growth in internet usage, both for home users as well as corporate employees. This growth is mainly due to two factors, the increased access to broadband internet access as well as the expansion of many business and service providers expanding their offerings to become avail-

able through the world wide web.

From this rise in internet activity, more and more information is being supplied, tracked and presented to users, including bank records, bills and other personal information. Typically this information is requested by a client through a web service. The web service will then retrieve the requested data from one or more sources and then return the data set to the requesting user. One of the most popular methods to perform this

kind of processing is by using Active Server Pages (ASP), which can present the requested data to the user. But what if the user wants to store a copy of the results on their local PC for

(Continued on page 2...)



New - Fax C++/ActiveX User Strings

January saw the addition of priority faxing in the Fax C++/ActiveX toolkit. Also at this time, Fax C++/ActiveX was expanded to include a user string with each fax object.

What is a fax object user string? The user string can be any string of up to 260 characters and can be uniquely assigned to each and every fax object. As a

reminder, a fax object is a unique identifier associated with every fax. Developers can set a variety of different properties for each fax object which dictate how that fax will be routed, manipulate and sent by the Fax C++/ActiveX.

The new user strings functionality of Fax C++/ActiveX has a nearly unlimited number of uses. For example, consider the fol-

lowing example:

A fax server or similar application where users can submit jobs to an internal queue. By assigning a user string to each fax object, the application can identify which user sent the fax. The application can parse the queue and search for specific user strings in order to:

(Continued on page 3...)

(ASP, continued from page 1)

later review or to have the information faxed to a recipient? This is where the Black Ice printer drivers come into play

The Black Ice printer drivers can be used to convert any printjob sent to them and convert that information into a variety of file formats, including TIFF, JPEG, PDF etc. For web based applications where the desired end result is to provide the user with a downloadable or faxable result, developers can use the Black Ice printer drivers along with a variation of the included ASP printing sample to accomplish this goal.

The new ASP Printing sample for the Black Ice printer drivers will print a text file to the Black Ice printer driver to be converted into a PDF file. The ASP sample uses a

new Print Wrapper Capture OCX specifically created for ASP environments and will wait for the EndDoc event to be received by the new OCX before proceeding. Once the EndDoc event is received, the newly generated PDF file will be displayed in the browser.

The new ASP Printing sample is written to be used with the Black Ice PDF (Demo) printer driver. In order for the sample to be used with a different Black Ice Printer Driver developers should modify the printer name in the ASP source code.

In order to print from ASP, the specified printer MUST be the Default printer on the system. For details, developers should refer to the following link which contains a description of an issue where COM Objects Fail to Print When Called

From ASP: <http://support.microsoft.com/?id=184291>.

The Black Ice printer must be configured to generate the output files into the ASP home directory, to allow for displaying of the PDF files on the client side.

To set the Output Directory used by the Black Ice printer driver, right click on the Black Ice PDF printer, select Printing Properties\Advanced TAB\Printing Defaults, and specify the full path to the output directory.

As mentioned above, the new ASP Printing sample includes a new Print Wrapper OCX

specifically created for use with ASP environments. The RTK includes source for the new OCX written in both Visual Basic and C++.

Anatomy of the New ASP Printer Driver Sample

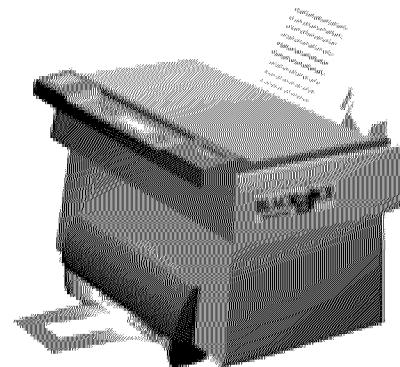
In a nutshell, the ASP printing sample performs the following steps:

1. Initializes the messaging interface. The ASP Printing sample utilizes the new PrintWrapper OCX to capture messages and notify the ASP script when printing has completed:
`iRet = PrintWrapper1.StartCapture("Black Ice PDF (Demo)")`
2. Prints the text file to the Black Ice printer driver:
`Set objShell = CreateObject("Shell.Application")
objShell.ShellExecute "notepad.exe", path, "", "open", 0
Set objShell = Nothing`
3. Waits for printing to finish and displays the name of the generated file. Since ASP cannot directly receive and process messages, the new PrintWrapper OCX WaitForEndPrinting will return only when printing has finished:
`szFileName = PrintWrapper1.WaitForEndPrinting()`

`Response.Write("

" & " The name of the printed file on the server: " & szFileName)`

4. Retrieves the filename of the generated PDF file from the path:
`Set fso = CreateObject("Scripting.FileSystemObject")
m_szFileName = fso.GetFileName(szFileName)`
5. Presents the user with the option of viewing the generated PDF file. In order to display the newly created PDF file, Acrobat Reader must be installed:
`<a href=<% = m_szFileName %>>Open PDF File`



AutoPrint and BatchConverter samples Enhanced PDF Printing

The Black Ice Printer Driver Resource Toolkits include both AutoPrint and BatchConverter sample applications which demonstrate how to send any MS Office or PDF file to the Black Ice printer drivers programmatically. Using these samples as a starting point, developers can develop service based and batch printing applications which can use the Black Ice printer driver to generate the desired output without any user interaction.

