MACRO|4
A Division of UNICOM®Global

Columbus OM is the leading output management (OM) solution, for assured printing throughout your organization

Enterprise output management
Ensure the safe and timely delivery of your business documents

Disruptions to printing can have a severe impact on any organization. Columbus OM is a highly scalable system that increases the reliability of your printing processes. Whether you are delivering business-critical output from your core applications or managing the production printing process, Columbus OM allows you to:

- Increase resilience by replacing disparate application-specific printing methods with a unified delivery management infrastructure

- Act on system warnings quickly and diagnose printing problems proactively – before they start affecting end-user productivity

- Prevent many printing problems altogether – by automatically redirecting output and notifying users – and cut the volume of calls to your helpdesk

- Strengthen the output capabilities of SAP® and other business applications without incurring the costs and risks of customizing your core systems

- Implement accurate print accounting and reporting to support accurate service level monitoring, forecasting and billing

Robust, flexible print delivery

Columbus OM reliably delivers documents and data from any business application, regardless of technology platform, to any networked printer.

All print jobs and printers throughout your organization can be tracked and managed in real time, enabling any printing errors or bottlenecks to be acted upon immediately.

Global installations on multiple distributed servers can be managed from a single point of control, providing massive scalability.

It is quick and simple to add new applications and printers to Columbus OM, which helps reduce the time and expense involved in maintaining an efficient, enterprise-wide output management system.

Columbus OM integrates seamlessly with SAP applications and other third party systems, to improve reliability, control and error recovery throughout the printing process. There is no need to customize your core business applications, so you can avoid any risks, costs or disruption to business users.

The Columbus suite, for enterprise information management:

Columbus Central
Multi-channel delivery and document workflow

Columbus DoXite
Intelligent document composition

Columbus DW
Enterprise content management

Columbus OM
Enterprise output management

Columbus Z
Output management on IBM Z

Columbus Accounting
Embedded business intelligence

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A single point of control

Columbus OM has a powerful, browser-based administrator interface that displays the health of the entire corporate network, including all printers, print jobs and queues, across all Columbus OM instances. Administrators can perform operational tasks, schedule changes, identify printing problems and take corrective action quickly, from one central location.

An enterprise control feature allows bulk changes to be made centrally and automatically applied throughout the enterprise printer network. A history of all changes is also maintained.

Automated recovery

In the event of a printer or network failure, print jobs are automatically recovered and either reprinted or rerouted to an alternative device; users are notified of any changes.

Automated helpdesk alerts ensure no time is lost in resolving potential printing problems.

Format transformation

Columbus OM can split and bundle print jobs, using a powerful content analysis and transformation engine (CAT) to convert documents into alternative formats such as PCL 5, TIFF and XML where required.

Print jobs can be processed using a range of parameters, such as priority, paper type or a specific time to print.

Rapid throughput

Jobs can be load balanced automatically, across multiple printers, to minimize time to print and maximize throughput.

Streamline printing painlessly

Columbus OM is quick and simple to install and runs on Linux (including Linux on IBM Z and POWER systems), UNIX and Windows.

Application integration

Columbus OM integrates with your business applications to enhance their output management capabilities, using certified interfaces where available, such as the SAP External Output Management Systems (BC-XOM) interface. Columbus OM's SAP device configuration feature reduces effort and errors by enabling you to define printers, or make any configuration changes, just once – to either Columbus OM or your SAP delivery system – and then automatically apply them to both systems.

SNMP traps allow straightforward integration with systems management software.

Embedded business intelligence

Columbus Accounting, an embedded business intelligence framework, works with Columbus OM to provide detailed statistics on every aspect of your printing environment, to support service level reporting, capacity planning and usage-based billing. Performance statistics might include job completion tines, printer downtime and problem resolution timescales, for example. Columbus Accounting has a built-in report designer and reporting engine. It also integrates with any standard reporting software or third party business intelligence platform.

Integrated information management

Columbus OM interfaces seamlessly with the wider Columbus suite, enabling you to flexibly combine print and digital delivery.

Bi-directional communication between Columbus OM and Columbus Z allows assured delivery from the mainframe to the open systems environment and vice versa. Output management can also be extended into the office printing environment by using an integrated OnCall feature for secure printing, and an advanced device fleet monitor (DFM) for real-time printer status reporting.

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