

printing solution: W-ELP

About stethos

Since the foundation in 1991 in Sindelfingen nearby Stuttgart (Germany), stethos develops and provides professional printing solutions for laser printers and multifunctional devices (MFD's) along with consulting, services and support. In conjunction with more than 40 partners

worldwide stethos offers a complete printing solution portfolio. This includes electronic forms, print and copy cost tracking, digital sending authentication, secure printing, printer emulations, document management, and much more. stethos has high knowledge in supporting different ERP systems regarding output management like SAP and others.

The stethos (Windows-) Enhanced Laser Printing System (W-ELP) is an intelligent, scalable and efficient output management system, which offers extensive possibilities to modify and enhance existing print streams, without having to tackle the complicated and proprietary applications that generate them. The main design objective was optimal ease-of-use, for minimal overhead in getting familiar with and getting results from the software.

Solutions for forms management typically replace pre-printed forms for documents like invoices or shipping papers, or eliminate the need for dot matrix printers. However, such solutions often offer limited support for Windows applications, like Microsoft Word or Microsoft Excel. W-ELP provides all of the traditional benefits, without such limitations.

W-ELP offers various possibilities for printing forms on blank paper – with the convincing professionalism of colour on colour printers. W-ELP is both easy to use and flexible, with options for barcodes and watermarks, NCR sets (non carbon copies), control for input and output tray selection and stapling, and even archiving, e-mailing and distribution of the print stream.

Platform independent

Supported platforms are Windows, Linux, HP-UX, Solaris, AS/400, True64, VMS or an external hardware box connected just before the printer.

W-ELP controls any print stream

The modular flexibility of W-ELP makes it completely independent of existing applications. W-ELP emulates a printer's non volatile memory (such as, hard disk or Memory Flashcard) to be used as a versatile forms repository and a virtual multi-tray printer. This also reduces the costs associated with pre-printed forms, while consistently applying the Corporate Design.

Easy electronic stationery maintenance

Forms for W-ELP can be easily designed by anybody, using almost any kind of application (Microsoft Word, for example). An easily maintained control file configures how the designs combine with print data, and how the originals and copies are printed. For further flexibility, the exact printing process can be determined by detecting specific events or „trigger“-data in the print stream.

Available modules

- Archive as PDF, TIFF or other formats
- Optimization of postal mailings
- Automatic sending of e-mail
- Flexible and configurable print monitoring, including client billing
- Barcodes according to industry standard, OMR codes
- Emulations like PPDS, PGL/VGL, CALS and more
- Print distribution and monitoring
- PCL raster compression mode 8 and much more



Flexible and modular

Save costs and license only what you really need.

Base version

- Search and replace (or delete or add) function offers a simple manipulation of the print data stream (PCL5/PCL6 and Postscript). This allows the selective usage of forms and the correction of inappropriate print commands in the source data stream.
- Admin software for configuration and generation of electronic forms.
- Soft flash: automatic use of static electronic forms as overlays for usage within PCL 5e and PCL 5c macro escape commands.
- The following settings can be made in general, per printer, per user and/or using the 'search' capability in the printer data stream. Although the target printer must support the appropriate functionality: Use toner economy mode; Allow only greyscale on colour printers; Print only from predefined applications
- Tray mapping allows the remapping of paper trays using existing tray pull commands.
- Variable management: ELP controlled print e.g. date and time stamp or user name/document name on the printout. Additional values such as invoice numbers can be found using the 'search' capability and then stored for logging purposes.
- Export of variables to an external file.
- Import of variables from an external file. This allows e.g. the creation of a customer specific pricelist.
- Conversion of symbol sets like for example EBCDIC to ASCII.
- Secure printing support (e.g. PIN printing).
- Retrieval of printer pagecounters of the complete printer infrastructure.

Barcode for 1D codes

- Support of all well known one dimensional barcodes codes from the printer languages PCL5, Postscript and Kyocera Prescribe according the industrial standard (e.g. SAP).
- Free Escape function allows an alternative escape character (useful e.g. when printing from an IBM AS/400).

