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# NiceLabel Advanced Printing Management Solutions

NiceLabel's focus on the needs of enterprises

Version 20081209-01

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## Executive Summary

While it may be true that NiceLabel is not the only provider of enterprise label printing solutions, it has long been a driving force in the market. The labeling technology has recently caught up to and surpassed the technical needs of the enterprises, and it became increasingly obvious that labeling solutions failed to address the issues of the modern organized enterprise.

NiceLabel answered this call by once again redefining the approach to enterprise labeling with solutions, which redirected their primary focus from technical capability to business needs, such as cost management, resource management, reliability, quality assurance, and self-sustainment with minimal supervision.

This paper will illustrate the approach NiceLabel has taken to develop advanced printing control and management technology to offer the enterprise visible business benefits, such as unprecedented control over its printing resources and processes, reducing costs, increasing reliability, and productivity.

Following the resounding success of the NiceLabel printing integration methods and platforms, the enterprise partners largely requested a broader integration of label printing. The need for the complete integration of label printing into the broader organizational scheme of the enterprise was addressed, and resulted in a system, which provides an unprecedented organization and transparency of the printing system.

The business benefits of such a system are both significant and measurable, allowing the enterprise to cut costs, increase productivity, and utilization of resources. Most importantly, it transforms the printing system into a self-sustained organized operation, minimizing the need for physical supervision and control.

## Enterprise Solutions

The benefits of advanced printing control and management are relevant primarily to the enterprise sector. A basic printing operation with one computer platform and one printer can be easily controlled physically, there are no resources to share, and no elaborate coordination of staff and processes is required. In an enterprise scenario, however, the stakes are higher.

An enterprise environment is already structured, organized, and carefully managed. In order for it to include the printing infrastructure with little or no change to current managed processes, the advanced printing system must not only include all the necessary features to match existing work practices, it must be incredibly scalable and flexible.

While NiceLabel is most certainly not the only label printing software to venture into this field, it has broken new ground and has set benchmarks for some time to come with unprecedented enterprise-level architectures for printing operations. Essentially, it has taken the complaints and grievances of the enterprise sector and redefined enterprise label printing as a business-critical process which does not tolerate delays or mistakes, and which can instantly turn around and adapt to changing market conditions and production demands.

### Global Printing Network

The first and foremost benefit that imposed itself with the evolution of bidirectional printing communication was remote access of any and all printing operations, procedures and resources, removing the dependency on local human tracking and supervision.

For the first time, an organization that uses label printing on several locations in one plant or perhaps even globally, can access, control, and manage all of its printing operations from a central location. Every relevant piece of printing information can be directed from one location, and every single print job can be logged, planned, and accessed instantly through a Web-based client which communicates with every printer in the organization.

Enterprise Print Manager

Overview | **Print Management** | Storage Server | Web Printing | History | Reports | NW Enterprise | Administration

Print Queues | Print Queues with Errors | Printer Groups | Printer Groups with Errors

Home > **Manage Print Queues**

Monitor all NiceLabel print queues and groups, as well as their status. Select a particular workstation or group to manage its printers and print jobs.

**Workstations**

Name ^	Print Jobs	Last Printed	Status
BOBER	474	10/27/2008 10:22:43 AM	
DAVORIN	0	N/A	
DEMOCENTER	0	N/A	
DENIS	0	N/A	
DEVCENTER	0	N/A	

Pause | Resume | Delete all documents | Refresh

<input type="checkbox"/> Name ^	Print Jobs	Paused	Offline	Native Driver	Network	Shared	Status
<input type="checkbox"/> Avery Dennison AP 5.4 300DPI	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not accessible or offline
<input type="checkbox"/> BIXOLON SAMSUNG SRP-770II	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ready
<input type="checkbox"/> CAB A2 Gemini	0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Port conflict
<input type="checkbox"/> CAB A3 203DPI	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not accessible
<input type="checkbox"/> Canon CP660PS	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ready
<input type="checkbox"/> DATAMAX DMX I-4206	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not accessible
<input type="checkbox"/> HP LaserJet P2015 Series PCL 6	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ready
<input type="checkbox"/> Inaje 262x	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Port conflict

## Complete Transparency of All Printing Operations

The management and organization of printing operations ensures that the work process is optimized and streamlined, using resources rationally and effectively. Once these goals are reached, technical errors and hardware failures become painfully obvious, as do their costs.

