MACRO|4
A Division of UNICOM®Global

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

Columbus Z manages mainframe print output across a wider heterogeneous environment including z/OS, z/Linux, UNIX, IBM i and Windows

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

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

- Lower printing costs by managing the output from all of your mainframe applications

- Increase flexibility by assuring document distribution and printing to the point of need, regardless of platform

- Increase operational efficiency and user productivity by making better use of your existing printing infrastructure

- Eliminate wasteful printing practices, lowering environmental impact

- Enhance reporting through document splitting and bundling

- Provide convenient user access from web and 3270 interfaces

Robust document delivery

Columbus Z, a component part of Macro 4's enterprise information management suite, is an output management solution for the mainframe that accepts and routes output across a heterogeneous environment including VM, z/OS, z/Linux, UNIX, IBM i and Windows systems.

It increases business efficiency with its bi-directional and automatic transfer of documents between the mainframe and applications running on different operating system platforms, while retaining document identity throughout.

Columbus Z controls printing within IBM mainframe environments including VM, JES and z/OS, maximizing your return on investment in existing output infrastructure.

Columbus Z gives you the ability to print professional AFP documents to networked IPDS printers and application servers, often replacing the requirement for PSF. AFP data streams can also be converted to PCL, utilizing your networked printers and application servers.

In addition to a 3270 user interface Columbus Z offers web browser access so you can manage your printing infrastructure while off-site or on the move. The web interface is highly intuitive and minimizes the need for user training.

Columbus Z has been a recognized solution in this environment for over 30 years, evolving in line with changing enterprise printing requirements over time. This makes it one of the most stable and functionally rich output management solutions for the IBM Z platform available today.

Columbus Z

www.macro4.com

Management and control

Columbus Z deploys automatic recovery and restart functionality, providing greater management and control of networked printers and application servers. This can reduce helpdesk calls attributed to print-related issues, and at the same time increase operational efficiency and user productivity.

Event-driven printing

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

Cross-platform printing

Columbus Z is able to transfer reports seamlessly between VM, z/OS, z/Linux, UNIX, IBM i and Windows platforms, over existing SNA or TCP/IP networks.

The Columbus Z OPEN feature automatically enables documents to be transferred to Macro 4's Columbus OM, Columbus Central and Columbus DW enterprise information management solutions for open systems.

This offers you the option to adopt a truly cross-platform solution with bi-directional document transfer facilities.

Document splitting and bundling

Columbus Z provides a comprehensive splitting and bundling facility for documents residing on the JES spool. For example, a large document can be split into smaller documents based on search criteria such as department name, cost center and so on. Conversely, it is possible to bundle a series of small documents into one large document.

Archiving older documents

Documents on the JES spool can be automatically archived in Columbus DW, Macro 4's enterprise content management system.

Automated archiving can be controlled by a host of selection criteria such as date, job name and destination. These archived documents can then be viewed through the feature-rich and user-friendly Columbus DW interfaces.

AFP/IPDS and AFP/PCL printing

The Columbus Z IPDS feature enables AFP and non-AFP printing on IPDS capable printers, often replacing the requirement for PSF. This feature supports both SNA and TCP/IP attached printers.

The Columbus Z PCL feature enables AFP and non-AFP printing on PCL capable printers. This feature supports both SNA and TCP/IP attached printers.

Host connectivity

The Columbus Z CONNECT feature 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:
- Utilize existing network protocols without the need for additional hardware as host spool data is transferred using existing SNA or TCP/IP protocols
- 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 web browser interface offers an ideal alternative to 3270 access for remote or mobile working, and for newcomers to the mainframe. The web interface is touchscreen enabled and tablet compatible and delivers all the usability benefits of a modern graphical interface.