Barcode for 2D codes

- Support for PDF 417, UPS Maxicode and Datamatrix from the printer language PCL5 according the industrial standard.
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Support for colour

W-ELP fully supports colour in the layout and forms design.

ELP module

- Generates OMR codes for mail inserter (e.g. NeoPost, Stielow, Hefter, PFE, and more). Documents can be temporarily stored (with archiving module) and sorted e.g. based on ZIP codes for postal optimisation to achieve cost reductions when mailing them.
- Trigger functions dependant on the data stream allow dedicated actions to be taken.
- Automatic copies in different orders like for example: 123, 123, 123 or 111, 222, 333
- Flexible definitions for every page (regardless if it's an original or a copy):
 - Try pulling from a specific input tray.
 - Every page can be delivered in a separate output tray. For example the copy for the accounting department can be stored in a specific output tray.
 - Automatic print of macros (company logos and watermarks etc.). The forms can be created using any kind of software such as MS Word or OpenOffice.
 - Automatic switch from simplex to duplex printing (and back).
- Printing in reverse order (page n, page n-1, page n-2, ..., 3, 2, 1) .
- Simplex or duplex prints from different input trays with pre-printed or pre-punched paper.
- Download of soft fonts (e.g. Greek or OCR for check printing).
- Modify the margins of the printout.
- Automatic counter: page, document or event driven.
- Reportline generator which prints reading lines (like formerly seen on z-fold continous paper used on dotmatrix printers).

PCL raster-compression mode 8 (Fax group 4)

- Some printer manufactures developed their own compression mode and implemented that in the base firmware of their laser printers. ELP can emulate the compression mode for printers which do not have the necessary firmware support.

Emulations

- PDF direct prints Adobe PDF documents directly to PostScript printers.
 - TIFF direct prints TIFF documents directly to PostScript printers.
 - EPSON, Proprinter and PPDS
 - PGL, VGL and IGP10
 - LG / Philips
 - HEX output
 - CALS (rastergraphic format) printing direct to TIFF or Postscript printers.
 - Kyocera Prescribe for barcode printing and more simple commands.
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OMR marks

W-ELP supports intelligent OMR marks for mail inserter and postal mail optimizing.

Print distribution and archiving module

- MyPrintArchive: Gathering of print jobs per user, project, workstation name, ... The release of these jobs can be done by a simple click, by an event on a selective basis like for example: reprinting of student material for classrooms.
- Copying of received print streams or generated print streams to different printers which are spooled locally or remote.
- Distribution of print jobs depending on the number of pages or the size of the paper to different printers.
- Print clustering: Job splitting of PCL5 print files and sending them to multiple printers.
- Storing of received print streams or generated print streams to different folders for archiving purposes.
- Symmetric encryption of the print stream (decryption in an external box just before the printer).
- Generation of index files per print file e.g. for digital archive solutions
- Invoking of external programmes at the end of the print job or after every page. Thereby sending data using FTP, LPR or IPCOPY directly to a predefined printer or to a printer which is specified in the data stream based on a name or IP address.
- Optional conversion of the archived data to Adobe Acrobat searchable PDF format.
- Optional conversion of the archived data to TIFF format.
- Archived data can be deleted after a predefined number of days.
- The supplied PPAAdmin program has a retrieval module to search within the archive.

Module for accounting, client billing, monitoring and ticketing

- ELP can gather certain information per print job and then stores in a CSV files for further processing e.g. MS Excel: Username; printer name; workstation name; document name; amount of pages; printer language; page size; page orientation; resolution; multi page document; date; time;
 - Triggers and search values can be used to monitor only certain prints. For example only users or documents that contain the word 'secret' are monitored.
 - ELP can add variables such as invoice number from the data stream to the log file or the other way round i.e. delete specific variables.
 - Centralized printing with the aid of jobtickets supplied by the user from the local workstation.
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Bar codes

W-ELP supports barcode printing and automatic calculation of check sums.

