

08384c78-0

Michael M Brockman

Copyright © 1998 MikeySoft

COLLABORATORS

	<i>TITLE :</i> 08384c78-0		
<i>ACTION</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>SIGNATURE</i>
WRITTEN BY	Michael M Brockman	May 28, 2025	

REVISION HISTORY

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

Contents

1	08384c78-0	1
1.1	NetPar Lpr Client	1
1.2	Sorry about this.....	2
1.3	NetPar Lpr Description	3
1.4	Upgrading from NetPar	3
1.5	Installation of NetPar Lpr Client	4
1.6	NetPar Lpr System Requirements	7
1.7	Using the Lpr NetPar Client	7
1.8	Troubleshooting NetPar Lpr Client	10
1.9	TCP/IP System Errors	15
1.10	Known Bugs	17
1.11	Software NetPar has worked on	17
1.12	Hardware NetPar has been tested on...	18
1.13	History of NetPar Lpr Changes	19
1.14	Future of the NetPar Lpr Client	22
1.15	Who I Be? And others....	23

Chapter 1

08384c78-0

1.1 NetPar Lpr Client

NetPar Lpr Client (RFC-1179 Compliant)

```
~~~~~Disclaimer~~~~~
~~~~~Description~~~~~
~~~~Upgrading~Notes~~~~
~~~Installation~Notes~~~
~~~~~Requirements~~~~
~~~~~Using~~~~~
~~~~~Troubleshooting~~~~~
~~~~~Bugs~~~~~
~~~~Software~Tested~on~~~
~~~~Hardware~Tested~on~~~
~~~~~History~~~~~
~~~~~Future~~~~~
~~~~~Author~~~~~
```

Dedicated to my Testers. Who put up with endless
Bugs, multiple GURU's and no documentation.

Tester Hall of Fame

Brett Beebe	Solon Luigi Lutz
Michael Birchler	Bob Monaghan
John Conan	Francios Prowse
Matthew Hunter	Pertti Snellman
Dobes Vandermeer	

1.2 Sorry about this.....

Legal Stuff.....

Any possesor of this version "NetPar" for the Amiga is hereby granted a non-exclusive license permitting its use and/or redistribution, subject to the following terms and conditions.

Permission is hereby granted to freely redistribute this version of "NetPar" via electronic bulletin board systems (BBS's), freely redistributable disk collections (such as provided by Fred Fish), service bureaus (BiX, GENie, CompuServe, etc), and networks such as USENET, BITNET, and Internet, provided that such distribution includes this unmodified License, and the documentation file (NetParLpr.guide), in addition to the executable and with all copyright notices intact.

This archive may be freely redistributed, but only in totally unchanged state. All copyright notices in the program and its documentation must remain on their places.

Use of the "NetPar" executable and documentation in any environment, commercial or otherwise is not restricted, and no fee shall be required for said use. The use of the source code in a commercial product is prohibited without prior written permission of the author.

The author gives permission to include "NetPar" in any AmiNET Compact Disk distribution.

Without prior written permission from the author, it is prohibited to sell or otherwise convey this version of "NetPar" for monetary or other forms of compensation, other than the customery service and/or duplication fees as may be charged by the distribution mechanisms identified above.

It is further prohibited, without prior written permission from the author, to include this version of "NetPar" in whole or in part, in the distribution of any commercial hardware or software package, or component thereof.

This version of "NetPar" is provided "as is", without express or implied warranty. The author makes no claim or representation about the suitability of this software for any purpose.

The author disclaims any and all warranties with regard to this software, including all implied warranties of merchantability and fitness. In no event shall the author be liable for any special, indirect, or consequential damages, or any damages whatsoever resulting from loss of use, data, or profits, whether in an action of contract, negligence, or other tortious action, arising out of or in connection with the use or performance of this software.

(I am glad thats over. In a world were everybody is ready to blame someone else for their own stupidity...I had to do it. Use this at your own risk.)

*

1.3 NetPar Lpr Description

"My Amiga doesn't play well with others."

NetPar Lpr Client will allow you to print to any RFC-1179 compliant network server (Unix and Windows) or network ready printer (A printer with it's own IP).

This client will also thread out printing requests when used with prt42_50.lha by Brian Gontowski (Available on Aminet). Using prt42_50.lha is the suggested installation method.

This Lpr Client also:

- * Supports Simple Spooling
- * Offline printing to a network printer
- * Supports multiple network printers
- * Network problems are reported through system messages.
- * Supports 68000-68060 CPU's

Note: This release is NOT compatible with the previous released NetPar Server and TestPar programs. See ~Upgrade~ for details.

*

1.4 Upgrading from NetPar

This release of the NetPar Lpr Client will NOT work with the previous versions of the NetPar Server and TestPar programs.

I am working on an update to the server but have decided to release this client as a standalone product. There

appeared to be a great need for the functionality that the Lpr client provides.

If you need this Lpr client AND still need to be able to print to another Amiga, I would suggest that you use the lpd,lha package written by Juergen Schubert (available on Aminet) to replace the NetPar Server. It is a very simple line printer daemon that works fine with this client.

Don't be fooled by the words "line printer" ... Line printer daemons can also print graphics. They get their name from a time when only line printers existed. They evolved as printing technology changed.

*

1.5 Installation of NetPar Lpr Client

"Teaching my Amiga to play with others"

The installer script will get you up and running in no time at all. But you will need to get some information ready before you start.

There are four options in the installer

