

CUPS

Common Unix Printing System

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CUPS – Why?

- Output of computer work onto more traditional paper is a convenience (?) of modern IT.
- Programs originally had drivers for each printer (Word Perfect took over word processing in the USA based partly on good printer drivers.)
- CUPS provides a method to access printers not supported natively by current drivers in eCS (OS/2).

CUPS - Why

- Many high grade printers work on HPL or PS drivers, but lots of printers use specific drivers – and only Windows and Mac/Linux supplied.
- New factory specific OS/2 (eCS) printer drivers are unknown now!
- Do not get a cheap printer labeled as a “Windows printer” as it is made with software to do all the “thinking” work in Windows, rather than in the printer.

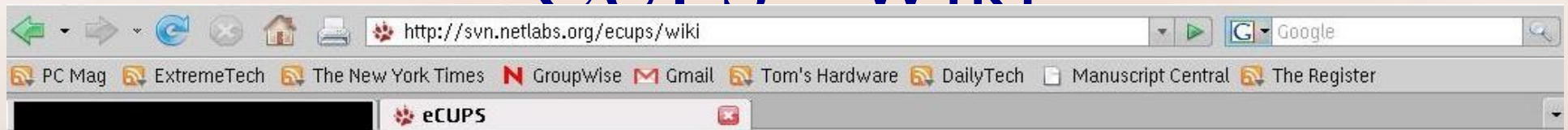
CUPS – Unix help

- The rise of Linux and the change of MacOS to Unix forced a significant push for drivers under these OS's. Many companies now make such drivers available on midrange printers.
- eCS (OS/2) developers & users with software skills have been able to port CUPS to eCS (OS/2)
- I needed to access USB and network printers that had no current OS/2 (eCS) drivers – hence the need to get CUPS working on my eCS Ver2 rc6 system.

CUPS- Components

- Since printer drivers include directions for fonts, accessories, ports, etc several components are needed. As early as 2006 a talk at WarpStock Europe discussed eCUPS.
- Much development is ongoing, but the best current directions are found at:
<http://svn.netlabs.org/ecups/wiki/HowTo>
- The wiki has links to the software and is reasonably up to date. Be sure to start with all the latest files as one of my biggest problems occurred when I got an older download missing files.

CUPS - Wiki

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Welcome to eCups

This project is intended to create a seamless integration of [eCUPS](#) into eComStation.

It consists of a the following components:

- [Port driver \(PDR\)](#) which allows printing to a CUPS server.
- [Postscript printer driver replacement \(PSCRIPT.DRV\)](#) to overcome the shortcomings of the current implementation (Binary added 11th July, 2008)
- [eCUPS driver](#) that includes many Gutenprint and Splix PPD files preimported into a postscript driver (ecups.drv) to aid ease of use (Updated and renamed 28th December, 2008)
- Printer install tool, detect printers on the CUPS server and allow to create them automatically in your OS/2 system
- The [CupsPort](#) from Paul Smedley also contains Gutenprint and Ghostscript (Updated 3rd May, 09)
- [eCUPS HowTo](#) by Pete Brown

Bart's presentation from Warpstock Europe 2006 is available at:

<ftp://ftp.netlabs.org/pub/ecups/ecups.pdf>

More to come soon

We have some additional information available:

- [TerminoLogy](#) : Some terms used in the mailing lists explained
- [AddPpdFiles](#) : How to add additional printers with a PPD file to pscript.drv by andywillis
- [GhostScriptRasterPrinting](#) : Using ghostscript to print to unsupported printers by frolof
- [UsingCUPSServer](#) : Print to printers that are managed by a remote CUPS server by Warp5
- [ModifyingPPD](#) : How to modify a gutenprint PPD file for use with pscript.drv by Rich Walsh

news groups & mailing list

- News URL: <news://news.gmane.org/gmane.org.netlabs.ecups.devel>
- Web URL: <http://dir.gmane.org/gmane.org.netlabs.ecups.devel>

CUPS - Starting

- Look up your proposed printer under gutenprint:
http://gutenprint.sourceforge.net/p_Supported_Printers.php
which lists over 1400 printers.
- If your printer is a Samsung or Xerox look at:
<http://splix.ap2c.org/> which supports another 47 printers.
- If your printer isn't listed it may still be supported, but will require testing.
- Figure out if you need USB or network support and remember printers supported by eCS (OS/2) HPL or PS drivers can drive a USB printer with current software.

CUPS - Install

- The wiki instructions are fairly clear, but require careful reading and exact following. Pictures are included!
- You do not have to modify your boot drive or config.sys files, but you do have to add files to multiple directories on the boot drive and set up a series of directories on a drive of your choice.

CUPS - Resources

- Web URL for a news group about eCUPS:
<http://dir.gmane.org/gmane.org.netlabs.ecups.devel>
- I have been able to contact Ed Durrant and Paul Smedley by e-mail with questions.
- There is a CUPS web site: <http://www.cups.org/> which gives updates for the Linux/Unix program.
- I also want to thank Pete Brown, Rich Walsh (no relation), and Andy Willis for contributions.

CUPS - Needs

- I've got my ink jet going, but still need an update to get my laser going. Donations can be made through Mensys: <http://www.mensys.net/os2ports/>
- It would be nice if someone was interested in doing this for a fixed price so if I wanted a printer I could pay \$50 or so and get an eCS (OS/2) driver set.
Volunteers???

CUPS - Demo

- Now we'll switch to a real life demo.