Black Ice Newsletter

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HTML Printer Driver - *NEW!*

The latest version of the Black Ice printer drivers contain new features which converts any printable file directly into an HTML files.

Document imaging and document conversion applications need a reliable and easy way to publish documents to web sites. The best way to publish a document to a web site is to convert the document to HTML and provide a link to the HTML page so users can access it.

Existing document conversion tools convert documents into image files like TIFF, BMP or JPEG. However in order to publish these images on a web site, they have to be incorporated into HTML pages.

Most conversion utilities will not embed images into HTML pages; this typically has to be done by post processing the image.

To generate HTML output with the Black Ice printer drivers,

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New Printer Driver Add-on - Batch Converter

Black Ice has introduced a new "Batch Converter" add-on to the printer driver, enabling developers to convert incoming emails into images. The Batch Converter sample application logs in to a specified POP3 email address then retrieves the emails from a given user account. The attachments of the emails (Word, Excel, HTML, text files, etc.) will be printed to the Black Ice printer driver which will result in converting the received documents into images (JPEG, PDF, TIFF, BMP, etc.).

Developers can modify this sample later on to fit their exact needs by adding additional features.

The new "Batch Converter" sample is part of the Printer Driver Resource Toolkit (RTK) and is available with the purchase of the latest version of the printer driver.

V.34 Support for Modems is Here! Additional details on page 3

Print Preview/Image Composer for Document Imaging!

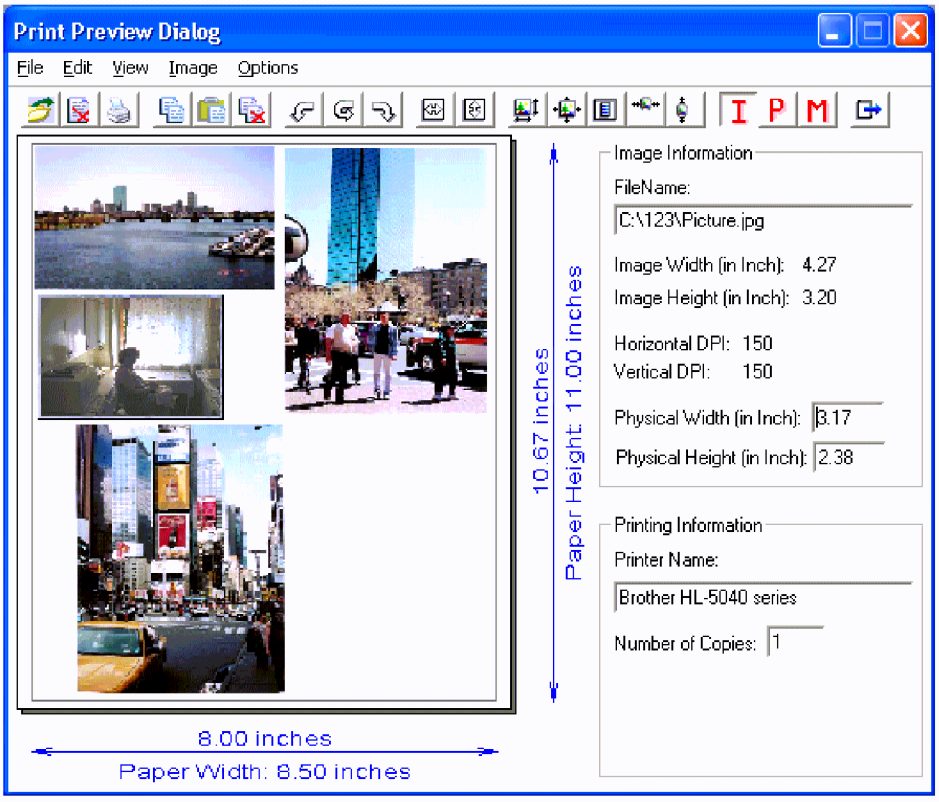
These days with more and more digital cameras on the market, the need to print images is growing. The Black Ice Document Imaging SDK provides a powerful tool for developers called "Print Preview image composer" to handle printing images.

The Black Ice "Print Preview" is a sophisticated dialog box that can programmatically display several images based on the target printer's settings and allow users to resize and arrange the images as they desire. Developers can easily integrate the Print Preview feature in their application, using only a few lines of code.

How it works:

There are several ways to use the Black Ice Print Preview dialog tool. The simplest way is to display the window with a single function call and let the end users manipulate the images.

The Black Ice Print Preview will display the page layout and show the paper size based on the selected printer's settings. The target printer can be changed to any available printer. When a new printer is selected, or the printer settings have been changed, the Print Preview dialog will automatically reformat the page based on the new paper size, DPI settings and page orientation.



Any image format supported by the Document Imaging SDK can be loaded and printed. Once an image is loaded, the user can move the image to any position on the paper and/or they can resize the image(s). The dialog box will show the dimensions of the currently selected image in Pixels, Inches or Millimeters depending on the view mode selected. Center vertically, horizontally and use image's DPI options are also available options.

Developers can use a set of flags to programmatically enable which menu items and toolbar buttons will be displayed in the Print Preview dialog. Undesired menu and toolbar options can be hidden from the end users. Also, developers can add their own menu items by specifying the name for the new menu item and a pointer to the function to be called when selected.

