



# Application Notes

## Using Multiple Printers Simultaneously



# **Using Multiple Printers Simultaneously**

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## Introduction

The ability to print to two or more printers simultaneously with a single RIP station is a big plus for any production environment. To be able to provide this functionality for a variety of customers and different licenses, **ErgoSoft RIPs** offer two main ways to get multiple printers to run parallel to each other and increase overall productivity.

- Users can either make use of multiple **PrintClients** to prepare jobs for their printers in the first step and then send them to the associated printers.
- Users can use multiple **RIP Servers** to have both jobs processed simultaneously and send to the printers at the same time.

This application note aims to explain the requirements, the set up and the workflow for each of these ways.

## Print Simultaneously Using PrintClients

### License Requirements

- **ErgoSoft RIP** license
- Sufficient Printer Group license for each printer you want to run
- **PrintClient** option (minimum 1)

#### The PrintClient

The **PrintClient** is a program module that acts as a buffer or queue for print jobs between the main RIP program and the printer itself. The **PrintClient** allows users to put several jobs into line to be printed and automatically send them to the printer one after the other as soon as the **PrintClient** is set to "Online".

For more information on the **PrintClient** and how to set them up, please refer to the Application Note "Production Managing Tools" starting at page 13.

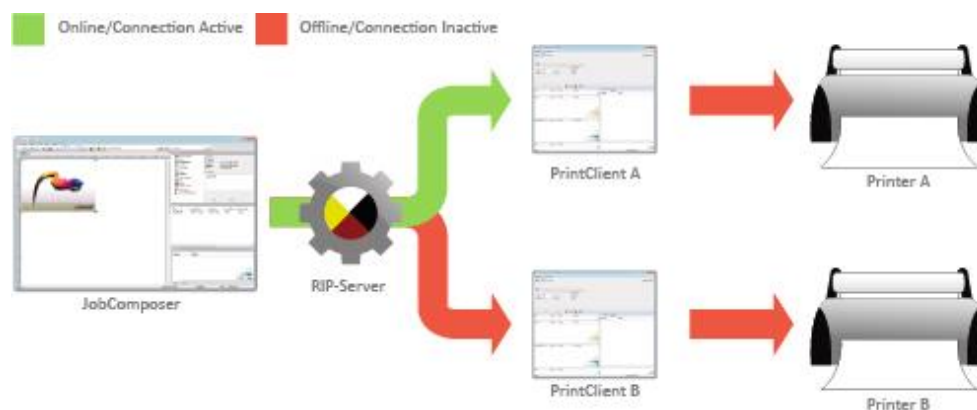
## Procedure

The basic idea of this method is to work around the **RIP Server** limitation of only being able to process one job at a time. This is done by having 2 or more **PrintClients** running (one for each printer) and fill up their queues with jobs before sending them to the printer. This way several jobs are stored in each printers queue and once the **PrintClients** are set to "Online", they then send the data to their respective printers at the same time. Because the print data is already available at this point, the one-job-at-a-time limitation of the **RIP Server** does not come into play.

Since the **RIP Server** is not active while jobs are simply sent out from the **PrintClient**, it is also possible to not queue up jobs for one of the **PrintClients** and print directly to the printer with it while the **PrintClients** are sending out their respective queues.

For this example, we will only use 2 printers, but this method can be expanded to more printers provided your system has enough resources to send data to more printers.

First set up a **PrintClient** for both **Print Environments** that you want to use. For information on how to set up a **PrintClient**, please consult the Application Note "Production Managing Tools" on page 13. Select one of the two **Print Environments**, open the **PrintClient** that is assigned to it and set it to "Offline" mode (so it doesn't send data to the printer). Load/Create the jobs you want to print on this printer and click the print button (and confirm the print dialog of course). The print job will now be processed by the **RIP Server**, but since the **PrintClient** is set to "Offline", it will only be placed in the queue and not sent to the printer yet.



Repeat this several times for the jobs you want to print on this printer/with this **Print Environment** until there are several entries in the queue of the **PrintClient**.

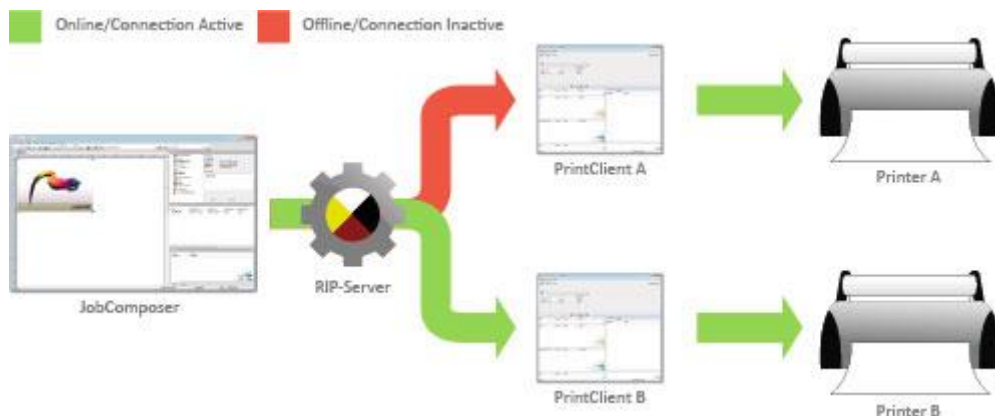
Now select the other **Print Environment** and start its respective *PrintClient*. There are two ways to progress at this point:

1. You can either repeat the procedure above for the second *PrintClient*, setting it "Offline" and rastering jobs into its queue until you have several jobs waiting. Then, set both *PrintClients* to "Online". Both will then start sending their jobs to their respective printer and printing them simultaneously.

This also allows you to alternately raster new jobs into both *PrintClients* so they don't "empty" their queues.

2. Or you can set the second *PrintClient* you just started to "Online" right from the beginning, load a job for that printer and start printing directly (since the *PrintClient* is set to "Online", it will send print data to the printer right when it's processed). Parallel to this, set the other *PrintClient* with the prepared jobs to "Online", this will cause it to send its queued up jobs to its printer as well. Effectively you will be printing to one printer directly, rastering the jobs as you go (for the second *PrintClient*) and at the same time send the pre-rastered print jobs from the first **Print Environment** to its respective printer.

Since one of the printers is being addressed directly without actually storing the print data in between, it's even possible to run this method using only a single *PrintClient* to store jobs for one printer and using "Skip PrintClient (Print directly to port)" for the other.



Of course using *PrintClients* to address two printers at the same time can be expanded to multiple printers by simply preparing jobs for more *PrintClients* beforehand so you have several *PrintClients* stocked with rastered jobs ready to be set "Online" and send their data to their printer.

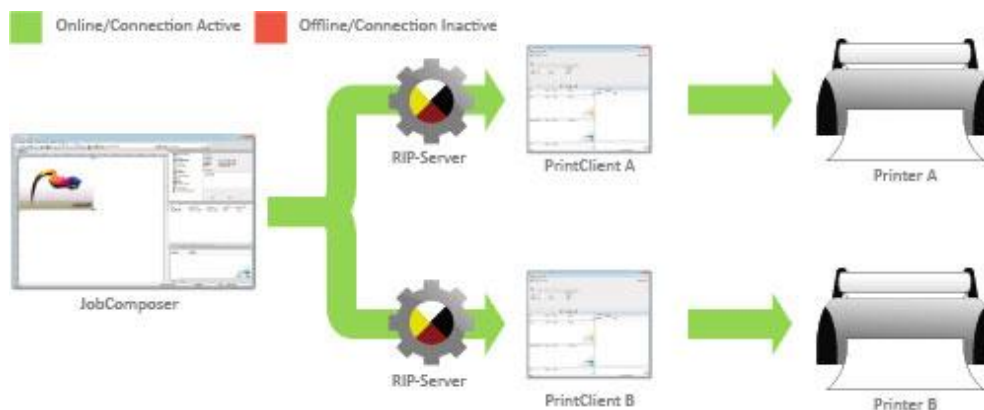
## Print Simultaneously Using Multiple RIP-Servers

### License Requirements

- **ErgoSoft RIP** license
- Sufficient Printer Group license for each printer you want to run
- License for multiple **RIP Servers** (minimum 2)

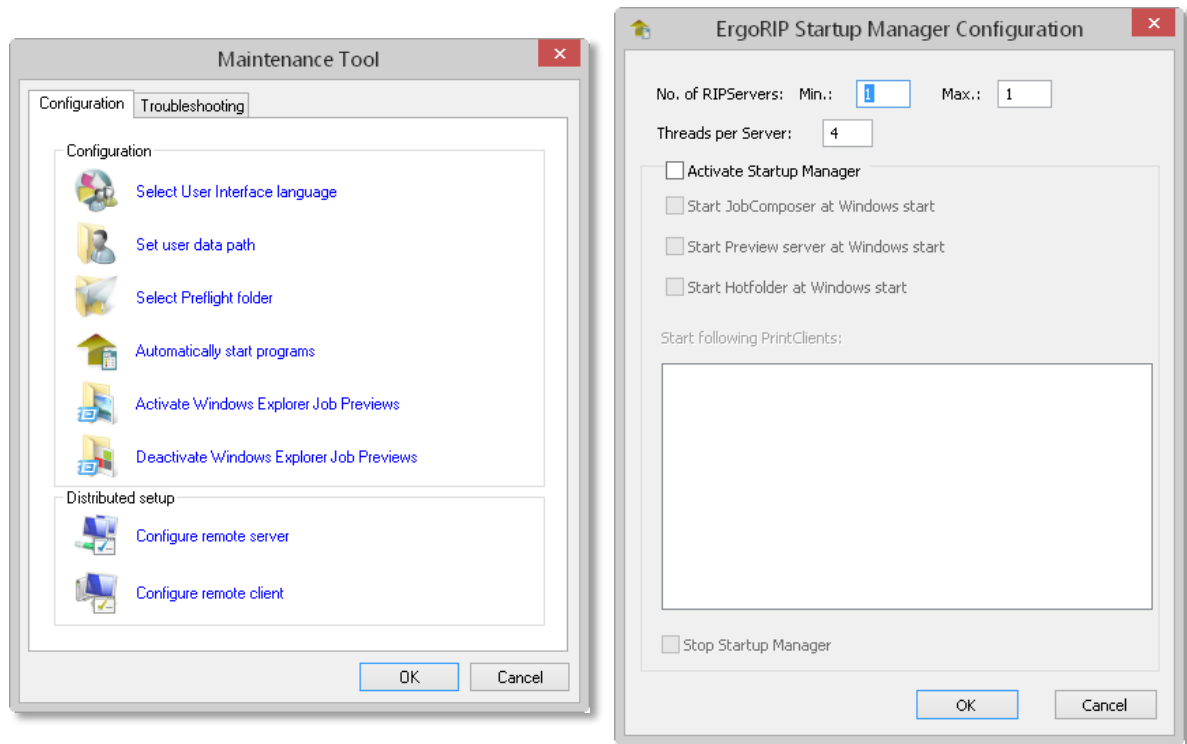
### Procedure

While the **RIP Server** module can only process one print job at a time, as of v14, it is possible to run several **RIP Servers** at the same time, effectively allowing to raster multiple jobs in parallel to each other and sending them to their respective printers.



If you have a license for multiple **RIP Servers**, the software can easily be set up to automatically start the required number of **RIP Servers** so that whenever a job is sent to print but the **RIP Server** is busy, an additional instance of the module is started to process the new job.

In order to set up the use of multiple **RIP Servers**, close the software and all related applications and go to "Start/Programs/ErgoSoft RIP 14/Maintenance Tool". Open the "Automatically start programs" application.



In the top part of the window, you'll see a segment for "**No. of RIP-Servers**". By default this is set to **Min: 1** and **Max: 1**, meaning that at least one **RIP Server** is started when a job needs to be processed and at maximum also 1. In order to be able to start multiple **RIP Servers** to automatically process jobs, we will need to increase the "**Max:**" value. If you are unsure if you have a license for more than 1 **RIP Server**, check your license information either on your invoice or in the software under "Help/License Info". In the "License details" segment, look for the "RIP-Server" entry and verify how many your license includes. Depending on your preference you can either enter the actual maximum of **RIP Servers** that you can start according to your license or a lower number, but it needs to be at least 2, so more than 1 **RIP Server** can be started.

Confirm the dialog and you are done. Now whenever you send a print job but the running **RIP Servers** are already busy, a new **RIP Server** will be started to process the new job (up to the limit you defined in "Max.:" of course).

To print to multiple printers now, simply send a job to the first printer and while it's being processed by the *RIP Server*, switch to the **Print Environment** for your second printer, set up or open the job you want to print and send it to the printer. A new *RIP Server* will be started to run and process the job at the same time as the other one is running. This can of course be done either with or without using *PrintClients*.