```
* ~Change~Installed~Settings~~
* ~Install~Normal~NetPar~~~~~ (parallel.device)
* ~Install~PRT_42.50~NetPar~~~ (netpar.device)
* ~Remove~NetPar~Installation~
```

Install Normal NetPar

Normal NetPar replaces your parallel.device, This installation renames your original parallel.device to orig_parallel.device so that it is easy to remove the Netpar installation if needed. The Remove function is compatible with ALL previous NetPar installations. The ~Remove~ can safely/quickly return your computer to it's original settings.

You will need to select a directory to spool outgoing prints. I would suggest you use a directory that only NetPar would access.

See ~Change~Installed~settings~ for information about Unit number settings.

Reboot your machine when installation is complete.

Install PRT_42.50 NetPar

This is the preferred installation method for the NetPar Lpr Client. Make sure that PRT_42.50 is correctly installed and running on your system before running the install script. A netpar.device will be placed in your DEVS: directory. For each printer Unit you create, a NetPar unit icon will be placed in the DEVS:PrinterPorts directory for use by the PRT_42.50 system. The ~Remove~ option will detect and remove all the pieces of NetPar quickly/safely.

See ~Change~Installed~settings~ for information about Unit number settings.

You will need to select a directory to spool outgoing prints. I would suggest you use a directory that only NetPar would access.

Reboot your machine when installation is complete.

Change Installed Settings

NetPar Lpr Client supports multiple network printer locations and settings. The information is separated by assigning a Unit number to each entry. If you have many printers on your network, you will want to write down:

- * The Unit number you are configuring
- * It's Printer Hostname (or IP address of a Network ready printer).
- * The assigned printer name

For example on my system:

