

newsletter archives
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Photo Quality Printer Driver

This new technology produces the highest quality monochrome image available on the market. The **Photo Quality** option enables or disables dithering of the Black Ice driver. Once **Photo Quality** is enabled, five high quality filters become accessible. Digital half-toning, also referred to as spatial dithering, produces the illusion of continuous-tone pictures on media that is capable of displaying only binary picture elements, such as fax machines and most printers. *Floyd-Steinberg* and *Jarvis-Judice-Ninke*, are the text book filters. The *Smooth*, *Sharp*, and *Stucki* are less well known but produce better quality output. *Floyd-Steinberg* is the default setting. The photo quality program group also contains a scroll bar that lets you control the intensity of the output image. The lower the intensity value, the darker the output image will be.

When Should Photo Quality Output be used? The Photo Quality output is used primarily for faxing and to transmit color pictures on a monochrome device. When a color picture is faxed from a conventional desktop fax machine, the result is unrecognizable in most cases. On computer-generated faxes, the output quality can be increased to photo quality using the Black Ice printer driver.

Win95/98 Network Print Capability

The new Win95 printer driver is now shipped with a port monitor, which allows the Win95/98 printer driver to be deployed as a network printer driver.

How will the printer driver work in the network environment? The network monochrome printer driver will have to be integrated differently with your applications. The existing messaging interface will not work in the network environment. The network application has to monitor the output directory from the printer driver. Three files are generated for every

print job. Each print job will have a Group File, a TIFF File, and an optional Text File. The Group File contains information about generated TIFF image(s) such as the TIFF file names, orientation with and height of the image, the TIFF file(s), the text file contains the ASCII text from the printed document. A developer can use and combine these three files to generate a fax.

E-mail to Fax Add On for Fax C++

A new e-mail to Fax and Fax to e-mail library is now available as an add-on to our Fax C++. The e-mail to fax library will convert e-mail to TIFF format. The TIFF that is generated is ready to be faxed with the Fax C++. The library lets you retrieve the e-mail header information such as To, From, and Subject field. A single TIFF attachment of the e-mail can be converted along with the

library with the text body of the e-mail into a single TIFF file. The e-mail sender can insert information, such as fax number, name and notes, in the subject field of the e-mail. The TIFF to e-mail part of the library lets you to encode the TIFF file into e-mail and send it to an e-mail address. This new tool is designed for developers who want to make the conversion between the two different messaging formats seamless and enhance their existing fax or e-mail applications.

Printer Driver for NT 4.0 Terminal Server

This new driver is different from our existing NT printer driver in several ways. The driver can be installed only on NT 4.0 Terminal Server. It can handle multiple simultaneous sessions, limited only by the NT Terminal Server. The Name Pipe messaging interface makes development simple and straight forward.

Impact Fax Server

The Impact Fax Server is compatible with new higher density NaturalMicro System AG boards. With 120 port density the NMS AG 4000 provides a true Enterprise solution.

- The Server ships with three Client options.
- Client software integrates with MS Inbox or Outlook and integrates with printer drivers.
- Standard client software looks and feels like MS Outlook and integrates with printer drivers.
- Browser client allows you to send and receive fax from Internet browsers.
- E-mail to Fax and Fax to e-mail capability let you to deploy the fax server in the Internet and Intranet environment with e-mail client only.

Alpha NT Printer Driver

Both the NT 4.0 Monochrome and Color printer drivers are available for the NT Alpha platform. Both drivers come with an easy installation program.

Y2K Compliance

All of the products from Black Ice Software have been tested for Y2K compliance. For detailed information and certification on individual products, please visit our Web site at www.blackice.com

Impact Fax Server API

Black Ice has released version 2.72 of the Impact Fax™ Server. The new release includes a Fax Server engine API which was designed for Systems Integrators who want to rapidly build a custom user interface (client) for a fax server, or integrate the fax server with their existing systems. The Fax Server API includes the sample source code.

Fax C++/OCX and Voice C++/OCX

- Extended TAPI supports.

The Fax OCX has new methods that are TAPI compatible and it includes a sample application for the Fax OCX. The Fax C++ also includes a rewritten TAPI sample application. The new sample application checks for valid TAPI drivers and Unimodem Driver. It also has built in debugging.

- Fax OCX and Voice OCX are now compatible with the Natural MicroSystems AG family of boards.
- Delphi sample applications for Fax OCX now illustrates how to use Delphi with NMS, Commetrex, and Dialogic boards.

Voice Mail System Configuration

There are three basic configurations for the Impact Voice Mail Server which is discussed here briefly, but the possibility for other configurations are not limited in any way. The possibilities are only limited by your imagination! There are three basic categories in which we can classify the Voice Mail Server configurations. These are, PBX, Internet, and Direct connection to Public Switching Network (PSTN or in other words "your telephone company").

Voice Mail Server behind PBX in Auto Attendee mode. In an enterprise corporate environment, all calls come into the PBX and the calls are routed to a set of extensions that are assigned to the Voice Mail server. In addition, the Voice Mail server can be interfaced with fax machines and Fax-On-Demands. The call comes in, greeting prompt(s) are played, calls get transferred to extensions. If a transferred call to the extension is not answered after a specific number of rings, the call is taken back by the voice mail system. Voice mail system plays a recorded message or the call is processed further. Messages can be retrieved through e-mail, voice mail client software, or the conventional way through a telephone set. From the desktop, users have the choice to retrieve messages with one of three client software options that are shipped with the server. These are a client software integrated with MS Inbox, any conventional e-mail package or browser.

Voice Mail Server behind PBX Night mode. In some businesses, human operators have to answer incoming calls and manually direct calls according to the nature of the business. In this environment, the calls are handled differently. Calls come in and a human attendee answers them. Calls get transferred to extensions or calls are transferred to the voice mail system. If a transferred call to the extension is not answered after a specific number of rings, the call is forwarded to the voice mail system. Messages can be retrieved through e-mail, voice mail client software, or the conventional way, through a telephone set. From the desktop, users have the choice to retrieve messages with one of the three client software options shipped with the server. These are a client software integrated with MS Inbox, any conventional e-mail package or browser.