SOP Creating a printer pool

On Windows, a printer pool is a single named printer with two or more print devices   
(printer ports). Windows sends a given print job to any of the printers in the pool. This   
feature is very useful in environments where users do a lot of printing and need the speed   
that additional printers can provide, without having to ask the user to choose which specific print device to use.

There are no PowerShell cmdlets to enable you to create a printer pool. Older printer   
features—the use of PrintUI.DLL and RunDLL32, which have been features in Windows   
for several versions. These tools are another example of making use of console applications where you need them.

Getting ready

You run this SOP recipe on the PSRV. Additionally, this recipe assumes you have created the   
printer, as per the SOP *Install and share printers recipe.*

How to do it:

1.Add a new port for this printer:

Add-PrinterPort -Name Sales\_Color2 `   
 -PrinterHostAddress [10.10.10.62](http://10.10.10.62)

2.Create a printer pool for printer SGCP1:

$printer = 'SGCP1'

Rundll32 PrintUi.dll,PrintUIEntry /Xs /n   
 "$Printer" Portname 'Sales\_Color2,Sales\_Color'

3.To see the results, get the printer details and display them as a nice table:

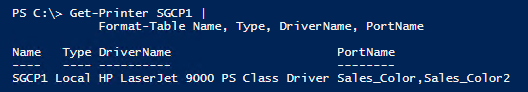
Get-Printer SGCP1 |   
 Format-Table -Property Name, Type,   
 DriverName, PortName

How it works:

As noted earlier, you use PrintUI.dll to set up a printer pool. You invoke this DLL by   
using the RunDLL32.exe console application. The DLL contains the functions that the   
printer management GUI dialog use to perform their actions. RunDLL32.exe enables you to use scripting to perform the necessary printer configuration operations.

In *step 1* of the recipe, you add a second printer port. In this case, we are adding a second   
network port. You could use a parallel, serial, or USB port if that is appropriate in your   
environment. In most organisations, the print server is in a server room, with networked   
printers nearer to the users.

In *step 2*, you use PrintUI.DLL to set the SGCP1 printer to have two printer ports, thus   
creating a printer pool. In *step 3*, after you create the printer pool, you can view the results   
by using Get-Printer, which shows the following:



You can also look at the GUI entry for the printer on the print server, PSRV:

