LabelDesigner Documentation

Terminology

Before getting started please take a moment to understand the following terms used in this program.

*Printjob file*:

A printjob file comes from the Storelix application and contains the values that will be available during the creation of a label.

It also contains information about the user that requested the printjob, the creation date, the supported languages and where labels using this printjob should be printed.

*Label definition file*:

A label definition is created and used by LabelDesigner to represent the values in the printjob file in an orderly manner by using text, images and barcodes.

It also contains information about the types of paper the label can be printed on. For example a label made for an A3 cannot be printed on an A4 because it would simply not fit.

*Paper definition file:*

A paper definition is created and used by LabelDesigner to determine how many times a certain label can be printed on a single sheet of paper.

It also contains information on the printing margins and gaps between the individual labels.

Chapter 1: Getting started

First of all, you will need to load a printjob xml file.

You open a printjob file through the File → Open Printjob menu option.

The program will now give you three options to continue:

- Load default label:

This option will load the default label that is included in the printjob.

- Load existing label:

This option will open a dialog which will allow you to select an existing label file.

- Create new label:

This option will allow you to create a new label file from scratch.

Let us assume we have no label files yet so we will choose to create one.

Chapter 2: Creating a new label

Upon pressing the "Create new label" button you will be presented by a new form which asks you to define your new label.

You will need to give this new label an id and select which paper types apply. You can choose from already available paper types or you can create your own. To add or remove paper types, select the name of the paper type and then click the left or right pointing arrow buttons.

Selecting a paper type will show its properties on the right hand side of the screen.

It is recommended to set a default paper definition for each label. To set it, select a name in the "Supported paper types" list and check the "Set paper type as default" checkbox.

NOTE: It is not recommended to change the DPI options.

NOTE: The "Done" button will only become available after all data has been inserted.

Let us assume we have no paper definition files available yet so we will create our own.

Chapter 3: Creating a new paper type

When creating a new paper type we are first presented by a form. This form needs some advanced input:

- Id:

Name of the paper type

- DPI (X and Y):

Dots Per Inch of this paper type. NOTE: It is not recommended to change these values

- Size (X and Y):

Size of the actual paper. NOTE: Label size will be determined by paper size divided by the number of labels on each sheet.

- Horizontal Offset:

The amount (in mm) of empty space left on the top of each paper sheet printed.

- Vertical Offset:

The amount (in mm) of empty space left on the left of each paper sheet printed.

- # Horizontal Labels:

The number of labels that will be put next to each other on this sheet of paper.

- # Vertical Labels:

The number of labels that will be put above each other on this sheet of paper.

- Horizontal Interlabel Gap:

The amount (in mm) of empty space between 2 horizontally spaced labels.

- Vertical Interlabel Gap:

The amount (in mm) of empty space between 2 vertically spaced labels.

Clicking ok will create a new paper definition file in the paper definition root.

NOTE: A newly created paper type will automatically be added to the "Supported paper types" list and will be made the default paper type.

Chapter 4: The Main Screen

Once we have chosen which label file we want to work with, we can get started on actually creating the content of the label.

*Left Side:*

On the left side of the screen you will see a list called "Available items". This list contains all values in the printjob file that can be used on the label. When an item is already placed on the label, the name of the item will be in red letters.

NOTE: Creating a new field from an already placed item will add a sequential number to the field name, this field will also be forced to reference the original field.

The buttons "Text", "Barcode" and "Image" will transform a selected item in the "Available items" list into a field we can use on the label. A form will appear asking you for more information before the field is placed. For more information go to the detailed chapter of the type of field you have selected.

The button "Link Text" will take 2 already placed text fields on the label and convert them into a "Linked Text Field". Linked text will take into account each other's length so that they will not overlap. More information will follow in the "Linked Text Fields" chapter.

*Center:*

The center of the screen shows 1 label. If your paper type prints multiple labels per sheet of paper, it will copy this 1 label shown.

*Right Side:*

The bottom right of the screen shows the "Used items" list. This list contains the names and values of all fields currently on the label.

The top right of the screen shows properties of a selected item in the used items list. The shown properties will change depending on which type of field you have selected. For more information go to the detailed chapter of the type of field you have selected.

Changing the position of a field can be done in multiple ways. First you must always select it in the "Used items" list. You can change the position by:

- changing the X and Y values in the properties.

- clicking or holding down the arrow buttons below the properties.

- tapping or holding down the arrow keys on the keyboard.