```
Unit 0 is
192.168.1.10
lpr
```

```
Unit 1 is
mikey.at.home
lp
```

There is no easy method of removing old settings. You could manually go into your ENV:NetPar and ENVARC:NetPar directories and remove the Unit's

directory if needed. Using this install script you can however, easily change/add to the installed settings. See ~Using~ on how to select these different settings. The ~Remove~ option will detect and remove all these pieces of NetPar quickly/safely.

Remove NetPar Installation

This is the most extensively tested part of the script. I have made it compatible with ALL NetPar Client releases, even the Testers Beta versions. I have always hated programs that would not easily allow you to remove them from your system, so I have taken extra pains to make this work. But just in case, Here's what it does:

- #1) Renames orig_parallel.device back to parallel.device (Original NetPar Installation)
- #2) Removes netpar.device (PRT_42.50 Installation)
- #3) Removes ENV:NetPar environment settings (All Lpr Installations)
- #4) Removes ENVARC:NetPar backup settings (All Lpr Installations)
- #5) Removes ENV:PrintHOST (Original NetPar Installation - No longer used)
- #6) Removes ENVARC:PrintHOST (Original NetPar Installation - No Longer used)
- #7) Removes ENV:HOSTPrinter (Original NetPar Installation - No longer used)
- #8) Removes ENVARC:HOSTPrinter (Original NetPar Installation - No longer used)
- #9) Removes all NetPar icons from DEVS:PrinterHost (PRT_42.50 Installations)
- #10) Removes DEVS:NetParSpool (Lpr Beta 4 to present)

The program will always check to see if these programs and settings exist BEFORE it tries to remove them. So there are no warning messages if things are missing. Although I make no promises, I can tell you that the Remove function has been extensively tested.

1.6 NetPar Lpr System Requirements

I have tried to stay WB 2.0 friendly. One of my machines still uses WB 2.1

OS Requirements: Workbench 2.0+
Kickstart 2.04+

Software Requirements:
TCP/IP Protocol Stack
(Tested with Miami 2.1+ and Amitcp 4.0+)

However the Suggested installation is using the prt42_50.lha software. Depending on your installation, prt42_50 can require WB/KS 3.0 or better.

That's it....

*

1.7 Using the Lpr NetPar Client

"Now what am I going to do with it?"

```
~Environment~Variables~
~Spooling~~~~~~
~Normal~NetPar~Use~~~~~
~PRT_42.50~NetPar~Use~~~
```

Environment Variables

ENV:NetPar/SpoolDir - Holds the location of the spool directory used by the NetPar Lpr client. If the directory doesn't exist or NetPar is unable to obtain a READ lock on the directory, it will default to T: instead. For each file that is printed, two files will be placed into the spool directory. The control file (cfA???NetPar) holds the printer name and location that the print is destined for. The Data file (dfA???NetPar) holds the printer raw image data. Also in this directory is a .seq file. The .seq holds a three digit number that is used to separate the individual printouts. It also ties each data file to a control file. If you run into problems and want to try and save your print, you can edit the control

file with a text editor. The other files should be left alone. Should you decide to delete these files, make sure you delete each data-file, control-file pair. Files are removed from the spool as soon as they are shipped across the network.

Each Setting is saved by a Unit number. In each Unit directory is a:

- * ENV:NetPar/\$Unit/PrinterHOST - Holds the Name or IP Address of the Print Server, or the IP address of the network ready printer. This setting can easily be changed using the ~Change~Installed~Settings~ option in the install script. If not properly installed, the NetPar client will set the Printer name to "UNKNOWN" in the control file.
- * ENV:NetPar/\$Unit/PrinterNAME - Holds the name of the printer identified on your print server. For network ready printers, consult the printer documentation, however most of them use "lp" for a PrinterNAME. This setting can easily be changed using the ~Change~Installed~Settings~ option in the install script. If not properly installed, the NetPar client will use "lp" when creating the control file.

Finally there is one special purpose variable...

ENV:NetPar/ActiveUnit - This ties NetPar into using a single Unit configuration. See information on ~Normal~NetPar~Use~ on how to use this variable. This variable must be manually set and deleted.

Spooling

The Spooling directory is set by the SpoolDir variable. The NetPar device will read this information and attempt a READ lock on the directory. If the lock is not successful, NetPar will use T: for spooling. The NetPar device will start the NetParSpool program. This is the program that controls the actual file transfer across the network. The program will continue to run until it encounters a fatal error. The NetParSool also produces all the system messages used to help users with network problems.

NetPar does not need to have an active TCP/IP stack (Miami or AmiTCP) in order to print. A

message will warn the user that the network is not active and give them a chance to start the network or put NetPar to sleep until the network is active. All of the printouts are then spooled until the network become available. If your Amiga is shut off before the prints have been send out, you will need to start the NetParSpool program by printing again. This bug will be fixed at a later time when the NetParSpool become a commodity. The NetParSpool will check the spooling directory once every minute, looking for new files. See the ~SpoolDir~ variable for the make up of the spooling directory.

Normal NetPar Use: (parallel.device)

The normal installation of NetPar replaces your parallel.device with the NetPar Lpr client. Most programs expect only one unit setting when they open the parallel.device (the printer.device included). So I have created a environment variable to force the NetPar client to use other available unit designations. The name of this variable is ENV:NetPar/ActiveUnit. Let's look at my setup for an example on how to use ActiveUnit:

