



Tech Info Library

A/UX: Change Printcap to Use Printer in Another Zone (9/94)

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TOPIC -----

Is it necessary to include the zone name with the printer name (that is, full path name) in the printcap file entry for a printer that is located in a remote zone? And, if so, what is the syntax to do this?

I want to use the lpr command to send a print job to a remote printer defined in the printcap file. I don't want to have to go through the Chooser to select the printer. As it is defined now (without the full path name), I'm getting a message saying that the printer can't be found.

DISCUSSION -----

If the printer is in another zone, it's necessary to define the zone in which the printer is located with a full path name. You can then "hardwire" a printer name including the zone for a particular printer queue.

The best way to do this is to make a copy of the /usr/spool/lpd/AppleTalk directory and give it a name related to the printer you want to use. Modify the file ifilter/ofilter/nfilter (it's the same file with 3 hard links) in this directory. Also modify the /etc/printcap file to create a new printer queue.

We'll use our system as an example; modify it to reflect your situation.

First, create the new directory and put the correct files in it. NOTE that we're using mknod to create the pipe file.

```
mkdir Idaho
chown daemon Idaho
chgrp daemon Idaho
cp AppleTalk/ifilter Idaho/ifilter
cd Idaho
ln ifilter ofilter
ln ofilter nfilter
mknod pipe p
chown daemon *
chgrp daemon *
```

We have a printer called "Idaho Spooler" in the zone "West" while my system is

on the zone "East." So all I do is modify the /usr/spool/lpd/Idaho/ifilter file (you can use vi or TextEditor) and change the line that defines the value for Printer:

from

```
Printer=`basename "cwd" `
```

to

```
Printer="Idaho Spooler:LaserWriter@West"
```

In the /etc/printcap file I copy the entry for AppleTalk (all six lines) and change any reference to AppleTalk to the name I used for my new directory. Again, in my case I used "Idaho" as the directory name so my /etc/printcap file looks like:

```
#
# pragma ident "@(#)lpr:printcap      5.4 90/03/27 "
#
# Copyright 1990 Apple Computer, Inc.
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#
# Remote AppleTalk printer (selected by Chooser)
# For an AppleTalk printer which doesn't support PostScript remove last 2
names.
lp|at|AppleTalk|postscript|PostScript:\
    :lp=/dev/null:\
    :if=/usr/spool/lpd/AppleTalk/ifilter:\
    :of=/usr/spool/lpd/AppleTalk/ofilter:\
    :nf=/usr/spool/lpd/AppleTalk/nfilter:\
    :sd=/usr/spool/lpd/AppleTalk:
lp2|Idaho:\
    :lp=/dev/null:\
    :if=/usr/spool/lpd/Idaho/ifilter:\
    :of=/usr/spool/lpd/Idaho/ofilter:\
    :nf=/usr/spool/lpd/Idaho/nfilter:\
    :sd=/usr/spool/lpd/Idaho:
```

After all these steps are completed, restart the printer queue with the command

```
lpc restart all
```

Now you should be able to send a print job to the printer in the other zone with the command:

```
lpr -Plp2 /etc/passwd
```

or

```
lpr -PIdaho /etc/passwd
```

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