MACRO|4
A Division of UNICOM® Global

Application output management
Legacy application data stream management on IBM zSystems

Columbus Z REFLECT improves system throughput by intercepting VTAM output and sending it to the operating system spool, Columbus OM or Columbus Central for enterprise-wide delivery

Columbus Z REFLECT intercepts and flexibly redirects IBM 3270 data streams to either the JES or POWER spool, where they can be managed by an output management system such as Columbus Z, or distributed directly to the Columbus OM or Columbus Central document delivery solutions. Columbus Z REFLECT allows you to:

- Increase output flexibility by enabling application-generated VTAM data streams to be diverted to the JES or POWER spool queues

- Reduce reliance on scarce legacy development skills by enabling print destinations to be changed easily, without modifying your core business applications

- Increase throughput by routing output to the operating system spool, where it can be managed by an output management system, or sent directly to a document management solution for further manipulation and distribution

- Lower business risk by bringing CICS or IMS output under the control of an output management solution

- Eliminate the problem of lost VTAM print output following CICS termination

- Reduce hardware costs as reports can be routed to any printer on the network

Mainframe spool printer emulation

Columbus Z REFLECT is a VTAM and local 3270 printer emulator that intercepts IBM 3270 printer data streams from user applications and writes them to a JES or POWER spool queue with user-defined characteristics.

From the spool queue, the data streams may be printed on a local system printer or routed anywhere else a network configuration will allow.

Using Columbus Z REFLECT, output from legacy applications can be redirected to any network printer, providing much greater flexibility and allowing failover in the event of a printer failure.

The Columbus suite, for enterprise information management:

Columbus Central
Digital orchestration

Columbus DoXite
Intelligent document composition

Columbus DW
Enterprise content management

Columbus OM
Enterprise output management

Columbus Z
Output management on IBM zSystems

Columbus Accounting
Embedded business intelligence

Zero development effort

Modification of business applications is no longer required as a Columbus Z REFLECT 'logical printer' appears to the system in an identical fashion to a physical printer. Multiple virtual printers can be defined under Columbus Z REFLECT, each tailored to the precise needs and requirements of a particular system.

Security

The Columbus Z REFLECT configuration defines authorized users, the printers and spool definitions they can modify and the commands they are permitted to use:

- Columbus Z REFLECT provides exit points at startup and user signon, where additional security may be applied
- Columbus Z REFLECT also provides an interface for external security products such as RACF, ACF2 and Top Secret, using a standard SAF interface

Flexibility and control

Users can control when spool files are available for processing and printing by defining their close criteria. A spool file may be closed in a number of ways; typical examples include time or idle interval, after a specified number of lines or pages, or on detection of specific character or control strings.

All logical printers, spool characteristics, closure comparison criteria and authorized users are defined in a configuration file that is loaded at Columbus Z REFLECT startup time.

The configuration can be modified at any time and updated dynamically by any authorized user.

Online displays

Online displays enable authorized users to view and, optionally, modify printer and spool definition characteristics. All displays can be configured as required:

- Full help is available for all online displays
- Columbus Z REFLECT features national language support and can be run in different languages at the same installation

Enterprise information management

Columbus Z works with the wider Columbus enterprise information management suite, enabling you to manage printing and digital delivery as a single integrated solution.

Columbus Z REFLECT automatically routes output to the JES or POWER spool, from where it can be managed by your chosen output management solutions. For z/OS, Columbus Z provides extensive manipulation and distribution facilities. Macro 4's VTAMPrint software provides similar functionality for VSE^n environments.

Columbus Z REFLECT is also able to transfer output directly to the Columbus OM and Columbus Central print and digital delivery solutions for open systems; this avoids reliance on the mainframe operating spool and creates an opportunity for further document manipulation and onward distribution.

Integrated mainframe and open systems information management can deliver cost savings by minimizing output delays, reducing helpdesk calls and by eliminating the need to 'hardwire' links between applications and delivery channels. It can also simplify output administration, while print-related data collection provides accurate accounting and statistics to monitor resources and optimize your enterprise printing infrastructure.

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