COSprint

COS*print*

UNIX and Linux hosted print spooling and output management, for heterogeneous networks of UNIX, Linux and Microsoft Windows®

Industry analysts estimate that printed output costs businesses between 1% and 3% of revenues. COS*print* not only helps reduce those costs to save companies a comparable amount but also helps deliver a marked improvement in service levels with accompanying benefits in efficiency.

Recent corporate governance legislation – such as Sarbanes-Oxley in the USA and similar European directives – provides an incentive for organisations to both control access to critical output and audit its distribution. COS*print* helps in all the areas of control, security, auditing and compliance.

COS*print* is output management software for mid to large size organizations and is used to replace the standard print spoolers supplied with operating systems. It serves print requests from any combination of UNIX, Linux or Microsoft Windows® servers and can be extended to exchange output information with other technologies including COLD systems or mainframes running variants of OS390**.**

Printing is often critical to business, yet the standard printing facilities in open systems environments remain crude, with complex configuration procedures and few or no built in management controls. COS*print* ensures that print requests and other output jobs are serviced and delivered to the appropriate printers or other output devices with maximum efficiency, and enables administrators to manage and control output jobs across the network via a single console.

COS*print* has an architecture suitable for the larger enterprise, and is the product of choice in high-volume printing environments.

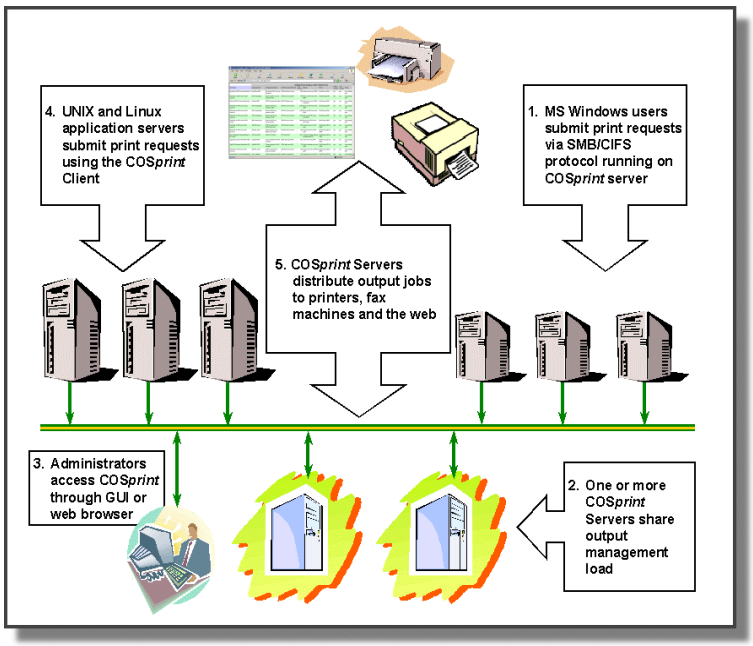

Figure 1 – an overview of the COSprint archtecture

COS*print* Server

In the larger infrastructure, COS*print* (specifically the COS*print* Server module) is typically run on low cost, dedicated servers with all output requests from the enterprise directed to them. The COS*print* Server software is network aware so that multiple servers can be run in parallel at larger sites, each being updated with the information held on the others.

In this way an administrator can log into any COS*print* Server and view all jobs being processed across the entire enterprise. This provides a single point of control for administrators and help desk personnel, so reducing the administrative overhead and providing a quicker mean time to resolve output related problems.

COS*print* Client

UNIX and Linux application servers run the COS*print* Client, a lightweight product that directs all print requests to one of the COS*print*

SOFTWARE SAP PARTNER

Servers and allows the user initiating the request to view and manage their jobs online. The COS*print* Client removes the need to configure **lpd** for every printer on every UNIX or Linux system, so reducing administration costs.

COS*print* for Microsoft Windows

Through OSM's own implementation of the SMB/CiFS protocol on the COS*print* Server, Microsoft Windows users can see COS*print* queues as if they were shared printers, without having to run any additional software on the workstation or Microsoft server. In this way all printers can be shared across the UNIX, Linux and Windows estates.

COS*print* User Interfaces

User interfaces include a command line interface compatible with lp, lpr and lpd, an X Window System GUI, a Microsoft Windows GUI and a web browser interface. Using the web browser interface, all users are able to monitor and manage their own print requests so further offloading help desk and improving service levels. For larger sites with multiple COS*print* Servers, a central console facility is also provided which further reduces administration costs.

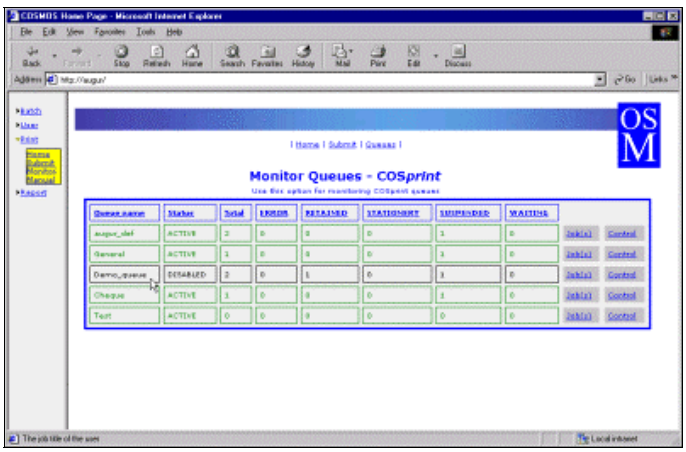

Figure 2 – the COSprint web browser interface

COS*print* for very High Volume printing

For large contract and ticket printing environments there is a COS*print* eXpress direct printing module that is described in detail in a separate, downloadable white paper.

