

Aberdeenshire Council



Overview

Aberdeenshire Council covers 2,426 square miles with a population of 226,000 people. The main administrative office is located in the City of Aberdeen.

The Position

The printing and reprographics unit in the Council is responsible for all printing needs within Aberdeenshire. The print room was equipped with two Xerox Docutechs, two Xerox 92C Highlight Colour printers and two Oce 9260 printers. The Oce printers were used exclusively for printing documents such as Council Tax, Rates, Benefit Cheques, Invoices etc. The printers were reaching the end of their useful life and so the documents that were being printed had to be moved to the Xerox printers.

The Problem

The documents printed on the Oce printers were using a language unique to the printers called FOL – Forms Overlay Language. The problem was to be able to print the same documents on the Xerox printers without making any changes to the business applications that were creating the data. The documents needed to look the same so that the transition from the Oce printers to the Xerox printers was transparent to the end users.

The Solution

The solution provided by XLPrint was made up of three Paris software modules, Paris Designer, Paris Spooler and the Paris Barcode Kit. A critical part of the solution was the migration of the Oce FOL printing resources into Paris. The FOL resources (which comprise the instructions used by the Oce printer and the electronic forms used in association with the print files) were sent to XLPrint's offices where they were all converted to the Paris WYSIWYG system.

Following conversion, a complete Paris system was installed in the Council print shop. After making only minor adjustments to the documents, the whole system was ready for production.

Summary

Aberdeenshire now have the capability to print their documents to any of the Xerox printers in the print shop. Jobs are sent to the Paris Spooler where they are identified and held. The operations staff then release the jobs to be printed when they are ready. The two Docutechs are addressed directly and the two 92C printers are addressed via a Solimar system that is already in use. As jobs arrive at the Paris Spooler, they are archived so that in the event of any pages being misplaced or damaged at a later stage, the Paris system can be used to re-print selected pages.

Benefits

- Aberdeenshire now have a system that has moved their printing capabilities forward. Software development tools and printing languages are now industry standard.
- All existing and new applications can be developed in the Paris Designer using the interactive on-screen design system. The FOL process that it replaced was a command language where changes could take many hours.
- The print jobs may be printed to any printer in the print shop so the possibility of missing a print deadline is reduced.

- Highlight Colour may be added to certain jobs so that the benefits of the Xerox 92C printers can be fully realised.
- All jobs are identified on the Paris Spooler and also on the operator screen of the Docutechs, so special paper stock is easily controlled.
- As required in the future, documents may be created and stored as PDF files.
- The Paris suite allows Aberdeenshire to create documents from any application system they may decide to use in the future.

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Every day, XLPrint's software is responsible for the production of millions of pages of electronic documents which are printed, emailed, faxed or stored in document archive systems.

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