The "Delete" button just above the "Used items" list will delete the currently selected used field. More information can be found in the "Deleting: Advanced information" chapter.

The double arrow up and down buttons to the left of the "Used items" list can be used to sort the "Used items" list. Items that appear at the bottom of the list will be drawn over items on top of the list.

You should now have enough information to start drawing labels. For more advanced information you should read the following chapters.

Chapter 6: The Text Field

To create a text field, select an item in the "Available items" list and then click the "Text" button. A form will pop up.

A text field has the following properties:

- ID:

Name of the field.

- Value:

Value of the field.

- X and Y positions:

X and Y positions of the field on the label.

- Rotation:

Amount of degrees of clockwise rotation given to this field.

- Font:

Font to be used by this field.

- Align Text:

Text in a text field can be left or right aligned.

- Reference:

A reference given to a field will tell the field not to use its own value but instead use the value of the field it was referenced to.

-Type:

To format dates or numbers you can change the type of the text field to Date, Decimal: Whole, Decimal: Integer or Decimal: Fraction.

Decimal: Whole will display the entire decimal value

Decimal: Integer will only display the part before the comma of a decimal value

Decimal: Fraction will only display the part after the comma of a decimal value.

- Format:

If a text field is of type Date or Decimal you will be able to add a format string.

This string will define how a date or decimal value will be shown.

Please refer to the Microsoft webpage for more details on how to use format strings.

- "Use manual width and height" checkbox:

Enabling this checkbox will allow you to use the Width and Height values.

- Width and Height:

These values set a specific width and height for this field. This field will no longer grow or shrink to fit its content. Values that are too big will get cut off and values that are too small may leave empty areas on the label if this field is set to overwrite others.

Chapter 7: The Barcode Field

To create a barcode field, select an item in the "Available items" list which has a compatible barcode value and then click the "Barcode" button. A form will pop up.

A barcode field has the following properties:

- ID:

Name of the field.

- Value:

Value of the field.

- X and Y positions:

X and Y positions of the field on the label.

- Rotation:

Amount of degrees of clockwise rotation given to this field.

- Align Text:

Text in a barcode field can be left or right aligned.

- Reference:

A reference given to a field will tell the field not to use its own value but instead use the value of the field it was referenced to.

-Type:

A barcode can be of the following types: EAN8, EAN13, UPCVersionA, Code39, Interleaved2Of5 or EAN128. Make sure to select the appropriate type.

- Character limit:

This will limit the amount of characters in a barcode. This is normally set automatically when a type is chosen but can be changed manually.

- Width and Height:

Sets the width and the height of the barcode field.

- "Show text" checkbox:

Disabling this checkbox will remove the text from the barcode field.

NOTES:

- If the barcode field appears to be too small, you may have set the wrong type or the character limit is too high.

- The "Use manual width and height" checkbox cannot be unchecked on a barcode field.

- While text alignment is supported, it will do nothing in most cases.

- If a red "X" appears it means that the barcode value cannot be converted to the type of barcode you have chosen.

Chapter 8: The Image Field

To create an image field, select an item in the "Available items" list which has a value with an image file extension (ex. image.jpg) and then click the "Image" button. A form will pop up.

An image field has the following properties:

- ID:

Name of the field.

- Value:

Value of the field.

- X and Y positions:

X and Y positions of the field on the label.

- Rotation:

Amount of degrees of clockwise rotation given to this field.

- Align Text:

Text in a text field can be left or right aligned.

- Reference:

A reference given to a field will tell the field not to use its own value but instead use the value of the field it was referenced to.

- Resize Style:

Selecting "Normal" will make the field use the exact size of the image file.

When selecting "Stretch" you will need to enter a width and height for this image field. The image will then stretch to fill the field size.

- "Keep Ratio" checkbox:

When using a stretched image the keep ratio setting will tell the image to keep its size ratio to prevent deforming the image.

- "Grayscale" checkbox:

When enabled the image will no longer use colors.

- "Use manual width and height" checkbox:

Enabling this checkbox will allow you to use the Width and Height values. This can only be used on stretched images.

- Width and Height:

Sets the width and height for a stretched image.

NOTES:

- Having a stretched image with no width and height specified will result in an error being displayed instead of the image.

- If the value is not a correct filename or if the filename is not found in the pictures directory, an error will be displayed instead of the image.

- "Keep Ratio" is only available on a stretched image.

Chapter 9: The Linked Text Field

A linked text field consists of 2 or more text fields. The linked text field will position the text fields so that they will not overlap one another when values change.