The AutoPrint and BatchConverter sam-

ples were originally written and release to work with Adobe Acrobat Reader 5. Since their initial release, Adobe has released to new major versions of Acrobat Reader, and in the process have changed the way that Acrobat behaves.

The latest release of the Black Ice printer drivers, version 9.03, include enhanced AutoPrint and BatchConverter samples which allow developers to harness the features and functionality of the latest Adobe releases with their own applications.



License any Black Ice Printer Driver along with one year of maintenance during the month of February and receive 3 additional free months of maintenance! That's up to a \$1200 saving! Maintenance subscriptions provide access to the latest cutting edge printer driver releases as well as priority technical support.



Convert any printable file into TIFF, JPEG, PDF, etc. and have it automatically emailed! Too many new features to list, visit <http://www.blackice.com/Print2Email.htm> for details and download the latest Print2Email demo!

Simplified Image printing with Black Ice Imaging Toolkits

Black Ice has recently updated the Tiff, Image and Document Imaging SDK/ActiveX toolkits to simplify image printing using the BiPrint OCX. The new functionality allows developers to easily modify printer settings when printing from their applications.

The newly available BiPrintSetup method allows developers to pass the name of a printer as a string and specify whether or not they want the method to display a default printer settings window. The specified printer's settings can then be manipulated, either through Win32 API calls or

by user selection from the supplied dialog box. The BiPrintSetup will then return a handle to the updated printer devmode, which can then be passed to the new PrepareToPrintEx method. The PrepareToPrintEx method is identical to the existing PrepareToPrint method but it also allows developers to pass a handle to a printer devmode for use when printing.

As always, the latest Imaging Toolkit evaluation versions can be downloaded from the Black Ice website:

<http://www.blackice.com>

(User Strings, continued from page 1)

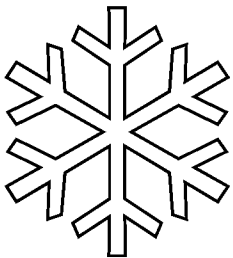
- Cancel the fax (delete it from the queue)
- Add additional pages to the fax
- Change the priority for the fax
- Duplicate the fax object to send it to more than one recipient
- And much more

Prior to the inclusion of user strings in the Fax C++/ActiveX, it was up to the developer to implement a solution to track and

label different fax objects. By utilizing user strings, developers can add a wide range of new functionality to their existing applications.

User strings can be manipulated using the GetUserString and SetUserString functions/methods available in version 11.03 and higher of the Fax C++/ActiveX. Developers can visit the Black Ice website at <http://www.blackice.com> to download the latest evaluation version of the Fax C++/ActiveX and try it for themselves.

• 292 Route 101 •
 • Amherst, NH 03031 USA •
 Tel: (603) 673-1019
 Fax: (603) 672-4112
 • www.blackice.com •



Inside

New Printer Driver ASP Sample,
 Fax C++/ActiveX User String functionality and more...

Time to upgrade?



Latest Version Numbers

Printer Drivers

Product	Version	Date
Color Printer Driver for Win95/98/ME	5.65	10/28/04
Metafile Printer Driver for Win95/98/ME	5.65	10/28/04
Mono Printer Driver for Win95/98/ME	5.65	10/28/04
PDF Printer Driver for Win95/98/ME	5.65	10/28/04
Mono Printer Driver for NT/Win2000/XP	9.02	12/27/04
Color Printer Driver for NT/Win2000/XP	9.02	12/27/04
Mono Printer Driver for NT/W2K/XP	9.02	12/27/04
Metafile Printer Driver for NT/W2K/XP	9.02	12/27/04
PDF Printer Driver for NT/W2K/XP	9.02	12/27/04
Terminal Server Printer Drivers/2003	9.02	12/27/04

Impact Products

Product	Version	Date
Impact Fax Server	5.00	12/21/04
Impact Fax on Demand	4.06	12/01/00
Impact Fax Broadcast	4.20	09/13/04
Impact ColorFax	6.00	07/22/04
Drag and Drop Printing	2.00	12/24/02

Fax, Voice and Image Toolkits

Product	Version	Date
Fax C++/ActiveX/COM	11.05	01/04/05
Voice C++/ActiveX/COM	11.05	01/04/05
Tiff SDK/ActiveX/COM	10.32	01/13/05
Annotation SDK/ActiveX/COM	10.32	01/13/05
Cover Page Generator SDK/ActiveX	10.32	01/13/05
Image SDK/ActiveX	10.32	01/13/05
Document Imaging SDK/ActiveX	10.32	01/13/05
Barcode SDK/ActiveX	4.10	10/04/04

Free Software

Product	Version	Date
Impact ColorFax Lite	6.00	07/22/04
Tiff Viewer Plug-in - Free Version	6.00	07/22/04
ModemWeasel	2.00	08/01/02

Internet Tools

Product	Version	Date
Print2Email	3.01	01/20/03
Tiff Viewer Plug-in - Complete	6.00	07/22/04
Print Monitoring Server	3.00	09/16/04