HP PRNCON.exe - Release Notes

PRNCON.EXE is a console application for removing and adding an HP network printer's point-and-print connection between a Windows client workstation and a print server.

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Version:

PRNCON.exe version - 13.05.23.3

Release Notes version 6 – September 2017

Supersedes

PRNCON version (prncon.exe -?)	Release Date	Release in
13.05.23.3	June 2013	PARK 1.7.2
12.11.13.1	December 2012	PARK 1.7
11.11.09.1	May 2010	PARK 1.5
10.5.27.2	July 2009	PARK 1.2

Description

PRNCON.EXE is a console application for removing and adding an HP network printer's point-and-print connection between a Windows client workstation and a print server. Driver information is stored in a log file when adding or removing point-and-print connected network printers.

NOTE: PRNCON.EXE does not remove the printer driver from the client or print server.

Update recommendation

Recommended/Advised – Includes new enhancements, features, and/or minor bug fixes. HP recommends all customers to update.

Product Models

PRNCON supports the HP Universal Print Driver (UPD)

Devices Supported

Refer to the specifications tab at www.hp.com/go/upd for a list of devices, which are supported by the HP UPD.

Supported Operating Systems

- Microsoft Windows 7 SP1*
- Microsoft Windows 8 / 8.1
- Windows 10
- Microsoft Windows Server 2008 R2 SP1
- Microsoft Windows Server 2012 / 2012 R2
- Microsoft Windows Server 2016

*Microsoft has ended mainstream support for this operating system.

NOTE: PRNCON is a 32-bit application but will run on 64-bit operating systems

Tested Operating Systems

This application has been tested with Windows 7

Languages

English (International)

Enhancements/Features

13.05.23.3

- Display the system error code if print server verification fails
- Changed log file name from prncon.trc to prncon.log for consistency with other tools
- Changed the way print server verification works for better compatibility with workstation environments

12.11.13.1

- Verifies that the print server is available before deleting and reconnecting. In previous versions, it was possible to delete printers and not be able to re-create them because the print server was not available.
- Retries 3 times if initial reconnect fails. There have been reports of intermittent RPC server unavailable errors that this feature attempts to address.

11.11.09.1

- Added -w (wait) option to prevent XP clients from using cached settings.

Fixes/Fixes History

NA

Purpose

When printer driver files are upgraded on the print server, it is necessary to synchronize the client printer driver files with the print server to ensure that the client can print properly and utilize all new features provided by the upgraded print driver. If the client has an active connection to the print server at the time the print driver files are upgraded, the print driver files installed on the client may be 'locked' and will not update until the user logs off the workstation and logs in again. In some cases, this process of logging off and back in may not be sufficient to resynchronize all driver files with the print server.

Hewlett-Packard created the PRNCON.EXE tool to automate the process of remotely removing and reestablishing a network point-and-print connection and logging the results.

Operation Notes

PRNCON operates on hp drivers only. PRNCON checks the name of the driver associated with the printer, and if the driver name does not contain "HP " or "Hewlett" (case ignored) the printer will be bypassed.

Usage

prncon -s <server_name> -p <printer_name> -f <trace_file> -a|-d [–w <milliseconds>]

- <server_name> - Print server name, without "\\".
- <printer_name> - Printer name as defined on server.
- <trace_file> - Name of trace file, including complete path. If the –f option is not specified, the default trace file is: Default trace file is: %TEMP%\prncon.trc
- -a - Used to add a printer connection.
- -d - Remove a printer connection.
- <milliseconds> - Number of milliseconds to wait between delete and add operations
- Default is 0 milliseconds
- -? Display command line help

NOTES:

- The printer has to be shared on the server; <printer_name> is not the SHARE name.
- It has been observed that some clients will not properly synch up with the settings on the print server unless there is a time lapse between the delete and add operations. If this behavior is observed, it is recommended to start with a 3 second wait period (-w 3000).

