



Implementation at debis Systemhaus in Hamburg and Berlin (Germany) by GDS PrintSoft

The Customer

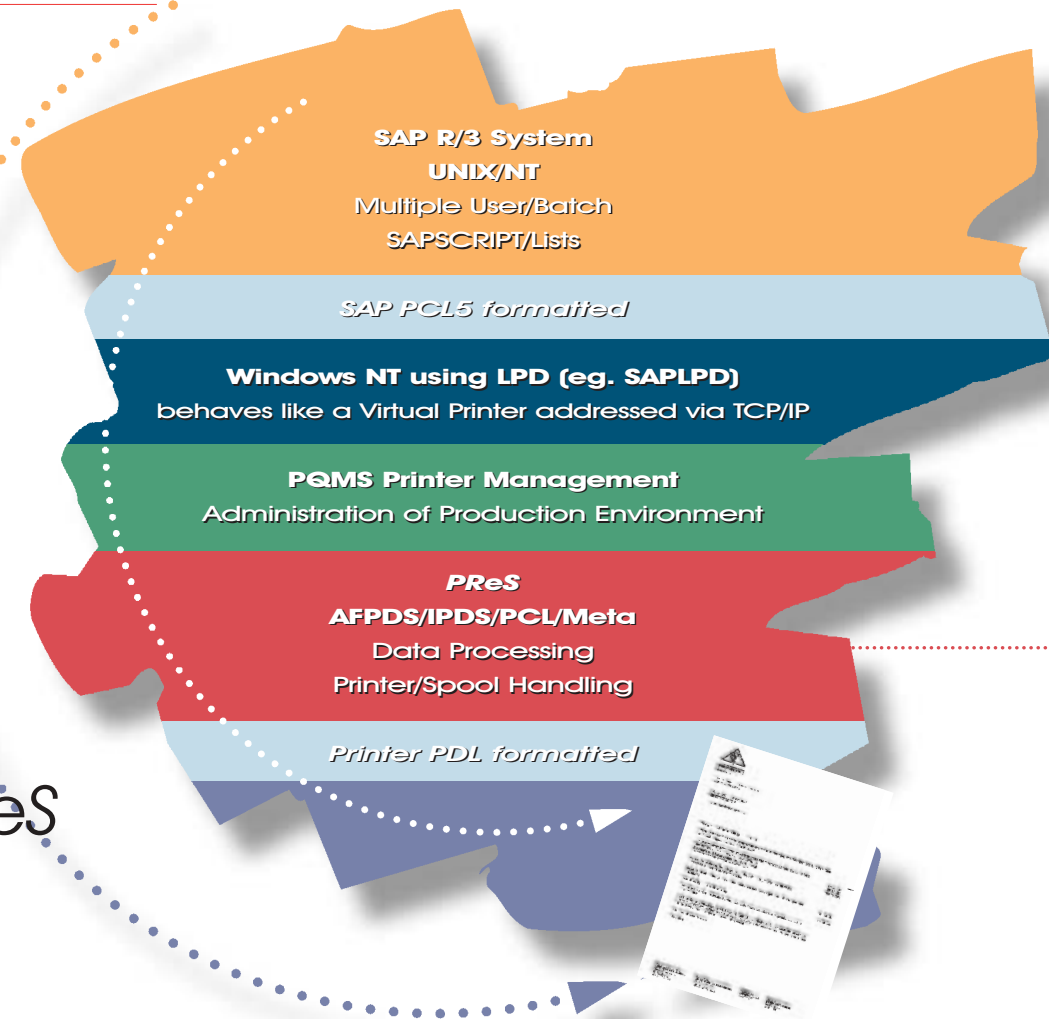
debis IT Services (debis Systemhaus) was established in 1990 and is now Germany's leading vendor-independent provider of information technology (IT) services. In 1998 the company employed more than 13,325 people and generated sales in excess of US\$2,5 billion. debis Systemhaus has a comprehensive and vendor-independent range of services which encompasses core competencies in consulting and the development and operation of applications. These are often integrated to form industry-specific solutions for complete businesses.

debis developed outsourcing strategies for large customers such as Axel Springer AG (a leading media company in Germany; newspapers, magazines, TV etc). The debis printcenter in Hamburg performs all the print production, enveloping and mailing for these clients.