```
Unit 0 :
    PrinterHOST 192.168.1.10
    PrinterNAME lp
```

```
Unit 1 :
    PrinterHOST mikey.at.home
    PrinterNAME lpr
```

By default, 99% of the programs will open up parallel.device unit 0 for printing. NetPar will use the 192.168.1.10 host to send the output to. But say I need to use Unit #1? Well then I can force NetPar by issuing a "setenv NetPar/ActiveUnit 1" from cli/shell. All prints will use unit #1 from now on. (Note: You will also need to change your printer driver in preferences to match the new printer.) ActiveUnit is not set during installation since it forces all parallel.device accesses to use the ActiveUnit entry. Even programs that open the proper unit...

PRT_42.50 NetPar Use: (netpar.device)

Very simple, just follow the Amigaguide docs that are part of the prt42_50.lha archive. You

will find all of the NetPar Unit settings placed in the PrinterPorts directory. Just use the prt42_50.lha preference program to select a printer driver for use with each port. Just don't forget to save before you try to use them.

The PRT_42.50 NetPar Lpr Client is also affected by the ~ActiveUnit~ environment setting. I would suggest that you not use ActiveUnit when using PRT_42.50 Client. The prt42_50.lha archive offers better control over the printer settings.

*

1.8 Troubleshooting NetPar Lpr Client

"It don't workey right!"

Most of the NetPar errors are covered by a System message. There are a few Configuration errors that can occur and cause NetPar to not work.

NetParSpool Messages

