

Littlehampton Book Services Ltd



Company Overview

As one of the leading book distributors in the UK, Littlehampton Book Services provides its publishers and customers with dynamic and service oriented, leading edge IT and operational excellence. Their commitment and proactive approach to operational service quality, web enablement, 24/7 management information systems and hands-on management allied to the dedication, skill and professionalism of its staff allows LBS to provide the No. 1 package in book distribution. The media distribution facility at LBS handles and services orders throughout the UK and worldwide.

The Problem

As with all distribution and logistics operations there is a requirement to print the associated supporting documentation eg picking lists, delivery notes, invoices, credit notes, etc.

LBS realised the benefits of moving away from expensive pre-printed stationery some time ago and moved to high volume printing using A4 cut-sheet paper and Xerox Docutechs.

Electronic merging of data and forms was achieved using the proprietary Xerox software called VIPP. However, a problem existed because of the requirement to print the same documents to other Xerox and 3rd party network printers which included Xerox 'N' series, QMS and HP printers.

Getting matching forms created and printed on the Xerox 'N' series units was a highly complex process necessitating 'hex' editing of the PostScript print files and manual uploading of forms to the printers.

The Xerox VIPP proprietary solution only worked on specific Xerox devices and it was also difficult to find the necessary skilled technical resource to support it. VIPP was originally used for printing variable data applications on the Xerox Docutechs but unfortunately distributed printing was not fully supported. This greatly limited LBS with their requirement for distributed printing of data and electronic forms across the many different areas of their business.

The Solution

The solution was 'Paris' from XLPrint software.

The Paris software resides on a 'centralised' network server. It accepts data from any host or database and, more importantly for LBS, it is not proprietary and manages printed output to any networked printer from any manufacturer.

It is also very simple to edit existing electronic forms and create new ones. The data is mapped to the forms using the Paris 'Designer' software which provides a menu driven 'point and click' environment where documents can be created and screen-proven before they are sent to any printer.

Paris options are also available for distributing the same documents to an email server or to a document repository for online viewing.

The Benefits

The ability to design a form once and deploy it on any device within the business allows LBS to increase the use of electronic forms and reduce spend on pre-printed stationery.

LBS now have a simplified design process for forms thereby reducing the costs of form management.

They also have the ability to respond more quickly to form change requests.

Previously a change took weeks to achieve, it now takes hours.

Customer Comment

Nigel Montgomery is IT Director at LBS and could see the benefits of changing to the Paris solution.

He commented...

"Paris has given us the chance to increase our use of forms across our business while also simplifying the process and reducing our costs significantly. A major win all round."

Paris Modules

- Paris Designer
- Paris Spooler
- Paris expedite (e-mail/fax)
- Paris Barcode Option
- Paris Document Manager

Who are XLPrint?

XLPrint has been developing software for the electronic document industry since 1986. During that time, XLPrint's customer base has increased to the point where we now have thousands of installations in over 40 countries around the globe.

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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