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Configuring the Extended Systems ExtendNet 100s print server

The Extended Systems ExtendNet 100s model 2941 print server is used in Animal Intelligence installations to centralize control of printing tasks. This whitepaper describes the process of configuring the print server and attaching the Dymo LabelWriter ASCII 250 or EL60 label printers to it.

Print server in this discussion means the physical ExtendNet box that attaches to the network via cables.

Physically hook up the print server and label printer

1. Position the print server and printer in close proximity.
2. Attach one end of a cat-5 net cable to the print server's 10BaseT/100BaseTX/UTP port, and the other end to the network jack.
3. Plug the transformer connector into the power port of the print server, and plug the other end into the wall.
4. Attach the 8-wire RJ45 end of the special cable sent to you by AIS to the P2/serial port of the print server, and the other end to the jack of the label printer.
5. Plug the power cord for the label printer into the appropriate place on the back of the label printer and into wall power.

Installing the print server management utilities on the server

The following are all done on your network file and print server (The "NT Box")

1. Download the latest versions of the print server management utilities from the Extended Systems website. There have been important changes to the utilities that have to do with operation with Windows NT, so you will need the latest versions. The website is at <http://www.extendsys.com/support/downloads.html>. Under Print Servers/Utilities, choose first Windows Printing and download xconnip.EXE, then choose TCP/IP and download xvwip231.exe. On or around November 3, 1999 Extended Systems will release xvwip232.exe; if this is there download it instead. Copy these two files to separate floppies (they are too big to fit on one disk) if necessary.
2. Install ExtendView for TCP/IP – this allows you to set the print server's IP address and configure its serial port for use with the label printer. Execute the file xvwip231.exe. This is a self-extracting archive; let it extract the files and then start the setup utility. You want to install ExtendView for TCP/IP.
3. Once ExtendView is installed, start it from Start/ Programs/Extended Systems Printing.
4. Open the Print Server menu and choose Configuration. A dialog will appear asking you to enter an IP address; do so. Once the address has been stored the Configuration tabbed dialog will open at the TCP/IP tab. There is nothing else you need to configure at this point for TCP/IP.

5. Click the Output Port tab, then select Port 2. Give the port a name (“Label” would be good), set Language Switching to Off, set the port language to Text, and set the Output type to 19,200 baud for the EL60 printer or 9600 baud for the ASCII 250.
6. Once these changes have been made, click OK and OK again to reset the server. You will be returned to the ExtendView main window. At this point you are finished with the utility and may close it.
7. Now install ExtendNet Connect (Xconn) on the server. Again, XconnIP.EXE is a self-extracting archive and will trigger the setup program once its files are extracted. The only thing you can install here is ExtendNet Connect for TCP/IP; do so.
8. There is no independent interface for Xconn. What you have done is created a network port to which your users can connect. To “activate” the port, however, you must install the printer first on the server, then share it. From that point you can install the printer from each workstation as a network printer. Here’s how:
9. From Start/Settings/Printers, double-click Add Printer. When the wizard asks if this “My computer” or a network printer, choose “My computer.” Click Next.
10. The next dialog in the Wizard asks you to select a port. Click the Add Port button, and select “Extended Systems ExtendNet Connect IP Port Monitor,” then click the New Port button. The network will be queried for the print server and in a few seconds an *Add ExtendNet Connect Port* dialog will appear. Choose the port name you gave to the second port, then click Add. Then, click Close from the Ports dialog. You will be returned to the Add Printer wizard, and in a few seconds the new port will appear on the list. Make sure it is checked, then click Next.
11. The printer selection dialog will appear. Choose “Have Disk ...” Insert the Dymo LabelWriter drivers CD in your CD-ROM drive, choose Browse, then drill into the Drivers folder on the CD and choose the appropriate OS folder. Click Open, then OK, then choose the appropriate printer. If yours is the ASCII 250, choose LabelWriter XL Plus. We recommend accepting the default name for the printer – all workstations must use the same name for each printer (not necessarily the same port, but the same printer name) in **AI**, and sticking with the default name will ensure that. If you change the name, be sure to write it down so it can be used for the other workstations.
12. The Sharing folder appears. Click the Shared radio button, then type in a share name. We recommend EL60 or ASCII250, depending on your printer model. At this point you can also attempt to install the Windows 95 drivers for the printer to simplify the workstation installation; we discovered that there seems to be a bug somewhere that prevents us from indicating where on the Dymo CD the drivers live. We were, however, able to return to the printer’s Properties page later and add these without difficulty. Click Next to continue.
13. Make sure to print a test page to test the installation. You should get about 2/3 of the Windows logo and nothing else on the label the prints. If you get this the installation was successful.
14. Finally, enable Server mode for the printer. To do this, right-click on the printer from the Printers window and choose Properties. Then, choose the Ports tab, click the Configure Port button, then click the Advanced button. Click the Server Mode checkbox, then click OK. Click OK again to close the Configure Port dialog, and finally click OK to close the Properties page.
15. You are now finished with the server installation of the printer.

On each workstation

1. We will assume you have installed the Windows 95 drivers for the printer on the server in these instructions.
2. To install the printer on each workstation, choose Start/Settings/Printers, then double-click the Add Printer icon.
3. Choose Network printer as the connection type, then browse to the server and select the printer. Since the EL60 cannot print MS-DOS output, choose “No” to the question, “Do you print from MS-DOS programs?”
4. Again, we suggest you leave the printer name as the default. If not, be sure to name it the same from every workstation. It is not necessary to make the label printer the default printer.
5. We again recommend printing a test page. This time, the entire Windows 98 logo will print and you will see a bit of text underneath. The text will be only about 1” wide and will be cut off – this is normal. On our test printouts, we see the text: “Congratula” with the rest of the word cut off.
6. If the printout was ok, you are finished. Repeat the workstation installation for each workstation on the network.