To create a linked text field you will need to have at least 2 text fields that are already placed on the label. It does not matter which item you have selected in the "Available items" list.

After clicking on the "Link Text" button a form will pop up.

In this form you are able to set some properties and add text fields to the link text field.

To add or remove text fields you select them in the "Available Text fields" list or the "Added Text fields" list and then click on the up or down pointing arrow button.

A linked text field has the following properties:

- ID:

Name of the field.

- X and Y positions:

X and Y positions of the field on the label.

- Rotation:

Amount of degrees of clockwise rotation given to this field.

- Align Text:

A linked text field can be left or right aligned.

-Concat Method:

This determines if the text fields will be ordered horizontally or vertically.

- "Use manual width and height" checkbox:

Enabling this checkbox will allow you to use the Width and Height values.

- Width and Height:

These values set a specific width and height for this field. This field will no longer grow or shrink to fit its content. Values that are too big will get cut off and values that are too small may leave empty areas on the label if this field is set to overwrite others.

NOTES:

- Unlike other fields, you can determine the Id of the linked text field.

- You can recognize linked text fields in the "Used items" list because they do not have a value associated with their name.

- All text fields added to a linked list will no longer appear in the "Used items" list on the main screen.

- All text fields added to a linked list will use the X, Y and rotation values given to them by the linked text field.

- You can still change the properties of text fields inside a linked list by clicking on their name in the "Linked fields" list in the property window of the linked list. The arrow button will allow you to go back to the "Linked fields" list.

Chapter 10: Adding Fonts

When adding a font you will first be asked to fill in a name. Fonts must have a unique name.

Upon clicking "Ok" you will be presented by the standard windows font picking dialog.

Strikeout and underline functions are supported.

Once you have selected your font properties, the program will ask you if you want to invert the font you just made. Inverting will make the background turn black while the letters will be printed in white.

Chapter 11: Deleting: Advanced information

Always take care when deleting objects as they can have a large effect on your current label. Following is a list of events that happen when you delete certain items:

- Deleting items from the "Available items" list using the "Items → Delete" menu option :

If the item was used in the label then all fields using this item will be deleted.

All fields referencing this item will also be deleted.

- Deleting a font:

All fields using the font that was removed will now use the "Default" font.

- Deleting a field on the label using the "Delete" button:

All fields referencing the field that was deleted will also be deleted.

NOTE: There is no undo function. It is recommended you save your label before deleting.

Chapter 12: The menu bar

Following is a short description of all functions in the menu bar.

File

Open Printjob:

Opens a new dialog in which you select a new printjob file. Warning: All unsaved data will be lost!

Save Label:

Saves the current label into an xml file in the label definitions folder.

Save Label as...:

Opens a new dialog in which you can select a new location to save your label file.

Print Preview:

Uses the default paper type for the currently loaded label and will show you a print preview.

Show Borders:

Toggles the borders around fields on and off. Borders can help you align fields and show you where fields with a width and a height stop.

Exit:

Exits the program.

Labels

New:

Opens the "Create New Label" form. Clicking the "Done" button will load the new label. Warning: unsaved data will be lost.

Open:

Opens a dialog in which you can select a new label to load.

Warning: unsaved data will be lost.

Edit:

Opens the properties of the current label. This form will allow you to change the supported paper types.

Delete:

Shows all available label files in the label definitions folder. Selecting items and clicking the "Ok" button will delete them from the hard drive.

Paper types

Add:

Opens the "Create New Paper Type" form.

Edit:

Shows all available paper type files in the paper definitions folder. Selecting an item and clicking the "Ok" button will open the properties for that paper type.

Delete:

Shows all available paper type files in the paper definitions folder. Selecting items and clicking the "Ok" button will delete them from the hard drive.

Items

Add:

Here you can add values to the "Available items" list. Values added here will be saved in the label file instead of the printjob file.

Edit:

Shows all available values from the label file. Selecting an item and clicking the "Ok" button will allow you to change its value.

Delete:

Shows all available values from the label file. Selecting an item and clicking the "Delete" button will delete it from the "Available items" list and from the label.

Fonts:

Add:

Opens the "Add Font" dialog. For more information please read the "Adding Fonts" Chapter.

Edit:

Shows a list of all available fonts. Selecting an item and clicking the "Ok" button will allow you to change the properties of the selected font.

Delete:

Shows a list of all available fonts. Selecting an item and clicking the "Delete" button will delete the font.