

Text to PDF generation using a standard SCO lp command

SCO Openserver uses files located in the `/usr/spool/lp/model` directory as base templates for its printers.

When a printer is created it takes a copy of the base script and copies it to the `/usr/spool/lp/admins/lp/interfaces` directory as the printer name that you specify.

An example would be creating a printer called "local" would be created by the SCO printer system copying a copy of the `/usr/spool/lp/model/standard` script to the `/usr/spool/lp/admins/lp/interfaces/local` file.

After the spooler has created the spooler queue, It is possible to use the lp command such as `lp -d local /etc/hosts` to print out the file using the printer spooler as normal.

Installation

Unzip and copy the `pdfmail` script in this directory to the `/usr/local/lp/model` directory and set its permissions to the same as the other printers in the directory.

Source a copy of `mpack` from `ftp.andrew.cmu.edu` and install it into your `/usr/bin` directory of your server. Source a copy of `txt2pdf` from `www.sanface.com` and install it.

On my system, I use the `/txt2pdf` directory to locate the `sanface` software.

Using the standard `scoadmin printer manager` tool from the command line, Create a printer called `pdfmail` using the standard model of `pdfmail` as its model type, Under device modify to `/dev/null` as the output source. (This is a standard SCO method of printer installation for a local printer)

Testing

At the command prompt, Type in `lp -d pdfmail -t <Your email address> /etc/hosts` and your SCO server should generate an email with your `/etc/hosts` file attached as a pdf file and email to your email address.

The advantage of using this method of printing is that you are using the local printer spooler to manage the pdf generation and this extra feature can be added to most existing legacy applications.

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