```
~Message~#1~~
~Message~#2~~
~Message~#3~~
~Message~#4~~
~Message~#5~~
~Message~#6~~
~Message~#7~~
~Message~#8~~
~Message~#9~~
~Message~#10~
~Message~#11~
~Message~#12~
```

NetPar Printer Spool Message #1

Network is down!

(bsdsocket.library not found)

Printing cannot take place
until network is available

Not really an error, but rather a warning. NetPar is letting you know that the network is unavailable. Start your TCP/IP stack and hit Retry, or put NetPar to sleep until the network is available by hitting Wait.

NetPar Printer Spool Message #2

Printer Network Error

Unable to bind to reserved port
See documentation for details

NetParSpool will restart connection or
be forced to abort

In reference to RFC-1179, a lpr client must attach
to a local socket between 721 and 731. For some reason,
all of these socket connections are already in use on
your system.

NetPar Printer Spool Message #3

Printer Network Error

"Some" function call has returned a "number" value

Please note this error and consult documentation

NetParSpool will restart connection or
be forced to abort.

Look up the Network number value here:

~1~~	~21~	~41~	~61~
~2~~	~22~	~42~	~62~
~3~~	~23~	~43~	~63~
~4~~	~24~	~44~	~64~
~5~~	~25~	~45~	~65~
~6~~	~26~	~46~	~66~
~7~~	~27~	~47~	~67~
~8~~	~28~	~48~	~68~
~9~~	~29~	~49~	~69~
~10~	~30~	~50~	~70~
~11~	~31~	~51~	~71~
~12~	~32~	~52~	~72~
~13~	~33~	~53~	~73~
~14~	~34~	~54~	~74~
~15~	~35~	~55~	~75~
~16~	~36~	~56~	~76~
~17~	~37~	~57~	~77~
~18~	~38~	~58~	~78~
~19~	~39~	~59~	~79~
~20~	~40~	~60~	

NetPar Printer Spool Message #4

Fatal Network Error

Unable to find usergroup.library

Please consult documentation

NetParSpool will restart connection

or be forced to abort

This library is part of AmiTCP and Miami installations. It is used to lookup the user name of the user logged into the network.

NetPar Printer Spool Message #5

Fatal Network Printer Error

Line Printer Daemon returned an

Acknowledgment error. Transfer is

Aborted and Spooler is terminated.

The server failed to send a required acknowledgement or send an incorrect signal. The problem is probably with the server.

NetPar Printer Spool Message #6

Fatal Network Error

Spooler was unable to find your

Computer's Hostname (localhost)

Please consult your TCP/IP stack

documentation on how to add your

host machine name to the network

Spooler will be aborted

A GetHostName() function has failed. In Miami, you can add the hostname in the Database/Hosts area and in the TCP/IP Host Name area. In AmiTCP, you can add your hostname to the AmiTCP:db/hosts area.

NetPar Printer Spool Message #7

Fatal Network Error

Spooler was unable to find your
user login id. Please consult your
TCP/IP stack documentation on how to
add a default user login id to the
network. Spooler will be aborted

In Miami, you need to add the user
login in the Database/Users area AND
in the TCP/IP - Real User name area.

In AmiTCP, add your login to the
AmiTCP:db/passwd file and also to
the startnet script.

NetPar Printer Spool Message #8

Fatal Printer Spool Error

Unable to lock or examine your spool
directory.

(NetPar/SpoolDir = "SpoolDir")

The most probable cause is from a
non-existent directory or a lingering
dos lock. Spooler will be aborted

This error is pretty much, self explanatory.
The only option may be to reboot your computer
in order to clear out the lingering dos lock.

NetPar Printer Spool Message #9

Fatal Network Printer Error

Authentication or Printer error.

User login, or Host machine not allowed
to print. Or selected Printer name does
not exist. Spooler will be aborted

The printer you selected does not exist on the server, or else your machine does not have permission to use the server resources. Verify your settings and network permissions and try again. You may want to clear out the spool directory if you find the error is on your settings.

NetPar Printer Spool Message #10

Spooler was able to connect to
printer server. Previous error
condition has been corrected.
Spooling will now continue

NetPar will attempt to connect to the server twice before it exits with an error. This message is telling you that the previous error has been cleared up and NetPar will proceed as normal. You will also get this message if you tell NetPar to Wait on the network (See ~Message~#1~ for details.) and the network then becomes available.

NetPar Printer Spool Message #11

Spooler has been unable to connect
to the printer server. The
connection has failed twice. Spooler
will now be aborted.

Two attempts to connect to the server have failed. You should have gotten two error messages telling you what the problem is. Use those messages to troubleshoot your system.

NetPar Printer Spool Message #12

Spooler has been unable to connect
to the printer server. The Host's
Network address is unknown.

