NetPrint

A Network Printer Linker

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Installing NetPrint

To use NetPrint you must create a file called NETPRINT.INI. It must be located in your Windows subdirectory and it must have the following format:

[NETPRINT]
\\SRV1\PRNT1=
\\SRV1\PRNT2=
\\SRV2\PRNT1=

The fields are not case sensitive. The first line must be "NetPrint" surrounded by square brackets. The following lines must hold the fully qualified network names of the printers you wish to link. The names must be concluded by an "=".

You must also place the Visual Basic file VBRUN100.DLL file in a subdirectory in your path. This file is available on CompuServe's MSLANG forum and may be freely copied and distributed with this application.

Since the network functions used by NetPrint are not specific to a particular LAN OS, they should work with any LAN. I've only tested them with LAN Manager 1.x (3+Open), however.

Running NetPrint

To use NetPrint just run it from Program Manager, File Manager or the Load line of WIN.INI. Once NetPrint loads it will display the printers listed in NETPRINT.INI in the available printers list box. The Printer Ports box will show local printer ports which are not redirected. The Linked Printers list box will display the printer links which are already in

effect.

To link a printer select a network printer and a port and then click on the Connect button. Both a network printer and a port must be highlighted.

To unlink a printer select the linked printer you wish to unlink from the Linked Printers box and then click on the Disconnect button.

If you don't have a mouse you can use the Tab key to move between boxes and buttons. Within a list box use the cursor control key to point to the desired device and then use the space bar to select it.

A special note about the Networking Functions

NetPrint uses three functions which are only marginally part of the standard Windows API. They are not documented in the Software Developer's Kit but they are documented in the Device Developer's Kit. Frankly, if your LAN already has a DLL with functions to link and unlink network volumes, you should use those instead of the ones used here. But if you are running a network which does not have a Windows DLL such as 3+Open or any other version of LAN Manager 1.x, you don't have much choice. The nice thing about these functions is that they should work with any Windows supported network.

The details of these functions are as follows:

WNetAddConnection

Purpose:

Adds a network link between a workstation device (s:, t:, lpt3:, etc.) and a network device of the corresponding type.

Declaration (on a single line):

Declare Function WNetAddConnection Lib "User" (ByVal NetPath As String, ByVal Password As String, ByVal LocalDev As String) As Integer

Parameters:

NetPath   The name of the network device to which you wish to link
Password   The network password if required to link to the network resource

LocalDev   The local workstation device which will be linked to the network

resource.

Return codes:

0   Link succeeded
1   Function not supported by the Windows network driver for your LAN
2   Network Error
4   Invalid Pointer
6   Bad Password
7   Access Denied
11   Out of memory
50   Invalid network resource name
51   Invalid local device name
52   Local device is already connected to a network resource

WNetCancelConnection

Purpose:

Adds a network link between a workstation device (s:, t:, lpt3:, etc.) and a network device of the corresponding type.

Declaration (on a single line):

Declare Function WNetCancelConnection Lib "User" (ByVal LocalDev As String, ByVal Force As Integer) As Integer

Parameters:

LocalDev   The device name of the local device which is to be unlinked
Force   An integer value. Set to 0 if the unlink should fail if the

workstation has files open on the network resource. Set to 1

if the unlink should be forced.

Return Codes:

0   Unlink succeeded
1   Function not supported by Windows network driver for your LAN
2   Network Error

4 Invalid Pointer
5 Invalid local device name
11 Out of memory
48 Specified local device was not redirected on the network
49 Files were open on the linked network volume. The value of the
variable "Force" was FALSE.

WNetGetConnection

Purpose

To determine if a connection exists between a workstation device and a network resource. If the connection exists the name of the network device is returned.

Declaration (on a single line):

Declare Function WNetGetConnection Lib "User" (ByVal LocalDev$, ByVal rmtname$, buffsize%) As Integer

Parameters:

LocalDev$ The device name of the local device to be tested.
RmtName$ An empty variable which will hold the name of the network
resource to which the local device is connected.
BuffSize% An integer variable which holds the length (i.e. number of
characters in the variable RmtName$

Return Codes:

0 Function call succeeded
1 Function not supported by Windows network driver for your LAN
2 Network Error
4 Invalid Pointer
5 Invalid local device name
11 Out of memory

Licensing Information

Link'n Load is placed in the public domain as sample application code.

The author accepts no responsibility for losses of data resulting from use of this code.