

# Vprt: a euphoria virtual printer device

version 2  
created by Michael Raley  
created ? 2003  
revised 4/3/2007

## Purpose:

Vprt.exe provides a command line configured raw TCP print device for directing print jobs into files. It can run in batch termination mode or remain active to service additional print jobs. You can have multiple vprt instances actively listening for connections by specifying a different tcp port for each data channel. By default VPRT serializes filenames into the form

[path and prefix][sequence number]\_[month][day][extension]

the sequence number is always 4 digits with leading zero's. So up to 9999 unique files per day.

## command line parameters

VPRT.EXE [Path and prefix] [extension] [TCP PORT] [OPTIONS]

Path and prefix "C:\spooled\report" : the filename will start with "report" under spooled

"\\MYSERVER\myshare\$\report" : the UNC format for a windows share

Extension : ".txt" or whatever you want. The files are always written in Binary mode.

TCP PORT : Any available to bind to. 9100 is typical for HPJet direct. The Lantronix MSS100

serial device server uses 3001

OPTIONS: Stacked together in a delimited string.

(run mode)      END      : on closing report VPRT exits with return code 0  
                  NOEND   : waits for next connection. increments sequence number for next report

(File mode)    APPEND    : (explicit). append new info at end of file if rollon is not specified

                  OVERWRITE: (implicit) replace the file if rollon is not specified

(Serialization) ROLLON: if file ####\_mmdd exists already, roll to the next available #  
                  STATIC: don't add serialization between the prefix and extension  
                  REUSE : (Implicit) if file #1 exists it will be overwritten or appended.

(DISPLAY)       SILENT: no standard output will be sent, thus no console window POPUP.

## examples:

vprt "c:\spool\r" ".txt" "9105" "END|APPEND|SILENT"  
creates r0001\_mmdd.txt or adds to it if the file was already present. Terminates when the report is done.

VPRT "C:\SPOOL\" ".PRN" "9106" "noend & ROLLON"  
creates 0001\_mmdd.prn unless it already exists, in which case it tries 0002, 0003, etc... then wait for the next report

VPRT C:\SPOOL\MYFILE .TXT 9107 end-APPEND-static-SILENT  
create myfile.txt or keep adding to it. terminate when the report is done.

## employment:

VPRT works generally works with anything that supports a raw TCP device. VPRT has been used to diagnose print spooling and data stream sent to legacy serial devices such as card embossers attached via Lantronix MSS serial device servers. I use it

to collect claim prints,billing forms, and console logs from a Mckesson Star 2000 system.  
(Mumps over unix)

to use with a DOS application you must first create a printer device using local/standard  
TCP port monitor

with custom settings for the TCP/IP port # and disabling SMTP options , then create a  
share name for the print device,

assign permissions , and then map the printer with the "net use" command i.e

"net use LPT1: \\computername\myvpert"

#### **caveats:**

VPRT does not provide a timeout for listening connections. it will wait indefinitely.

To cancel VPRT hit ctrl+c at the console window. If you specified silent mode in the  
options string then you must

kill it from task manager in the processes tab as there is no windowed application.

BUG/FEATURE: VPRT currently does not check for an instance already listening on the  
specified port. It will report

a socket failure and hang the process.

VPRT does not give SMTP responses an actual printer would , such as "Low toner" or "out of  
paper". It is always  
either on or off/busy.

What type of driver should you use? VPRT doesn't care. It depends on what you need to do  
with the data.

Generic/text would likely be called for. You can also print text and graphics with a  
postscript driver

then use ghostscript's ps2pdf function to convert the postscript file to a PDF document.