```
Printer Host = ->"PrinterHOST"<-
```

NetParSpooler will restart connection

or be forced to abort.

Your computer attempted to look up the IP address of the print server you want to print to, but was unable to find it. This points to some type of network problem. In Miami, you can normally fix this problem by adding your printer host to the Database/Hosts area. In AmiTCP, you can fix this by adding the printer host to the AmiTCP:db/hosts file.

If your Printer Host is "UNKNOWN", then NetPar was unable to find the PrinterHOST variable on your selected unit. Check to see which port you were using and then use the install script to verify you have a printer host name set for that unit.

*

1.9 TCP/IP System Errors

This information is taken directly from the NetInclude:sys/errno.h

1	Operation not permitted
2	No such file or directory
3	No such process
4	Interrupted system call
5	Input/output error
6	Device not configured
7	Argument list too long
8	Exec format error
9	Bad file descriptor
10	No child processes
11	Resource deadlock avoided
12	Cannot allocate memory
13	Permission denied
14	Bad address
15	Block device required
16	Device busy
17	File exists
18	Cross-device link
19	Operation not supported by device
20	Not a directory
21	Is a directory
22	Invalid argument

23	Too many open files in system
24	Too many open files
25	Inappropriate ioctl for device
26	Text file busy
27	File too large
28	No space left on device
29	Illegal seek
30	Read-only file system
31	Too many links
32	Broken pipe
33	Numerical argument out of domain
34	Result too large
35	Resource temporarily unavailable
36	Operation now in progress
37	Operation already in progress
38	Socket operation on non-socket
39	Destination address required
40	Message too long
41	Protocol wrong type for socket
42	Protocol not available
43	Protocol not supported
44	Socket type not supported
45	Operation not supported on socket
46	Protocol family not supported
47	Address family not supported by protocol family
48	Address already in use
49	Can't assign requested address
50	Network is down
51	Network is unreachable
52	Network dropped connection on reset
53	Software caused connection abort
54	Connection reset by peer
55	No buffer space available
56	Socket is already connected
57	Socket is not connected
58	Can't send after socket shutdown
59	Too many references: can't splice
60	Connection timed out
61	Connection refused by server
62	Too many levels of symbolic links
63	File name too long
64	Host is down
65	No route to host
66	Directory not empty
67	Too many processes
68	Too many users
69	Disc quota exceeded
70	Stale NFS file handle
71	Too many levels of remote in path
72	RPC struct is bad
73	RPC version wrong
74	RPC prog. not avail
75	Program version wrong
76	Bad procedure for program
77	No locks available
78	Function not implemented
79	Inappropriate file type or format

*

1.10 Known Bugs

"Where's the Raid?"

1. There is a PRT: error that intermittantly appears. Some programs that write to the PRT: device will sometimes get a -1 error returned. I know where the bug lies and a fix is in the works. I have found that printing to the normal NetPar device will sometime fix this bug. Why? It appears that Netpar is affecting the PRT: filesystem opening the device clears out the memory....
2. The only way to restart the NetParSpool program after it has died (or after you turn off your machine) is by doing another print job. Starting the NetParSpool from cli/shell may not work because the NetPar device needs to create some system semaphores and a message port that the spooler needs in order to work properly. This bug will be fixed when the NetParSpool becomes a commodity.

*

1.11 Software NetPar has worked on

"The Real Test"

We have had success with the following software:

AdPro 2.5
Brilliance
Deluxe Photo
DPaint IV
Directory Opus (4.0+)
Final Writer (3+)
Gold Ed 2+ (using prt42_50.lha)
MaxiPlan
PageStream (2.0+)
PenPal
Phasar (3+)
ProCalc
ProDraw
ProPage (4.1)
SuperBase Pro
TV Paint
TypeSmith
Wordsworth (3+)

and many others.... If you are successful with
another software package, let me know.....

1.12 Hardware NetPar has been tested on...

"Now My Amiga Plays with others!"

Please send me information about your setup so
I can continue to expand this list.