Once the page is formatted, the application can print the page using the Black Ice Printing functions and methods, which are fast, reliable and easy to use.

The Print Preview dialog is included in the **Document Imaging SDK/ActiveX** available from our website: http://www.blackice.com/document%20conversion.htm

New - GIF Printer Driver!

GIF is a flexible image format which produces small image sizes and maintains good overall quality. This makes the GIF file format one of the most widely used on web sites. The only drawback of GIF was the fact that Unisys owned the patent of the LZW compression, which is the base of the GIF format and until recently Unisys charged royalties for anyone that wanted to use GIF images .

Fortunately, the US Unisys LZW patent has expired and now anyone in the US can use GIF without royalties.

To answer the growing demand, Black Ice printer drivers now can also generate GIF files. Generating GIF files with Black Ice printer drivers is easy. The user sets the Black Ice printer driver to generate GIF files through the printer driver's user interface or through the printer driver's programming interface. After that, the user can simply open any printable file and print it to the Black Ice printer. The printer driver will do the conversion and create GIF files based on the printed file. The name and location of the GIF files, the exact size, resolution and also the color depth of the image can all be set by the user or the developer.

(HTML Printer Driver... - Continued from page 1)

the user simply prints a file to the Black Ice printer. The Black Ice printer will convert the file into an image and will incorporate the image into an HTML page. When the printing has finished, the HTML file will be ready to be published on a web site. The user can even specify what type of image the printer driver will incorporate into the HTML file. Currently the following formats are supported:

- HTML with JPEG
- HTML with GIF
- HTML with PNG
- HTML with BMP

In order to keep the file size small enough for web publishing the image size, resolution, the number of colors used and for JPEG files the JPEG quality can be specified. Like any other Black Ice printer driver setting, these settings can be modified programmatically or interactively by the user.

V.34 Support for Modems is Here!

Version 10.0 of the Fax C++/ ActiveX implements V.34 faxing based on the Class 1.0 fax command set and will send V.34 faxes to any fax modem or board on the market that supports Class 1.0 and V.34 faxing. A fax sent at 33,600 bps is more than twice as fast as a fax sent at 14,400 bps. The increased transmission speed increases performance by drastically reducing training time. The same fax can be sent in half the time as before, saving money on phone bills.

Several desktop fax machine manufacturers like HP, Lexmark and dozens of other vendors released products capable of faxing at very high 33,600 bps speeds. These desktop fax machines are able to send V.34 faxes to other desktop fax machines that also support V.34 faxing; however there are few software solutions available to take advantage of the new technology. Things changed when MultiTech released the MT5634ZBA external fax modem. The new MultiTech modem supports V.34 faxing along with the Class 1.0 command set.

The support of the MultiTech V.34 fax modem is a new addition to the list of hardware supported by Fax C++. Fax C++ also supports the Brooktrout TR1034 boards and the Dialogic Gammalink Cpi200B and Cpi400B boards which are all capable of V.34 faxing.

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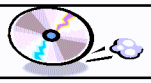
New Printer Drivers, V.34 for Modems has Arrived!

Time to upgrade?



Latest Version Numbers

Programming Tools

Product	Version	Date
Fax C++/ActiveX/COM	10.0	12/01/03
Voice C++/ActiveX/COM	10.0	12/01/03
ColorPrinter Driver for Win95/98/ME	5.57	07/28/03
Metafile Printer Driver for Win95/98/ME	5.57	07/28/03
Mono Printer Driver for Win95/98/ME	5.57	07/28/03
PDF Printer Driver for Win95/98/ME	5.57	07/28/03
Mono Printer Driver for NT/Win2000/XP	8.20	12/01/03
Color Printer Driver for NT/Win2000/XP	8.20	12/01/03
Mono Printer Driver for NT/W2K/XP	8.20	12/01/03
Metafile Printer Driver for NT/W2K/XP	8.20	12/01/03
PDF Printer Driver for NT/W2K/XP	8.20	12/01/03
Terminal Server Printer Driver Win2003	8.20	12/01/03
Tiff SDK/ActiveX/COM	10.03	10/10/03
Annotation SDK/ActiveX/COM	10.03	10/10/03
Cover Page Generator for Imaging SDKs	10.03	10/10/03
PDF Plug-in for TIFF SDK	10.03	10/10/03
Image SDK/OCX	10.03	10/10/03
Document Imaging SDK	10.03	10/10/03

Impact Products

Product	Version	Date
Impact Fax Server	4.36	12/18/02
Impact Fax on Demand	4.06	12/01/00
Impact Fax Broadcast	3.04	08/01/03
Impact ColorFax	5.01	02/21/03
Drag and Drop Printing	2.00	12/24/02

Internet Tools

Print2Email	3.01	01/20/03
Tiff Viewer Plug-in - Complete	5.01	06/26/03
Print Monitoring Server	2.20	09/05/03

Free Software

ColorFax LITE	5.01	02/21/03
Tiff Viewer Plug-in - Free Version	5.00	03/26/03
ModemWeasel	2.00	08/01/02