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How to use the Windows XP Driver in Windows Vista
Windows XP Driver S6900001-R1-V1.00-2009AUG27

1 Introduction

In the current implementation of the XPM Windows XP printer driver, the application programming interface (API) of the driver is not functional when the driver is installed within Windows Vista. The result is that neither applications nor printer tools can communicate with the XPM printers.

Investigation showed that this problem is caused by incompatible security policies between Windows Vista and Windows XP.

This application note describes which steps are required to allow the application programming interface of the Windows XP driver to also function when using this driver within Windows Vista.

Note that this application note assumes that the XPM printer driver has already been installed successfully within Windows Vista.

2 Setting up the security policy for named pipes

The XPM Windows XP driver uses so-called "named pipes" for communication between applications or printer tools and the port monitor through the application programming interface. Note that the port monitor handles all communication with the printer.

Unfortunately, Windows Vista has disabled the usage of named pipes by default. They will only be available if the so-called "security policy" for this feature is configured.

One way in Windows Vista to modify the security policy is with use of the "Local Security Settings" dialog. This dialog can easily be started by entering "secpol.msc" in a DOS (command) box.

Within the "Local Security Settings" dialog, the "Local Policies \ Security Options" folder contains settings regarding named pipes.

In the "Local Policies \ Security Options" folder, the following actions must be done to enable usage of named pipes:

- **Network access: Named pipes that can be accessed anonymously**
  -> Add the named pipe "XPM-PRINTMON-PORT-<port>" to the list of named pipes,
     whereas <port> is [USB001 .. USB999] or [COM1 .. COM4].

- **Network access: Let Everyone permissions apply to anonymous users**
  -> Enabled

3 Changing the security rights for application and tools

To use the so-called "named pipes", all applications and tools which use the XPM application programming interface must be run with administrator rights.

The rights for an application or tool can be specified within the "file properties" dialog. This dialog can easily be started from the popup menu which appears after right clicking the application or tool. The application or tool will become administrator right after checking the "Run this program as Administrator" check box in the "Compatibility" tab.

4 Selecting the appropriate paper bin

After installation of the XPM printer driver, this driver does not get the proper paper tray assigned by default. Having the wrong paper tray selected results in not being able to use most of the XPM predefined paper forms in applications.

The paper tray for a printer driver can be selected from within the "Printer Properties" dialog of the printer driver. This dialog is started from the "Printers & Faxes" window, which, in Windows Vista, is selected by left clicking "Printers" in the "Control Panel".

Within the "Printer Properties" dialog, the "General" tab contains a button called "Printer Settings". By pressing this button the "Printer Settings" dialog will appear which allows selection of the "XPM80 DEFAULT"/"XPM200 DEFAULT" paper tray in the "paper/quality" tab. All predefined paper forms will become available to any application after selecting this XPM specific paper tray.