E-mail and Fax

- Sends the data stream as an attachment.
- E-mail addresses can be predefined or sent within the data stream.
- Multiple body texts can be predefined based on different rules (e.g. sending invoices in different languages).
- The data stream can be converted to Adobe Acrobat PDF format.
- The data stream can be converted to TIFF format for document archive systems or faxing using an LAN fax application.
- If required, the physical printout can be suppressed.

Database support

- Perform queries within an unlimited number of databases based on selected data within the printer data stream
- Inserting and processing of data values from any database like e.g. variables, e-mail addresses, and/or the amount of needed non carbon copies.

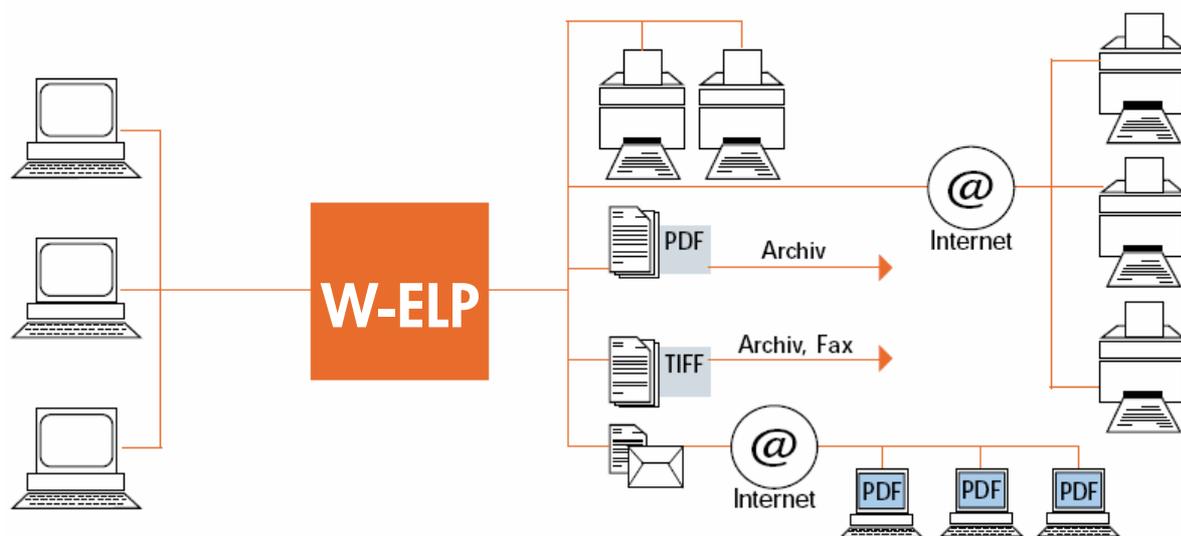
Postal mail optimization

- Gathering, sorting and collecting of documents for optimized printing according to postal mail requirements.

Other features

- Admin software for easy configuration. Important settings (e.g. for error handling) can be enabled by invoking a macro.
 - 2 byte support.
 - Functions such as Pass-Through or No Printing.
 - Converts a predefined string to HEX value (e.g. \x1B to ASCII 27).
 - Integration of external documents e.g. data sheets (PDF, MS Word, MS Excel, etc.) or graphics (EPS, TIFF, JPEG, etc.).
 - Can be used with almost every operating system using LPR (Unix, Linux, AS/400, ...) .
 - 100% compatible with PCL5, PCL5e and PCL5c.
 - Partial support of Postscript, Kyocera Prescribe and PCL3GUI.
 - Acts as a print processor running within Windows and as a filter running in a Unix environment and for IBM AS/400 as a queue plugg-in.
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printing solution W-ELP: platform support



Hard disk of any printer or MFD manufacture*

Please ask compatibility and availability.

External Box for printer*/MFP's*

All PCL5, PCL5e and PCL5c capable printers with USB or Ethernet port (parallel upon request) and Ethernet or USB port as input (IR and Bluetooth upon request)

Windows

NT, 2000, XP, 2003, Cluster Server, Terminal Server

Unix*

Linux, Solaris, HP-UX, AIX, True64 (other Unix dialects upon request)

Others*

AS/400, VMS, MS DOS, IBM DOS, developer sources

* not all W-ELP features are supported

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