Full technical access to the complete printing system is therefore crucial to not only solve technical issues, but take measures to prevent their occurrence, redistribute print jobs in case of technical faults, and receive instant alerts and relevant information when the system does not perform as expected.

In many enterprise-level label printing systems, a technical error may cause significant delays in the production process or distribution, and a near-instant reaction to a labeling error makes the cost of downtime a largely preventable and less dramatic business consideration.

The screenshot displays the 'Enterprise Print Manager' web interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs for Overview, Print Management, Storage Server, Web Printing, History (selected), Reports, NW Enterprise, and Administration. Below this is a breadcrumb trail: Home > Activity details. The main content area is titled 'Activity details' and includes a sub-section 'Details' for a 'Label Print' job. The job status is 'Printed'. A table lists job details: Label Filename (H:\TESTING\EXAMPLES\Drivers\NiceNew\01 - Internal Counters 000.lbl), Requested Quantity (5), Begin Print Time (10/30/2008 3:11:54 PM), End Print Time (10/30/2008 3:11:55 PM), Workstation (DRVTESTXP\_32), Printer (ZDesigner 140XiIII Plus), NiceLabel User, and System User (UROSD). To the right of the details are links for 'Additional Details' and 'Reprint'. Below the details is a 'Label Jobs' section with a table showing job ID 1, printed quantity 5, and status 'Spooled'. An expanded view of the job shows a table of labels with columns for Type, Name, and Value.

Id	Printed Quantity	Status	RF Tag
1	5	Spooled	

  

Type	Name	Value
Prompt	Counter1	1
Prompt	Counter2	00000044
Prompt	Counter3	00
Prompt	Counter4	002
Prompt	Counter5	33

### Print Job Status Control

In the age of constant global communication, information has become one of the most valuable commodities. Each piece of operating information needs to be accessible instantly and as completely as possible, and printing is no exception.

*NiceLabel Enterprise Series* thoroughly addresses this issue by offering supervisors and production managers instant control over individual print jobs. Any labeling print job anywhere in the organization can be cancelled, repeated, edited, moved to another printer, and similar. This provides the complete organization with unprecedented freedom and insight into the printing process.

### Central Resource Repository

In the spirit of resource conservation and cost cutting, the NiceLabel enterprise module for advanced printing control *Enterprise Print Manager (EPM)* serves in part as a central label printing resource repository. It includes a repository accessible from any location in the organization, which contains label templates, printing forms, or label design resources.

The screenshot shows the 'Enterprise Print Manager' web interface. The main content area is titled 'Document Storage Server' and contains a table of documents and a list of actions.

Name	Size	Created	Modified	
SAMPLE.LBL	61 KB	10/13/2008 8:29:27 AM	10/13/2008 8:29:27 AM	
Forms		10/10/2008 9:41:39 AM	10/10/2008 9:41:39 AM	
Graphics		10/10/2008 9:41:39 AM	10/10/2008 9:41:39 AM	
Labels		10/10/2008 9:41:39 AM	10/10/2008 9:41:39 AM	

Actions available on the right:

- Upload File
- Create New Folder
- Create New Project
- Copy
- Move
- Delete

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In this way, if a correction is to be done to one or more labels due to changes in the business needs, the changes can be performed centrally, and all printing locations can use the updated printing templates instantly. It has never been easier to share and coordinate resources, and the central repository allows the organization to eliminate most of the red tape that used to accompany changes to labeling content.

## Grouping of Printing Platforms

As the printing infrastructure is managed and operated remotely and digitally, the various connected printing platforms can be organized into groups to simplify their operation. They may be grouped and managed at will, usually based on their geographical location or position in the work process, but any other criteria can be applied as well.

Much like all other enterprise work processes and operations are part of a broader network, the printing operations can be organized and integrated into the system. The Enterprise Print Manager's structure allows easy organization of the printing operations and instant access to individual sections and all the pertinent information regarding their performance.

## Alerting and Error Control

Errors in a structured production or distribution system are inevitably followed by delays and downtimes. In a modern enterprise which maximizes its production

resources and processes, this causes immense disruptions in the flow of production and introduces additional costs.

NiceLabel acknowledges this issue as one of the core quality control issues of all labeling systems. The prevention and maintenance measures that are available in the Enterprise Print Manager go a long way to reduce the number of errors in the system, but the occasional technical error will happen, and it will carry a significant price for every moment it keeps the line backed up and waiting.

