Introduction to Print Dialog & Print Settings

Purpose

The purpose of this page is to introduce the basic knowledge of Print Dialog & Print Settings, as well as common issues.

Overview

1. What is Print Dialog?
2. When Print Dialog will be displayed?
3. Set default values for Print Dialog.
4. Priority: [User master record] vs [User-specific default values] vs [Cross-user default values]
5. Display print parameters on the initial screen of Print Dialog.
6. "Print Time" is always shown on the initial screen of the Print Dialog.
7. Print Setting - "Selection Cover Page".
8. Call Print Dialog in ABAP program.

1. What is Print Dialog?

The following popup is known as Print Dialog:

![Print Dialog Screenshot]

is also known as the initial screen of Print Dialog.

The print dialog box makes it possible to interactively determine all print parameters and checks the input values for consistency and completeness.

As you can see, you can specify "Output Device(Printer)" "Number of copies" "Number of pages" on the initial screen of Print Dialog(by default).

You will find more settings if you click "Properties" button:
2. When Print Dialog will be displayed?

Print Dialog can be triggered by various ways:

- "Print" button on the GUI Status

- "Print specifications" button when define steps for background jobs:
- "Execute in Background" or "Execute and Print" menu of the selection screen:

- Function Module "GET_PRINT_PARAMETERS" (It is a released function module, customer can use it in Z/Y programs).

3. Set default values for Print Dialog.

The print settings specified by the Print Dialog will be used during print process. However, it might be inconvenience for end-uses to specify frequently-used setting every time. for example:

- For some users, they should always use a fixed printer.
- For some reports, a fixed format should always be used.
- For a report, format A should always be used during online execution, format B should always be used during background execution.

SAP provides 3 different ways that can be used to set default values for each print setting of Print Dialog:
a) User master record (transaction SU3, SU01):

However, with user master record, only "Output Device(printer)" "Whether print immediately" "Whether delete the spool after output" can be specified.

b) User-specific default values:
Here, you can set default values for all print settings, you can also set the "Validity" of your default values:

- Valid for all reports or Valid for current report only
- Valid for dialog processing or background processing or both.

c) Cross-user default values (Report RSPRIPARADMIN):

Old layout (before SAPKB74004):
New layout (as of SAPKB74004):

**Printer Defaults for All Users**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameters</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Output device</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authorization</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Format</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage Mode</td>
<td>Print only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Footer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Defaults</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retention Period</td>
<td>Delete after 8 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spool Retention Period Not Ready for Input</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALV Selections</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALV Statistics</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of field</th>
<th>Valid from</th>
<th>Field value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Save**

**Global Print Settings**

**Default for Parameter**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Print Time</td>
<td>SAP spool only for now</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Validity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Validity</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Valid for All Programs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dialog</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Background</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Print Default**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter Name</th>
<th>Validity</th>
<th>Parameter Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As you can see, except setting cross-user default values for each print setting, you could also show additional print parameters on the initial screen of Print Dialog.

There are two options of showing parameters on the initial screen: one is using RSPRIPARADMIN, another one will be introduced in section 5 of this blog.

4. Priority: [User master record] vs [User-specific default values] vs [Cross-user default values]

[Cross-user default values] > [User-specific default values] > [User master record].

For details, please check SAP Note 1444308.

5. Display print parameters on the initial screen of Print Dialog.

There are two options of showing parameters on the initial screen: one is using RSPRIPARADMIN(already introduced in section 3), another one is using the Print Dialog itself:

After you double click one print parameter, checkbox "Display selected parameter on initial screen" will appear. If you turn on this checkbox, the print parameter will be displayed on the initial screen of Print Dialog.

Note: the setting here is user-specific.

However, sometimes you may find that the checkbox is grayed out and can not be changed:
6. "Print Time" is always shown on the initial screen of the Print Dialog.

When printing takes place from the SAP system, there are increasingly doubts as to the current location of the print output. This is because the output always takes place via the SAP spool. The following problems occur:
The “Print Immediately” parameter is normally not activated in the fixed values in the user master record. This means that the outputs first go to the SAP spool and you often wait in vain at the output device for your printout.

However, if “Print Immediately” is activated, large documents are mistakenly printed relatively frequently.

The “Print time” parameter is of central significance. For this reason, as of SAP_BASIS Release 7.40, it is always shown on the initial screen of the print dialog regardless of the user settings. It can therefore not be deactivated on a user-specific or global basis. The parameter appears in the new attributes pane. As a result, there is an association with the button of the same name, which can be used to reach the other print parameters.

For details, check point 19 of Note 1444308 as well as KBA 2477729.

7. Print Setting - "Selection Cover Page".

If the user fills this field, the system includes a cover page into the output that contains the selections from the selection screen.

For example:
"Selection Cover Page" is also very useful in following cases:

- report variant contains dynamic value or report variant was changed after execution, you want to know which value was used when the job/program was actually running.

This is described in SAP Note 161457.

8. Call Print Dialog in ABAP program.
The GET_PRINT_PARAMETERS function module can be used to call the print dialog in a program.

For example, you can GET_PRINT_PARAMETERS to get the print settings then use NEW-PAGE PRINT ON PARAMETERS print_parameters NO DIALOG to set the print parameters for spool list output. Note, in this case, the print setting which is specified at previous Print Dialog, will be overwritten:

The following program sets printer = 'TOM' and 'Print immediately':

```plaintext
REPORT demo NO STANDARD PAGE HEADING.
DATA: print_parameters TYPE pri_params,
valid_flag TYPE c LENGTH 1.
PARAMETERS test TYPE c LENGTH 20.
START-OF-SELECTION.
CALL FUNCTION 'GET_PRINT_PARAMETERS'
  EXPORTING
  DESTINATION = 'TOM'
  IMMEDIATELY = 'X'
  NO_DIALOG = 'X'
IMPORTING
  out_parameters = print_parameters
  valid = valid_flag
EXCEPTIONS
  invalid_print_params = 2
  OTHERS = 4.
NEW-PAGE PRINT ON PARAMETERS print_parameters
  NO DIALOG.
WRITE test.
NEW-PAGE PRINT OFF.
```

Even you specify printer 'LP01' and 'SAP spool only for now' on the Print Dialog (by clicking the 'Execute and Print' button), they will be ignored and the print settings specified in the program will apply: