Educational Services

How-To: Create Printer Groups on Fiery Central

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efi TRAINING

How-To Create Printer Groups on Fiery Central

Features Overview

Fiery Central Balance features allow multiple printers to become part of a group for increased productivity, reduced costs and improved turnaround times. Even though printers within groups may have different capabilities, the group behaves like a single "virtual" printer on the network, sharing the media library of each printer in a single Paper Catalog. Fiery Central allows control of all printers in the groups from a single Fiery Command WorkStation. The centralized and consistent production processes across multiple printers assure a quick learning curve and dramatically boost productivity.

Jobs sent through the Fiery Central server to the printer group are load balanced among the printers in the groups. Fiery Central can smartly route jobs based on job profiles, current load status, speed, capabilities such as loaded media and finishing selections each printer has. It can group up to 12 printers — both Fiery Driven and other select printers — for efficient production. The additional printer connectivity license allows more printers to be added to the Fiery Central server to use in printer groups for output.

Customer Benefits

- Improves digital print production capacity, turnaround and productivity.
- Balances workload and routes all or part of jobs to the most productive and cost-efficient printers.
- Avoids job delays and shrink production downtime caused by unexpected paper jam or print errors.
- Uses consistent production processes across multiple printers that assure a quick learning curve and boost productivity.

Objectives of the Exercise

- Create a Printer Group containing 2 Fiery Driven Printers and 1 non-Fiery
- Map the Fiery Paper Catalogs with Fiery Central
- Define the default Load Balance settings
- Define the Reroute on Error options
- Save and publish Printer Group Print Drivers

Before you begin

- Have Fiery Central 2.0 or above installed
- Have administrator log in credentials for the Fiery Central server
- Verify the following for each print device you will add to a Printer Group
    - TCP/IP address and DNS server name
    - All accessories and installable options available for each device
    - Print queues are published for all Fiery driven printers
    - HDD/PS options installed for Fiery driven printers with optional hard disk drives
    - Recommend having each device's printer catalog created on each device prior to creating printer groups
    - Recommend printing the Configuration Page for Fiery family servers to list each device's capabilities
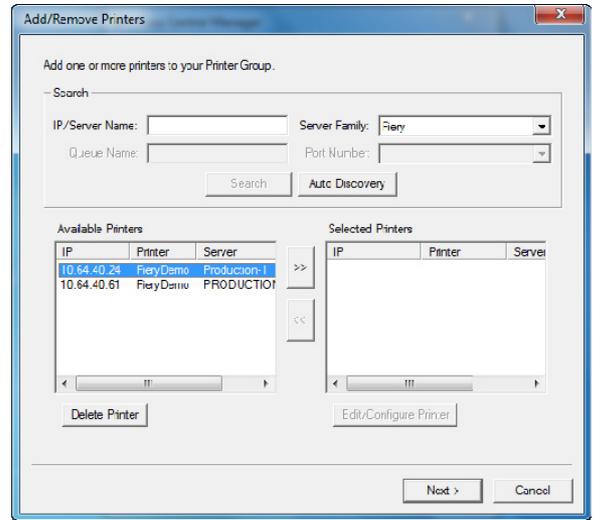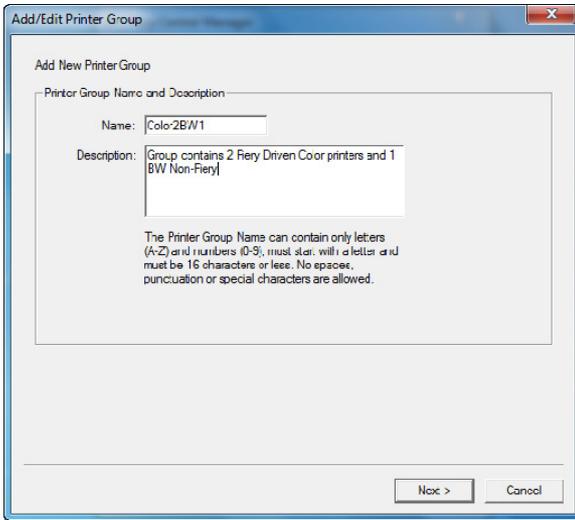
- For the updated list of supported printers go to http://www.efi.com/Fiery/Products/Workflow-Suite/Fiery-Central/Supported-Printers

Notes:

Consult the Fiery Central Administrator and the Fiery Central online help for additional information on the procedures used for this How-To Guide.
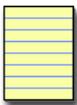
Consult the Customer Release Notes for additional information on how to configure a Printer Group, map Fiery Central Paper Catalog media entries to the paper in the paper trays on the printers, and view non-Fiery driven printers in Command WorkStation on a Fiery Central server.

Create a Printer Group

1. To open the Fiery Central Manager, right-click on the Fiery Central Bar and select **Fiery Central Manager**. OR Choose **Start** > **All Programs** > **Fiery Central** > **Fiery Central Manager** from the Windows taskbar. OR choose Fiery Central Manager from the Command WorkStation Device Center > General > Tools.

2. In the **efi | Fiery Central Manager** Window, The Printer Groups tab is automatically selected. Select **Add** to create the first Printer Group.

3. In the **Add/Edit Printer Group** Window, enter a **Printer Group Name** and **Description**. Description allows for adding a reference to the groups' functions and printers. For this example, enter **Color2BW1** and **Group contains 2 color Fiery Driven printers and 1 b&w non-Fiery printer**, and select **Next**. You may need to modify this information based on your license and available printers.
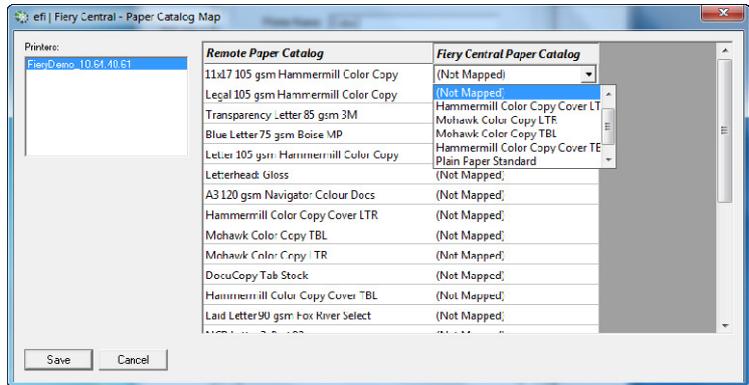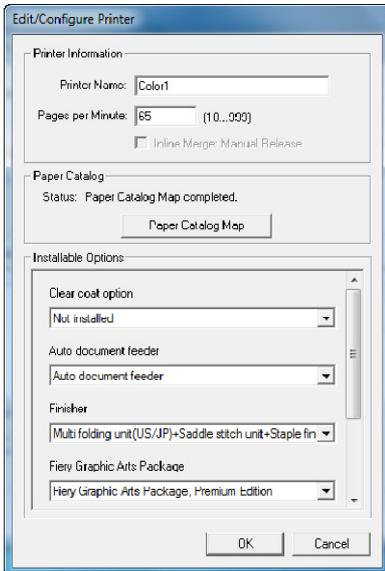
    The Printer Group name can contain only alphanumeric characters (A-Z, 0-9), must begin with a letter and 16 characters or less. No spaces, punctuation or special characters are allowed.

    Note: A Printer Group can contain 1-12 print devices and include any combination of black-and-white and color print devices.
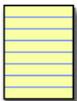
    A given print device can belong to more than one Printer Group.

4. In the **Add/Remove Printers** window, search for the printers you will add to the printer group.

5. Use **Auto Discovery** to automatically search and locate compatible printers on the same subnet as the Fiery Central server.

6. Discovered printers will appear in the **Available Printers** list. Advance to step 9 if your devices are located.

7. If Auto Discovery does not locate the Fiery Driven printer, enter the TCP/IP address or server name of the first Fiery Driven printer and use **Search**.

8. Search again to locate the second Fiery Driven printer and add to the Available Printers list if it was not found during Auto Discovery.

9. Select the first printer to add to the group and **>>** to move the printer to the **Selected Printers** list.

10. In the **Edit/Configure Printer** Window, the **Printer Name** can be changed from the default Fiery server name. This name will appear in the Fiery Central print driver when selecting Preferred Printer. For this example, change the printer name to **Color1**.

11. Select **Paper Catalog Map**.

12. In the **efi | Fiery Central - Paper Catalog Map** Window, select each media entry in the **Remote Paper Catalog** and select **(Add as New)** to add the entry to the **Fiery Central Paper Catalog**. By default all the Remote Paper Catalog entries are (Not Mapped).

13. Repeat this procedure to add all the desired media from the Fiery Remote Paper Catalog to the Fiery Central Paper Catalog and **Save** when done adding entries.

14. Verify the **Installable options** are correct and **OK** when done.

15. In the **Add/Remove Printers** window, move the second printer from the Available Printers list to the Selected Printers list.

16. In the **Edit/Configure Printer**, change the printer name to **Color2** and select **Paper Catalog Map**.

17. Select each media entry in the **Remote Paper Catalog** and define how to use the media with Fiery Central. When you select the drop-down menu for each entry, you will see any current media in Fiery Central matching the remote entry. If no matching media is currently available in Fiery Central, then choose to **(Add as New)** to add the entry to Fiery Central or leave as **(Not Mapped)** if you will not be using the media with Fiery Central.
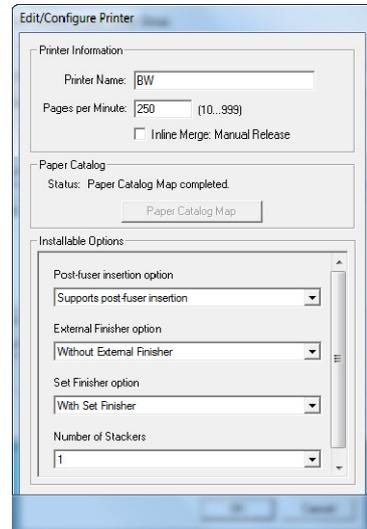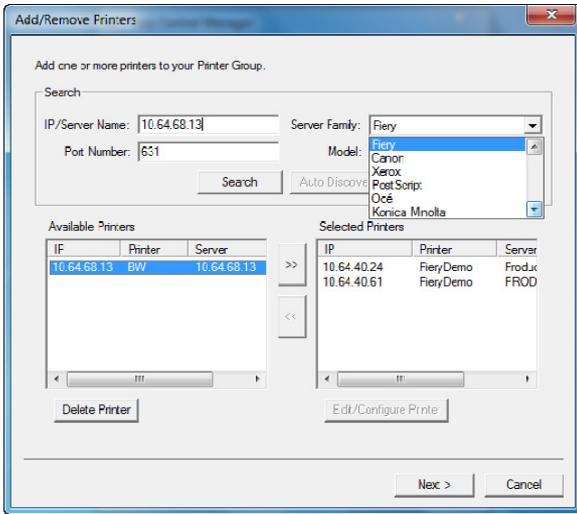
> It is not recommended to create duplicate media entries on Fiery Central Paper Catalog. Be sure to review the media for your workflow and determine the best options.
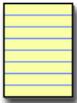>
> **Note**:
>
> After creating the Printer Group, the Fiery Central Paper Catalog can be modified by opening the Paper Catalog Map which allows the administrator to change the current mapping for any media.

18. When done mapping the media for the Paper Catalog, verify the Installable Options are correct, **Save** and **OK**.

19. In the next section, a non-Fiery Driven printer will be added to this Printer Group. If you do not have this license option, then proceed to step 25.

20. In **Add/Remove Printers**, change the Server Family to match your licensed option. For this example, select the appropriate Server Family and enter the IP/Server name and Search. Note: Auto Search cannot be used to locate non-Fiery or generic PostScript printers.
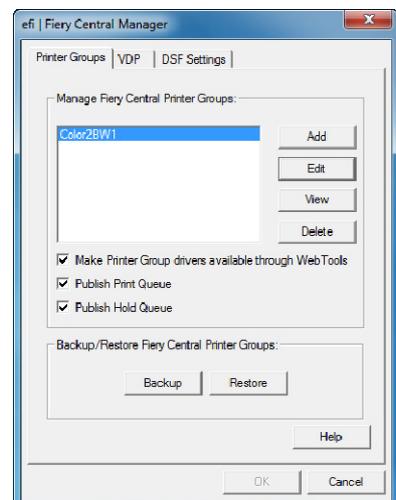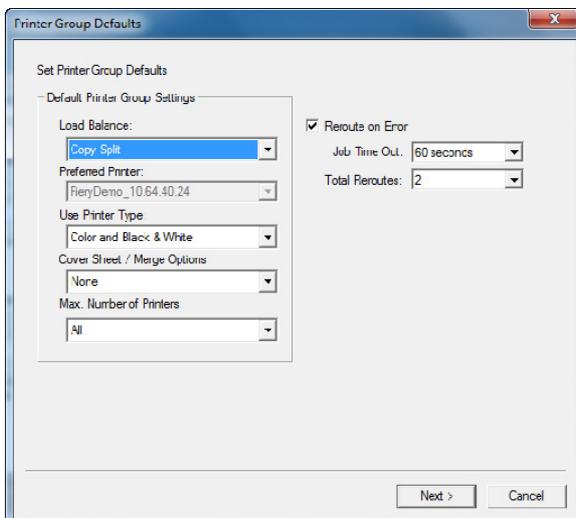
> The Fiery Central License must have the specific Server Family licensed to allow adding this device to any Printer Group(s).
>
> **Note**: Consult the Customer Release Notes for additional information on the supported non-Fiery Driven printers and how the Paper Catalog options are configured.

21. Select the printer from the Available Printers and select to move **>>** the printer to the **Selected Printers** list.

22. In the **Edit/Configure Printer** window, the **Printer Name** can be changed from the default device name. This name will appear in the Fiery Central print driver when selecting Preferred Printer. For this example, change the printer name to **BW**.

23. Select **Paper Catalog** Map (if applicable) and use the procedure in step 17 to Add as New or Map as New.

24. Verify the **Installable options** are correct and **OK** when done. Note: Some print devices may require manual selection for the Installable options.

25. In Add/Remove Printers select **Next** to continue defining the Printer Group settings.

26. In the **Printer Group Defaults** Window define the Default Printer Group Settings. These settings can be modified in the Fiery Central print driver or at Command WorkStation on a job by job basis.

27. Set the default **Load Balance** option. For this example, select Copy Split (if you have 2 color or 2 black and white devices) or, select Color Split (if you have 1 color and 1 black and white device).

> **Note**: **Fastest Single Engine** prints the entire document to the fastest printer that meets the print specifications for the job.
> **Preferred Printer** prints the entire job to the printer you specify. When selected, the option to specify the Preferred Printer becomes available.
> **Copy Split** Sends multiple copies of a single document to multiple printers. (Requires a minimum of 2 color or 2 black-and-white printers).
> **Long Job Split** splits a single copy of a document across different printers. (Requires a minimum of 2 color or 2 black-and-white printers).
> **Color Split** splits all copies across two printers, with color content sent to the fastest color printer in the group, and black-and-white content sent to the fastest black-and-white printer in the group (Requires a minimum of 1 color and 1 black-and-white printer).

28. **Use Printer Type** allows you to specify which of the devices within the Printer Group can be used for the selected Load Balance option. For this example, keep the default selection.

29. Select the **Cover Sheet/Merge Options** desired for your workflow.

    a. If your printer group contains more than 1 printer, select **None** or **Cover Sheet – Manual Merge**.

    b. If your printer group contains 1 color and 1 black & white device, select **Color Split** and **No Cover Sheet – Inline merge**.

> **Note**: **None** does not generate cover sheets or insert inline pages.
> **Cover Sheet-Manual Merge** automatically generates cover sheets with information about each portion of a job, to aid in manual merging.
> **Bar Code-Offline Merge** automatically generates cover sheets containing bar codes for collation by an offline merge finisher. This option is only available when Load Balance is set to Color Split.
> **No Cover Sheet-Inline Merge** inserts preprinted pages from an inline inserter tray. This option is available only when a black-and-white printer in the group has a post-fuser insertion tray. This option is only available when Load Balance is set to Color Split.

30. **Max Number of Printers** allows you to specify All, or limit to the number of printers over which a job may be load-balanced. For this example, keep the default setting **All**.

31. Define the default **Reroute on Error** options.

    a. Enable **Reroute on Error**. Note: this setting is automatically enabled by default.

    b. **Job Time Out:** Select an interval appropriate for your workflow from the available drop-down list. For this example, select 5 minutes.

    c. **Total Reroutes**: Select the appropriate number of Reroutes for your workflow from the available drop-down list from 0-5.
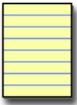
> **Reroute on Error** should be enabled when you have two or more like devices in this printer group.

> **Note**: **Job Time Out** allows the operator to correct error conditions before the automatic rerouting rules are applied.

> **Total Reroutes** specifies how many reroutes are allowed for a single job. When the

maximum is reached, the job waits in the Print queue of the last printers until the error is cleared.

32. After completing all Printer Group Default settings, select **Next** to continue.

33. In the **Save Printer Group** Window, select **Save** after reviewing the settings summary.

34. When the **Fiery Central Manager** window appears, **Add** will allow you to create another printer group if your license permits and repeat the process.

35. Now that a Printer Group has been created, the options below are enabled by default:

    a. Make Printer Group drivers available through Web Tools

    b. Publish Print Queue

    c. Publish Hold Queue

36. After confirming the options for how the Printer Group drivers will be published, select **OK** completing the printer group options.

37. The **Fiery Central** Manager will now complete creating and publishing the printer drivers for each Printer Group. The Printer Group print drivers are installed locally on Fiery Central and made available for clients via SMB or for download from the **Fiery Central Web Tools.**

Note: For more information on Installing the Printer Driver and printing to the Fiery Central Printer Group, see the Fiery Central User Guide.

38. For information about backing up and restoring printer groups, reference the How-To Backup and Restore Printer Groups Guide.

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