This is why the EPM also features a highly efficient and customizable alerting system, which can look out for certain types of errors and report them to the assigned technical staff or line management. Notifications of non-critical errors can be delivered by e-mail for example, while matters demanding immediate attention can be reported by SMS message to a cellular device.

The options are broad and many, making it possible to adjust the alerting and error reporting to the needs of the production system, minimizing the financial impact of technical glitches.

### **Web Printing**

In all printing solutions with a Web-platform, Web Printing is a tool that cannot replace the high performance needs of the enterprise, but can be useful when off-site access and intervention is needed in the system.

Aside from reprinting a past print job on the same or different connected printer, the Web Printing function of the EPM allows the user to access the system from anywhere in the world, bring up a label template stored in the shared data repository, enter the variable information if needed (such as a barcode value, address, etc), and print the label to any printer in the network.

The near-infinite flexibility offered by this function allows for a broad range of practical applications, saving precious time.



The screenshot displays the 'Enterprise Print Manager' web interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs for 'Overview', 'Print Management', 'Storage Server', 'Web Printing' (selected), 'History', 'Reports', 'NW Enterprise', and 'Administration'. Below this is a sub-navigation bar with links for 'Print to Local Printer', 'Print to Server Printer', 'Create PDF File', and 'Printing Wizard'. The main content area is titled 'Print to Local Printer' and includes a breadcrumb 'Home >'. A message states: 'The printer to which the print job will be sent is connected to your workstation running the web browser.' The interface is divided into several sections: 'Label File Selection' with a 'File name' field containing 'http://DEVCENTER:8080/Labels/WebPrinting.lbl'; 'Keyboard Input' with a text box 'What is your name' containing 'John'; 'Printer' with 'Local printer' set to 'Printer on COM1' and 'Server driver' set to '\* Avery Dennison AP 5.4 300DPI'; and 'Quantity' with a 'Labels' field set to '1' and a 'Print' button. A 'Preview' section shows a sample label with the name 'John', the text 'printed this label from a web browser.', the time 'Time: 11:23:07', and a barcode.

## History

One of the main benefits of a networked system lies in the fact that all printing operations take place in a single interconnected IT environment.

The central system logs all activities and events, not only showing current statuses and operations, but keeping a detailed log for all past labeling events on connected platforms and printers.

This log offers vital insight and oversight of printing operations, downtimes and error handling, as well as provides an exhaustive and comprehensive set of data for the (more practical) graphical report displays.

## Reports

An elaborate set of data identifying all operations on every printer or by any user over time allows for a fairly simple, yet infinitely useful function. The line manager or executive can easily look into the organization's workloads and see whether some printing stations are overwhelmed or underutilized, how often certain locations are suffering from errors and breakdowns, and similar.

The EPM literally provides a survey of the printing infrastructure for any time period, at any given time, anywhere in the world. The benefits that can be achieved by

translating this information into organizational and restructuring measures are too numerous to list.

## Conclusion

The label printing activity introduces very specific considerations to what is at first sight a simple process. A closer inspection shows that the average printing and the labeling process could not be more different, and that any similarities are superficial.

Labeling tends to be a part of the production or logistics processes, which carries a whole subset of requirements. Instead of merely needing to print a digital image to a physical surface, labeling must be particularly flexible, faultlessly accurate, and lightning fast.

Living up to these basic demands in an environment where coordinated printing is distributed across several physical locations seems like a daunting task. This is why NiceLabel has focused particularly on the business needs of our enterprise clients, developing a system that is catered to the environments in which it will be used; a system that both answers the need for highly complex label printing, as well as the ever-present need to minimize the human control of the operations, running expenses, and downtime costs.

## Appendix

### Additional Resources

Additional documentation is available, detailing individual NiceLabel products and industry solutions. As any detailed documentation of these processes also depends on the individual solution, the examples and workflows in specific documentation are based on NiceLabel products and the NiceLabel methodology of enterprise-level label printing performance and automation. The documents are available at <http://www.nicelabel.com/Learning-center>.

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White Papers:

- White Paper: Managing the Hidden Costs of Enterprise Printing
- White Paper: Understanding the Essential of Label Printing Performance
- White Paper: The Concerns and Benefits of Label Printing Integration

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General NiceLabel resources

- [NiceLabel Web site Learning Center](#)
  - [NiceLabel Tutorials](#)
  - [NiceLabel Technical FAQ](#)
  - [NiceLabel Technical Support site](#)
  - [NiceLabel forums](#)
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