Example:

To remove connection:
prncon -s prnsvr123 -p "HP LaserJet 4000 PCL 6" -f "%temp%\prncon.log" –d

To add a connection:
prncon -s prnsvr456 -p "HP LaserJet 4000 PCL 6" -f "%temp%\prncon.log" -a

Alternate usage

Running PRNCON.EXE without any switches will reset all point-and-print connections between the client and the print server(s)

Sample Log file

1. ------ PRNCON.exe Starting on Machine : CWDCN070D6B, Time : Tuesday, May 25, 2010 16:15:08 ------
2. PRNCON version 10.05.24.1 :

3. Command line: prncon
4. GetPrinterConnections: \\RSM0NAM01.nam.corp.hp.com\CPP-LGR66-2-2B1D skipped: Server Name is NULL
5. GetPrinterConnections: Adding printer \\RSM0NAM01\CPP-2-1B-1@\\RSM0NAM01
6. GetPrinterConnections: Adding printer \\RSM0NAM01\CPP-66-2-3E-3@\\RSM0NAM01
7. GetPrinterConnections: \\RSM0NAM01\CPP-66-2-3E-Xerox238 skipped: Not an HP driver

8. ***************** Existing Printer Info **************

9. Printer Connection: \\RSM0NAM01\CPP-2-1B-1
10. Printer Name is :   \\RSM0NAM01\CPP-2-1B-1
11. Server Name is :   \\RSM0NAM01
12. Printer Driver is :   HP Universal Printing PS (v5.0)
13.

    ************** Existing Driver Version Details ***************

14. Environment   : Windows NT x86
15. Driver File   : C:\WINNT\System32\spool\DRIVERS\W32X86\3\PSCRIPT5.DLL
16. Data File   : C:\WINNT\System32\spool\DRIVERS\W32X86\3\hpcu091s.ppd
17. Config File   : C:\WINNT\System32\spool\DRIVERS\W32X86\3\hpmdp091.dll
18. File - C:\WINNT\System32\spool\DRIVERS\W32X86\3\PSCRIPT5.DLL
19. Time Stamp   - Wednesday, August 26, 2009 16:47:32
20. Language   - English
21. File Version - 0.3.7600.16385
22. Prod Version - 6.1.7600.16385
23. File - C:\WINNT\System32\spool\DRIVERS\W32X86\3\hpmdp091.dll
24. Time Stamp   - Wednesday, September 02, 2009 04:02:30
25. Language   - English
26. File Version - 0.3.1540.66
27. Prod Version - 5.0.1.42
28. **
29. '\\RSM0NAM01\CPP-2-1B-1' Printer Connection has been deleted
30. **
31. Connecting to printer \\RSM0NAM01\CPP-2-1B-1
32. ***************** New Printer Info **************
33. Printer Name is :   \\RSM0NAM01\CPP-2-1B-1
34. Server Name is :   \\RSM0NAM01
35. Printer Driver is :   HP Universal Printing PCL 5 (v4.7)
36. ************** New Driver Details ************
37. Environment   : Windows NT x86
38. Driver File   : C:\WINNT\System32\spool\DRIVERS\W32X86\3\PSCRIPT5.DLL
39. Data File   : C:\WINNT\System32\spool\DRIVERS\W32X86\3\hpcu091s.ppd
40. Config File   : C:\WINNT\System32\spool\DRIVERS\W32X86\3\hpmdp091.dll
41. File - C:\WINNT\System32\spool\DRIVERS\W32X86\3\PSCRIPT5.DLL
42. Time Stamp   - Wednesday, August 26, 2009 16:47:32
43. Language   - English
44. File Version - 0.3.7600.16385
45. Prod Version - 6.1.7600.16385
46. File - C:\WINNT\System32\spool\DRIVERS\W32X86\3\hpmdp091.dll
47. Time Stamp   - Wednesday, September 02, 2009 04:02:30
48. Language   - English
49. File Version - 0.3.1540.66
50. Prod Version - 5.0.1.42
51. ------ PRNCON.exe Stopping Trace on Machine : CWDCN070D6B, Time : Tuesday, May 25, 2010 16:15:40 ------

Sample Log File Explanation:

Line 1: Starting time and machine name

Line 2: PRNCON version

Line 3: Command line

Line 4-7: Enumeration of all the network printers on the client

Line 4: This printer was skipped because the printer did not appear to be a legitimate network printer.

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Line 5-6: Network printers flagged for deletion and re-connection.

Line 7: This printer was skipped because it is not an hp printer.

Line 9-12: The printer and driver name of the first printer scheduled for deletion and re-connection.

Line 14-27: Driver information for the first printer.

Line 27: This is the version of the driver currently being used for this printer. It may be the same version as on the print server if synchronization happened automatically.

Line 29: Indication that the printer was successfully deleted

Line 31: The connection to the printer was successfully re-established

Line 32-50: Information on the new driver. By comparing lines 27 and 50, we see that the driver versions are the same, indicating that the synchronization had already happened automatically.

Line 51: Stop date and time