

Installing NTPrint and Establishing Print Services on Windows NT 4.0

Xitron Navigator Technical Note

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NTPrint is a Plug-in that publishes Xitron Navigator as a printer available through the Windows NT print services. This is what allows your print server to share the Xitron Navigator RIP directly with the rest of your network as well as applications local to your workstation.

If you are running NT Server, sharing the RIP using NT's print services allows you to print to the RIP through an NT print spooler from both Macintosh and IBM platforms simultaneously. It also allows you to print to the RIP from many Macintosh machines at the same time (no more waiting for the RIP to finish processing someone else's job before you print). If you are using NT Workstation as your RIP platform there are some limitations to NT's print services. NT Workstation can not share printers to the Macintosh. Using NTPrint will allow you to share the RIP to IBM platforms as a printer. If you are using NT Workstation you will have to use the standard Appletalk input setting in the RIP to share it as a Chooser item for the Macintosh.

This Tech Note will walk you through setting up NTPrint with Xitron Navigator for use with NT print services.

I. Installation Procedure:

1. Exit all running applications.
2. Find the NTPrint folder (it is a sub-directory of the RIP folder). This folder should be located in the main application directory of your installed Xitron Navigator.
3. Run **setup.exe** from the NTPrint folder. The first screen contains information about the installation, to move on click **Next**.
4. The install application will ask you to locate the folder containing the SW directory. Browse to this location (most likely your main Xitron Navigator folder) and click OK. This will bring you back to the install window, to move on click **Next**.

Note: If the directory you selected does not contain the SW directory the installer will ask you to browse for the directory again.

5. The next step of the process will present a dialog box asking if you would like to read a text file detailing additional setup requirements. If you click yes, the installer will briefly display this text file before completing the installation.

Note: sometimes the installation program only flashes the text file. If you didn't get a chance to read the document in its entirety, don't worry, this Tech Note covers the same material.

6. To use the new software you must reboot after installation.

II. Setting up an NTPrint input.

1. Launch Xitron Navigator, open your input controller from the Xitron RIP menu and select **New**.

2. Name the Input Channel, then in the “Type” drop-down list select “NT input.” Make sure the Enabled box is checked. Select the appropriate Page Setup to be used with this Input.
3. Click the Configure button on the Input Channel Edit window. This dialog window contains controls to handle situations where Inputs have started up before the NT print spooler system was ready. If you check the Enable box in this dialog the Input will try, within a time limit, to establish a connection with the NT spooler if it initially returns a failure message.
4. The next thing to do is to set the Retry Delay. A delay of 60 should be enough for most uses. Keep in mind that the longer you set the delay in a situation where the Input is waiting for the NT spooler, the longer you will delay the starting of other inputs. If you are not experiencing any problems it is best to set the delay low. If a value of ‘0’ is entered a dialog will ask you to enter a number between 1 and 999. To move on click **OK**.
5. Click **OK** again to close the Input Channel Edit window.
6. Use the Start Inputs menu item under the Xitron menu to start your inputs. (Inputs must be started to get the NT print services to recognize the new NTPrint port).

You have created a Xitron Navigator channel that forms a port visible to the NT printer services. Now you have to attach an NT print service to this port. To do this create a new printer under Windows.

III. Creating a new printer under Windows NT 4.0 to use with an NTPrint port.

1. Go to your Start menu, select Settings and open your Printers folder.
2. Double click on ‘Add Printer.’ This will begin the procedure to install a new print service on your computer. Be sure to have your Windows NT Server/Workstation CD handy as part of the installation will request it.
3. The installation program will ask if you want to install a printer that is connected to your computer or is served to the network by another computer. Select ‘My computer’ and click **Next**.
4. The next dialog shows a list of ports, click the ‘Add Port’ button found below this list. This will open another dialog that will ask you what kind of port you wish to add. Select ‘ScriptWorks’ and click the New Port button. The next dialog will ask you to link your new ScriptWorks port to a channel. If everything was done properly in Xitron Navigator and the Inputs are started your new NTPrint input channel should show up in this list, it may in fact be the only item in the list. Select the input channel you wish to use (if there are more then one). To close the window and accept your selection click **OK**. This will take you back to the window with the port list. Click **Close** to move on. You should now see an available port with your ScriptWorks port name with a check box next to it. Click **Next** to move on.
5. You will be asked to select the manufacturer or your printer and appropriate printer driver. If the specific manufacturer and model of the device you are setting up to run to are not listed, feel free to choose something like an Agfa Avantra or some other large format imagesetter. After you have selected your appropriate printer drivers click **Next** to move on.
6. You will be asked to name the printer. You will be asked if you want your newly created printer to be your default printer. This is up to you based how you plan to use this printer. After making your selection, click **Next** to move on.

Note: It is a good idea to name the printer something similar to the name of the Input Channel to which it is connected, as the more input channels and printers you create the harder keeping track of the inputs will become.

7. Select whether this printer will be shared. If this is to be a network RIP station, then you will click 'Shared' and then give the printer a name. This is the name that will appear on your network (as a printer to IBM platforms with NT Workstation, and as a printer to IBM and as a printer in the Chooser on the Mac. Do not worry about choosing the operating system of the machines you will be printing from as this makes no difference to the functioning of the RIP input. Click **Next** to move on.
8. The installer will ask if you want to print a test page to your new printer. This is not necessary. Click **Finish** to end the procedure, and you are done.

This concludes your installation of a new printer. You now have a working print service connected to your Xitron Navigator RIP. You can now send files directly from applications to Xitron Navigator. If you have any further questions regarding printer drivers for Windows NT please consult the "Windows95 and Windows NT Printer Drivers" Xitron Tech Note, April 6, 1998.