The Solution

GDS PrintSoft took responsibility for this project. The first step was investigating the PCL datastream created by SAP. With some help from SAP Waldorf they obtained an overview of the features and functions that could be used in SAP-PCL (especially using SAPSCRIPT). Then they developed a PReS application which is essentially a PCL-Interpreter running under a PReS Print Control, addressing all the features mentioned above.

In the configuration of the SAP-System, the standard HPJL4 driver is used. After initialising a print-process in SAP, the data is automatically transferred to a virtual printer (LPD – Line Printer Daemon) and stored in PCL spool files on a Windows NT PC.



Converting SAP R/3 output with PReS

The Challenge

As many debis clients moved from mainframe-based R2 systems to Unix client/server based R3 systems, they moved from printing on mainframe attached channel printers, to printing locally on PCL printers and outsourcing the bulk printing.

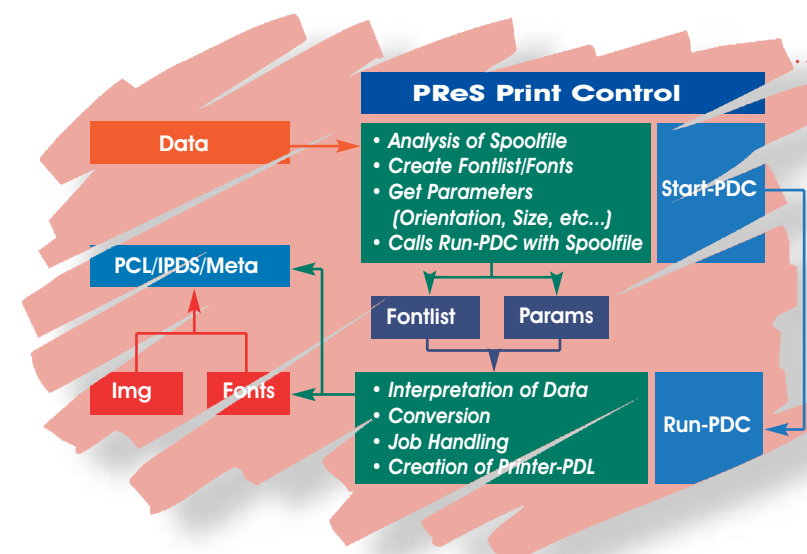
The main task for the project with the debis printcenter in Hamburg was to use the existing Océ cutsheet and fanfold printers (3 x PS75 and 3 x 2240) running IPDS at 240 dpi together with SAP printer formatted data (HP PCL5). It was very important to set up a system that also increased the production efficiency by providing administration and management tools (PQMS was the tool used) and manipulating data for production purposes. For example, using different physical forms e.g. printing on 12" x 9" landscape instead of A4 portrait, two-up functionality, reprint and copy mechanisms, accounting, adding control sequences for postprocessing machines etc.

From that point administration tools link the prepared data to logical jobs (e.g. Invoices, listings etc.) Selecting a job for printing purposes, calls a PReS Print Control and the corresponding application script.

The data is converted to the target-PDL and printed immediately.

The PCL datastream may contain SAP standard lists or invoices created using the SAP module SAPSCRIPT. Users have the option of integrating logos in SAPSCRIPT. This is carried out by integrating macro calls in the data stream.

SAP uses approximately 180 different fonts in the output using various typefaces and point sizes. Fonts are generated automatically from the PReS application when the conversion is to different print systems and/or resolutions.



The Future

Following the first successful installation at Hamburg, a similar system was installed at debis Berlin. Meanwhile GDS PrintSoft was improving the application in order to address more PDLs and resolutions. Various customer installations followed, with other PrintSoft distributors worldwide adopting the same approach. Development work continues with the aim of more closely integrating PReS with SAP output formats.

Currently Supported Features...

- The output formats include PCL5, PostScript, AFPDS, IPDS and Xerox Metacode.
- Automatic font creation
- Banner pages
- Reprint and copy functionality
- Accounting
- Control sequences for postprocessing machines (prepared)
- Administration tools
- Easy customising to customer needs and environments
- Security features

For more information please contact
GDS Printsoft