Amigas

A1200
A1200/060
A2000
A2000/030
A3000
A3000T
A3000T/040
A3000T/060
A4000
A4000/060
A4000T

Networks

AmiTCP (4.0+)
Miami (2.1+)
Caldera OpenLinux Lite
RedHat Linux 4.2
RedHat Linux 5.0
IRIX 5.3

IRIX 6.2
 Sun OS 4.1.3
 Solaris 2.4+

Printers

Apple LaserWriter 600
 Apple LaserWriter 12/640
 EFI ColorPASS Colour RIP (connected to a High-End Cannon Printer)
 Epson EPL-N2000 Laser Printer
 Epson LQ-1050+ (via RedHat 4.2 Server)
 Fujitsu Printpartner 14 (via RedHat 5.0 Server)
 HP LaserJet 6MP (via JetDirect EX Plus 3 Print Server)

*

1.13 History of NetPar Lpr Changes

This Client started from the shell of the Original NetPar Releases. It has since gained it's own life.

AmiNET Release 2.0

NetPar.device	37.28	(5.3.98)
parallel.device		
NetParSpool	37.5	(5.3.98)

- * Found which optimize flag was causing problems for Beta 7. Turned Optimization for speed back on. Noticed better Disk IO and Network IO because of it.

- * Touch up on AmigaGuide Docs.

Beta 8

NetPar.device	37.26	(4.27.98)
parallel.device		
NetParSpool	37.4	(4.27.98)

- * Programmer Stupid - Left a piece of test code in Beta 7. Caused graphics mode to not work.
 - * Had one nested Forbid() without a Permit()
 - * Found 68040-68060 Data Cache error (very intermittant)
 - * Spooler now waits for a Do IO message before trying to send files accross network. Spooler will also Wait() for 1 minute if asked to Wait on network.
 - * AmigaGuide docs are FINALLY included.
-

Beta 7

NetPar.device 37.26 (4.19.98)
parallel.device
NetParSpool 37.3 (4.20.98)

- * One bug with the NetParSpool would have reported a Connect() 61 error after the first printout was sent to the server. This is actually a bug with the compiler and it's OPTIMIZE routines. Spooler is 200 bytes bigger, but works better so I can live with it.
- * No memory leaks. No Enforcer hits.
- * Added Unit Support. Again moved the environment variables around to compensate.
- * Added prt42_50.lha support.

Beta 6

NetPar.device 37.25 (4.1.98)
NetParSpool 37.2 (3.29.98)

- * cli/shell copies to PAR: now work!

Known Bug: Still having intermittent PRT:
copy problems.

Beta 5

NetPar.device 37.24 (3.24.98)
NetParSpool 37.2 (3.29.98)

- * Did a intelligent truncation of long servernames. RedHat return E-Mail should work...
- * Message would get printed whenever you copied anything to the parallel port from cli/shell. No longer does this.
- * NetPar will still report if network is down. If user decides to "Wait", no error message will be reported when Network is brought up (Used to get a "connect() 49" error message). NetPar will just report that the error condition has been fixed and printing is resumed..
- * Installation script will not overwrite Beta 4 settings.

Beta 4

NetPar.device 37.24 (3.24.98)
NetParSpool 37.1 (3.27.98)

- * Environment variables have been moved and renamed. One new variable has been added.

 Env:NetPar/PrinterHOST -- Holds the Server name or the IP address of the network ready printer.

 Env:NetPar/PrinterNAME -- Holds the printer name.

 Env:NetPar/SpoolDir -- Holds the print spool directory. If the Spool directory set here does NOT exist, NetPar will use the T: directory.....
- * DEBUG version no longer exists.
- * Errors are now reported through System Messages.
- * NetPar now has a Spooler program to send the printer files over the Network. The Spooler is triggered by a print request and will run until your machine is shut off. It checks for new files once every minute.
- * You can now print off-line and your prints will be sent when the network is available.
- * Network transfers are now BUFFERED! I did not plan on this, but the redesign just made buffering fall into place. You should see a 200x speed increase on large files with NO freezing of your machine!
- * The reserved socket problem that caused an "Authentication Error" is now fixed...

Beta 3

NetPar.device 37.22 (2.26.98)
NetParDebug.device

- * Found a formatting error in the Control file creation. Might have caused an error on the lpr server. Control files is definately RFC compliant now.
- * Changed the banner to print your hostname instead of "NetPar".
