The Linux Print2Win mini–HOWTO

Table of Contents

The Linux Print2Win mini−HOWTO....1
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1. Introdution....1
2. Server (Windows)....1
3. Client (Linux)....1
4. /etc/printcap TIPS....1
5. License....1
6. Credits....1
1. Introdution....1
2. Server (Windows)....1
3. Client (Linux)....1
3.1 Standard lpr....2
4. /etc/printcap TIPS....2
5. License....3
6. Credits....3

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This howto contains the general configuration to get linux printing to a Windows print share.

1. Introdution

2. Server (Windows)

3. Client (Linux)

- 3.1 Standard lpr

4. `/etc/printcap` TIPS

5. License

6. Credits

1. Introdution

As we want the print service running, let set up all the environment step by step, to avoid mistakes or bad configurations.

First, set up the server, so when you have the server running, go to the clients and configure them.

2. Server (Windows)

There is no special rules when configurating the server. Just install the printer driver in the Windows server, test it to certificate the printer is running properly, so share the printer.

3. Client (Linux)

The setup of the client is almost the same when you are setting up the printcap to print linux to linux, with some changes.

3.1 Standard lpr

The simplest way to do it is adding an entry in `/etc/printcap`. As a quick example, the entry for a generic matricial printer would be:

```
# EPSON LX300
  epson:\
      :sd=/var/spool/lpd/epson:\
      :mx#0:\
      :sh:\
      :if=/var/spool/lpd/epson/filter:\
      :lp=/dev/null:
```

* Make sure you are using the correct filter, or the right generic one.

Be sure you have created the directory `/var/spool/lpd/epson`, and the users you wish to use the printer have the right access to this.

For example, let the Windows Print Server be called by `meriadoc`, it `IP=192.168.1.49` and the printer (at Windows) are shared as `epsonLX`.

So, you have to configure `/var/spool/lpd/epson/.config` like this:

```
share='\\meriadoc\epsonLX'
hostip=192.168.1.49
```

Where:

- share='\\windows−print−server−name\print−share−name'
- hostip=windows−print−server−IP

Once your `/etc/printcap` is configured, you have to enable the print share:

```
[localhost]$ lpc up epson
[localhost]$ lpc enable epson
```

If everything is ok, you can send jobs to the queue:

```
[localhost]$ lpr −Pepson <file>
```

---

4. `/etc/printcap` TIPS

I have used the entry below in the first example, but this is not a particularly good idea:

```
...
   :lp=/dev/null:\
```

Because lpr does an `exclusive' open on the file you specify as lp=. It does this in order to prevent multiple processes from trying to print to the dame printer at the same time.

The side effect of this is that in your case, eng and colour can't print at the same time, (usually more or less transparent since they probably print quickly and since they queue you probably don't notice) but any other process that tries to write to /dev/null will break!

On a single user system, probably not a big problem. I have a system with over 50 printers. It would be a problem there.

The solution is to create a dummy printer for each. Eg: touch /dev/eng.

```
[localhost]$ touch /dev/eng
[localhost]$ touch /dev/colour
```

5. License

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6. Credits

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