
Fact Sheet 18

Printing using someone else's printer

If you want to print out reports from a Lucid software product but do not have a printer connected, please read the following advice which should provide you with a solution.

- ◆ *I have Lucid software running from my computer (eg laptop) but it doesn't have a printer. However, one of our other computers (eg a desktop) has a printer connected and I would like to print out reports on that printer.*

Solution 1

The best solution is to take out the printer cable from the desktop computer and connect it to the laptop, start the Lucid software on the laptop and then print the desired reports using the newly connected printer. This solution assumes that your laptop has already been set up to print to that particular printer (if it hasn't you will need to set up your computer to use the right printer - see "Installing the correct printer driver" below).

Solution 2

If you are unable to connect a printer to your computer you can use a neat trick to get round the problem:

Make sure that your laptop has the correct driver for that printer installed (See "Installing the correct printer driver"). From the Lucid program's reports screen choose the Printer Setup option and from there choose the correct printer. Here you choose to Print to a "file" rather than directly to the printer (see "Printing from a print file"). You can then transfer the print file to the computer with a printer and print from the file to the printer. Be aware that if you use this solution you will need to produce one separate print file for each report that you wish to have printed.

Installing the correct printer driver

A computer needs special software called drivers in order to print correctly to a particular type and make of printer. Different and specific printer drivers are generally required for different printers. If you do not install the correct printer driver the print-outs may produce errors, gobbledygook or not work at all.

We advise that you get a person with appropriate knowledge to install the correct printer driver to your computer so that you can then connect your computer directly to the printer and print out what you require. Nevertheless it is a straightforward process so long as you have the appropriate driver files (ones that came on a CD with the printer or appropriate ones obtained from the internet or via the operating system).

Printing from a print file

Start the print process as normal and then select to print to a file (rather than directly to the printer) by checking (ticking) the appropriate box (see Figure 1 below). You will then be asked to name the file that you are creating. All the instructions for the print job are contained within the file rather than sent directly to the printer as you would normally do when printing out.

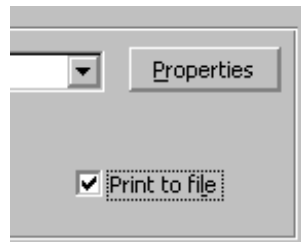


Figure 1

When you type in the name of your Print File you should append it with “.prn” (this is normally reserved to denote a print file). As an example, you may wish to create several Print files for a student named Mark Bunting. For the first of these files you could use the name “MarkB01 .prn” (see Figure 2 where the file is being saved directly to floppy disk). A second Print file with another of Mark’s reports could logically be named MarkB02D .prn, and so on.

Remember if you attempt to save the print file to a floppy disk (as shown in Figure 2) but the floppy disk does not have enough free space, it will not be saved. Floppy disks generally have a capacity of 1.44Mb and the print file may be bigger than this or there may be other files already on the disk.

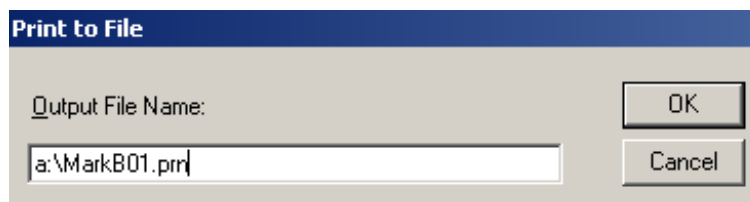


Figure 2

Take the file to the computer that is connected to the printer and then issue the print command from a DOS prompt (or Command prompt). You can access the DOS prompt from the “Start” button then “Programs” then “Accessories” and choose “Command Prompt” or “DOS prompt”. In the example shown the command that you need to issue is **print a:\MarkB01.prn** (see Figure 3). Note the command is “print” followed by the filename to be printed, including its location or path.

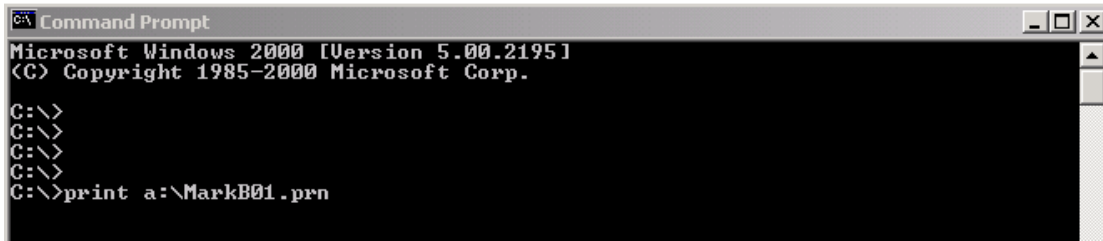


Figure 3

NB – Rather than use the DOS or command prompt you can run the command from the “Run” option found by clicking on “Start” and then “Run”, as shown in Figure 4 and Figure 5.

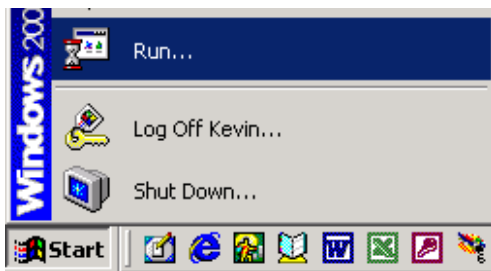


Figure 4

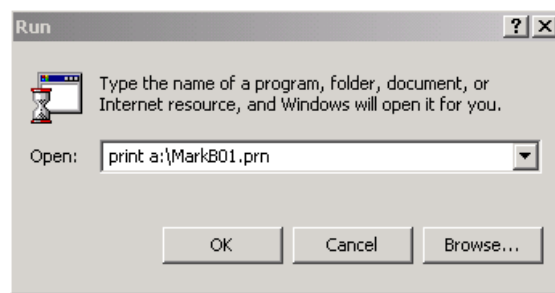


Figure 5

If you have any further queries please check our web site to see if the information that you require is there and if not then please contact us directly.

For more information about Lucid or the developments or research please visit the Lucid web site www.Lucid-Research.com. The Lucid staff can be contacted by email info@lucid-research.com, telephone +44 (0)1482 862121 or fax +44 (0)1482 882911.

Please note that the information contained in this document is correct at time of going to press.