- * Really slowed down the debug version. Sometimes the device will outrun the drive I/O and wierd things happen. You will definately feel the difference, but now a bad drive crashed from a over-run log should be a thing of the past.

Known Bugs:

Unable to Copy to PRT: and PAR: from cli/shell

Beta 2

NetPar.device 37.21 (2.22.98)

NetParDebug.device

- * Changed to correct printer request.
- * Fixed ALL enforcer hits on debug client. Stable now...
- * My I/O bufferring was causing a "Broken Socket" error, file sends are no longer buffered.
- * Found several conditions that would cause NetPar to freeze.
- * Fixed the "Unable to cancel" error - The only time you will be unable to cancel a print request is when NetPar is moving the file to the server.
- * I have tested this version on Miami. Works fine for my setup.
- * Upon any errors, NetPar will keep the datafile in the T: directory.

Known Bug:

Since bufferring is removed, file transfers of large files will make your machine appear to freeze. Be patient, the file is being transferred 1 byte at a time....On a 200K file, my 25Mhz 030 (A2065) was only getting about 3000 CPS transfer rates to the server and took about 30 seconds. This will be fixed as soon as I know that I am connecting to the lpd/printers correctly.

Beta 1

NetPar.device 37.20 (2.15.98)

NetParDebug.device

- * Spooled single file to T: then tried to connect to server. Still had Enforcer hits to find. Only 50% of testers could use it.

*

1.14 Future of the NetPar Lpr Client

"It's full of stars...."

- * - Get the NetPar Server to be LPD compliant. Then you could use your Amiga as a print server on a Unix-Novell-Windows-OS/2 (-Mac?) network..
- * - Rewrite the printer.device to take over all the functionality that the prt42_50.lha package provides. I could then integrate the spooling function between the printer.device and the printer port.
- * - Turn the NetParSpool program into a commodity.
- * - Do some things that the ICOA printer group has discussed, maybe create a demo version of this setup.
- * - Still thinking about SMB/CIFS (Samba-Windows-OS/2 type of printer sharing)
- * - Locale and multiple language support. I have lived/visited several countries and have first hand knowledge of the frustration you get while trying to communicate with someone who doesn't speak your primary language. I have not forgotten the non-english speaking Amiga users.....

*

1.15 Who I Be? And others....

NetPar was written at the request of my father. He had a ParNet network of two computers, one for himself and one for my sister. Sharing printers was never very easy. They would have to CMD to redirect the printer output and then get the other person to copy the file to PRT: There were other problems with ParNet that made it hard to recover from crashes. One side crashing made you reset the entire network. I convince him to move over to a AmiTCP network using MagPLIP. Then I wrote NetPar to let them share the printer. He suggested that other Amiga users might be in need of the same program ... so here it is.

One other person needs to be thanked in reference to the Lpr NetPar Client and adding prt42_50.lha support. I was having problems with saving the unit information from within my code. When I finally got it to work, a nasty Enforcer hit was produced. After pulling my hair out for a few days on my own, I asked the Question about this Enforcer hit and posted it on the internet. Tim Corringham pointed me to the right location the very next day.....Thanks again Tim.....

I am a Computer Programmer employed by the US Air Force. I have been programming on the Amiga since 1987 when I purchased my first Amiga. I have since owned every model except for the A4000 and the A1200. I am currently running a A3000T. In the Air Force I have been lucky enough to program on a myriad of machines SGI's (Indi II's, Onyx, and Reality Monsters), Alpha's, IBM MainFrames (360/370), VAX Mainframes, Sun's (SunOS 4.1.X through 5.X) and Windows NT (3.51 and 4.0) boxes....

Amiga still rules....

When you consider that I have a job with 60 hour weeks, four kids, one wife, one dog, two cats, and five gold-fish, it's a miracle there is a NetPar at all.

You can send bug reports, comments or just e-mail to me at:

Michael M Brockman, <mailto:mikeb@skylink.net>
<http://www.skylink.net/~mikeb>

PGP Key Available upon request