COS*print* for R/3

COS*print* has been certified for use with SAP R/3. By using this module all R/3 output jobs can be managed alongside other output requests across the enterprise, with R/3 users retaining their view of the print request.

COS*print* KM for PATROL

COS*print* can be monitored and managed from BMC PATROL, the proactive monitoring software from BMC Software, Inc., using an OSM authored Knowledge Module.

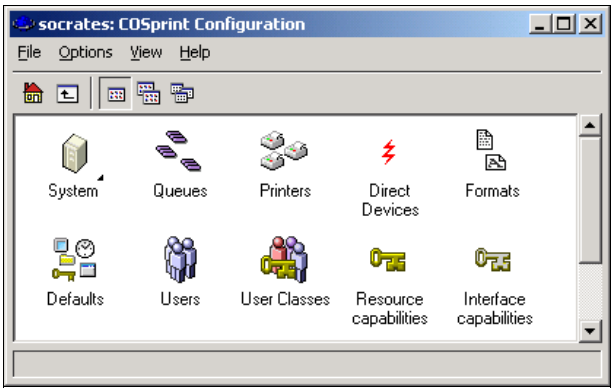

Figure 3 – the COSprint top-level menu

Features and functionality

Features

COS*print* provides the following capabilities:

- Network-awareness so that all output servers know about all output devices
- Automatic failover to a backup server in the event of a primary server going down
- Unlimited number of queues for scalability and flexibility
- Unlimited number of output devices
- Multiple output devices per queue, and multiple queues per output device
- lp, lpr and lpd compatibility
- Report management and distribution
- Built in access security controls
- Forms handling including integration with common forms management packages e.g. Adobe JetForm;
- Remote printer monitoring

. . . with fine control over the attributes of each output request including:

- queue and job priorities
- number of copies
- stationery type

- retention period for output job after printing/ transmission
- header pages
- print page ranges
- time and date to print

All output jobs may also be passed through one or more of three filters which are customer-specific programs that can be used to transform output jobs to a desired form. This includes the options to compress/ decompress or encrypt/decrypt documents.

Output jobs can be distributed to any type of output

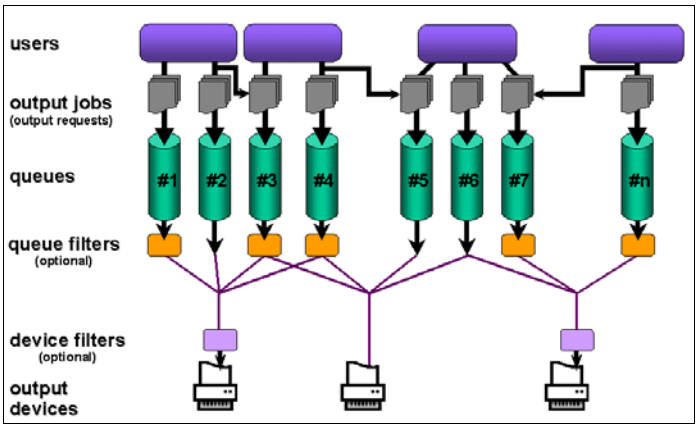

Figure 4 – COSprint configuration diagram

device including any type of printer, fax engine, email, ftp or web.

Availability

Sun Solaris, IBM AIX, HP-UX, SCO UNIX, DG/UX, Tru64, Sequent PTX, Linux 2.4 and 2.6, Microsoft Windows NT4, 2000 and XP. Other versions of UNIX and Linux subject to request.

Summary

COS*print* provides the following benefits:

- a central point of control for all output jobs, including those generated by SAP R/3, so reducing administration and help-desk overhead
- a reduction in output management costs, as output management is off-loaded from expensive application servers and low volume print servers to a small number of low cost dedicated print servers
- inbuilt load balancing and failover improves service levels
- a reduction in printer hardware costs as the printer estate can be shared between the UNIX, Linux and Microsoft Windows environments
- a reduction in UNIX and Linux administration costs as lpd does not have to be reconfigured on application servers every time a new printer is installed
- a reduction in WAN costs through optional end to end compression and decompression of output
- an increase in security due to access controls and optional encryption and decryption of output
- improved service levels due to faster delivery to point of need.

For more information:

please visit **www.cosprint.com**

www.cosprint.com **www.osmcorp.com**

OPEN SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT, INC.
1511 Third Avenue, Suite 905
Seattle WA 98101
USA

Tel: (866) 601 8011 (toll-free, USA)
Fax: (206) 583 8374
info@osminc.com

OPEN SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT LTD
Kings Ride Court
Kings Ride
Ascot, Berkshire SL5 7JR
UK

Tel: +44 (0)1344 638000
Fax: +44 (0)1344 638011
info@osm.co.uk