Columbus Z manages mainframe print output across a multi-platform environment including z/OS, z/VM, z/Linux, UNIX, IBM i and Windows

MACRO|4
A Division of UNICOM®Global

Output management on IBM zSystems
Enterprise-wide output management for the mainframe and beyond

Columbus Z controls z/OS mainframe output management environments, allowing enterprises to maximize the return on their existing investment in networked printers and application servers. Columbus Z helps you to:

- Reduce business risk by resolving printing problems before they impact on business operations

- Lower printing costs and raise efficiency by managing mainframe output from a single point of control

- Increase operational flexibility, enabling documents to be delivered and printed wherever they are needed, regardless of platform

- Make better use of your existing output infrastructure as you can print virtually any document on any device

- Implement print accounting and reporting to support service level management, forecasting, billing and infrastructure optimization

- Provide convenient user access from web and 3270 interfaces

Robust document delivery

Columbus Z is a mainframe output management solution that captures and delivers output across a multi-platform environment including z/OS, z/VM, z/Linux, UNIX, IBM i and Windows systems.

Columbus Z increases business efficiency with its bi-directional and automatic transfer of documents between the mainframe and applications running on other operating systems, retaining document fidelity throughout. You can send professional-quality AFP documents to networked IPDS printers and application servers, often removing the requirement for PSF. Additionally, AFP data streams can also be converted to PCL so that you can print mainframe output on your networked devices and application servers.

Using Columbus Z makes it easy to manage printing within multiple IBM mainframe environments including z/VM, JES and z/OS and allows you to drive greater value from your existing output infrastructure.

You can manage your printing on the move, too, with the Columbus Z browser interface – a modern alternative to 3270 access that is highly intuitive and appealing to mainframe newcomers and experts alike.

Columbus Z has been a recognized enterprise solution for more than 25 years, helping organizations to adapt and evolve as printing requirements have developed over time. Today it is one of the most stable and functionally rich output management products available for the IBM zSystems platform.

Columbus Z

Management and control

Columbus Z delivers centralized control of networked printers and application servers, and deploys automated print recovery and restart. This helps you to increase operational efficiency and user productivity while reducing the number of print-related helpdesk incidents.

Cross-platform delivery

Columbus Z is a cross-platform solution, designed to transfer output between z/OS, z/VM, z/Linux, IBM i, UNIX and Windows platforms over existing networks. Additionally, the Columbus Z OPEN feature enables documents to be sent automatically to Columbus Central, Columbus DW and Columbus OM for digital delivery, online access and open systems output management.

Automated splitting and bundling

Documents can be split or bundled to increase convenience for users and eliminate unnecessary printing. For example, a single report could be split into smaller sections based on criteria such as department name or cost center. Equally, several documents could be combined to create one large document.

Event-driven printing

Columbus Z interacts with JES using the IBM SAPI interface. This provides event-driven printing and enables immediate delivery of documents to printers or application servers.

Document archiving

Older documents from the JES spool can be archived automatically in Columbus DW, Macro 4's enterprise content management system, and accessed using a responsive browser interface, self-service portal and app.

AFP/IPDS and AFP/PCL printing

Columbus enables AFP and non-AFP printing on IPDS printers, enabling you to print on networked IPDS devices without PSF. AFP and non-AFP documents can be printed on PCL printers.

CICS and Natural interfaces

Columbus Z can be accessed directly from CICS, eliminating the need to switch between the two systems. You can also create documents in CICS or Natural user applications and route them to the JES spool for onward distribution.

Host connectivity

Columbus Z CONNECT provides a simple mechanism for automatically transferring host-generated Xerox or AFP spool files and resources to server-based products that control production printing or archiving systems.

With Columbus Z CONNECT you can:

- Transfer host spool data without deploying additional hardware, as existing network protocols are used
- Transfer documents from the JES spool queue to the server automatically, without any need for manual intervention
- Improve document throughput by managing the entire output lifecycle

Web and mobile access

The Columbus Z browser interface offers a modern, terminal emulator free alternative to 3270 access for remote or mobile working, and minimizes the need for system training as it is so simple and intuitive to use. The browser interface is touchscreen enabled and tablet compatible and delivers all the usability benefits of a modern graphical interface.

Enterprise information management

Columbus Z integrates with the wider Columbus suite, enabling you to manage printing and digital delivery from a single enterprise system.

Columbus Accounting, an embedded business intelligence framework, works with Columbus Z to provide rich reports on your printing environment for accurate forecasting and capacity planning, service level monitoring, print optimization and usage-based billing. Columbus Z also integrates with Splunk® for real-time monitoring and reporting.