IBM

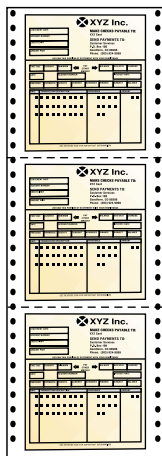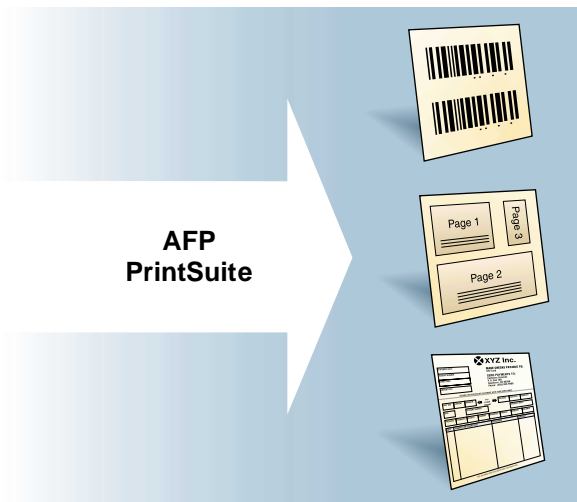# IBM AFP PrintSuite for iSeries

Simple data,
preprinted form

Same application…
advanced output

**AFP
PrintSuite**

With the tools in IBM AFP PrintSuite for iSeries there is no need to re-engineer existing applications to output newly designed documents.

Highlights

■ ***Implement full-page electronic output for your documents and reports without changes to your existing programs***

■ ***Take advantage of today's high-function electronic printers, and Advanced Function Presentation (AFP)***

■ ***Choose the PrintSuite product that fits your requirements***

■ ***Print to network IPDS printers with standard iSeries reliability and control***

IBM® AFP™ PrintSuite for iSeries® is a family of advanced print-enabling tools that facilitate moving your applications from traditional line-at-a-time printing to effective, full-page documents and reports. AFP PrintSuite enables output that blends application data with a variety of fonts, electronic forms, images and bar coding.

AFP PrintSuite for iSeries consists of the following products:

- *Advanced Print Utility (APU), an end-user formatting system*
- *Page Printer Formatting Aid (PPFA), a compiler for page and form definitions*
- *AFP Toolbox, a powerful set of high-function Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)*
- *SAP R/3 AFP Print, an AFP interface providing advanced printing capabilities for SAP R/3 applications*

Why electronic printing?

Companies using iSeries computers are switching to electronic printing to achieve a number of very important benefits. Electronic printing can substantially reduce paper usage, document revision and control costs, and operator costs.

- *Documents encoded with bar codes, OCR, MICR and images facilitate the re-engineering of workflow and can reduce operational costs.*

e
business

- *Electronic documents using fonts, image, and electronic forms are more effective and more readable than lines of print on fixed, preprinted forms.*
- *Electronic output, with information tailored to each customer, can communicate much more, and provide significant competitive advantage.*

Why PrintSuite?

AFP PrintSuite for iSeries provides the benefits of electronic printing without imbedding your print formatting within the application. While iSeries has long provided strong support for electronic printing via Data Description Specifications (DDS), this coding is part of the application programming. With PrintSuite, you can separate electronic print formatting from the application.

The AFP PrintSuite applications are integrated with OS/400® providing easy access to AFP. AFP benefits include integrated print management that, unlike other page datastreams, is interactive with the printer. This provides efficient job management and full error recovery, ensuring that what you send to the printer gets printed quickly and completely.

AFP is a worldwide standard for medium- to high-speed electronic printing. It creates a structured, high-performance print datastream that is system and printer independent.

It provides output flexibility, with support for view, fax, archive and desktop print. Additionally, AFP printing utilizes Intelligent Printer Data Stream™ (IPDS™), which provides "industrial strength," system-managed printing even across the network.

Advanced Print Utility

Advanced Print Utility is an interactive end-user system for transforming existing SCS application output to advanced electronic documents. Advanced Print Utility requires no changes to the current application, instead working off the spool file created by the application.

Using an easy, intuitive interface, a new document design is built. The new document can incorporate electronic forms, images, fonts, bar codes, text and other elements. The existing output data is brought up visually, and you can completely change the way it is placed on the page, including position, font, color, rotation and bar coding.

APU is designed to create complete electronic documents, with tailored page layouts and customized copies. For example, using the existing application data conditionally to select which page design and which copies are produced, APU easily creates all the required copies of a customer invoice, each tailored to its specific function.

Once the new output is designed, it can easily be put into production. The APU production system automatically monitors and intercepts current application output and transforms it into new electronic documents.

Features of Advanced Print Utility include:
- *Design "fast path" to support typical output that has one page layout and multiple copies*
- *Ability to suppress output, such as prices and totals on a packing list*
- *Automatic creation of document copies, each of which can easily be customized*
- *Ability to create electronic form elements, such as lines, boxes, text and image*
- *Robust document and usability functions such as constant duplex forms, drawer selection by copy and much more*
- *APU production system includes customization of application data, spool management and document distribution*
- *Preserves SCS capabilities such as highlight, bolding and underscore*

Page Printer Formatting Aid

Page Printer Formatting Aid lets you create AFP form definitions and page definitions that map line-at-a-time output to full electronic pages. PPFA is the compiler that creates iSeries page and form definition objects from source statements. The source is a print programming language that defines how your existing print records will be reformatted into pages while adding electronic forms, image, copies, etc. Page and form definitions are specified directly in the iSeries printer file. The next time the application is run, it creates full pages of AFP output based on those definitions.

Using PPFA means:

- *No changes to the application programs*
- *Application output is changed dynamically, resulting in higher printing performance*
- *For multiple iSeries systems, PPFA is required only on the development system. Run-time function is integrated into the iSeries printer file*
- *Page and form definitions are compatible across numerous systems (including MVS™, VM™, VSE™ and AIX®)*

Toolbox for iSeries

Toolbox for iSeries lets you take full control over the power of the AFP print datastream, with an easy, high-function set of Application Programming Interfaces (APIs).

AFP Toolbox is indispensable when you are formatting complex, electronic output with variable text, "floating" electronic forms, dynamic image and graphics or embedded indexing. If you already have a programmed interface to full-page output, AFP Toolbox enables you to easily create an AFP output "drive."

Features of AFP Toolbox include:

- *Ability to create and dynamically control any design element on the page*
- *Ability to control variable text, including positioning and justification*
- *Full bar code support*

SAP R/3 AFP Print

SAP R/3 AFP Print dynamically transforms the output of R/3 applications, providing:

- *Enhanced documents with electronic forms, images, logos, bar codes and fonts*
- *Access to the full range of IPDS printers, from 12 to 1002 ipm*
- *Intelligent error recovery, ensuring print jobs are printed completely and accurately every time*

Summary

If you are still creating line-at-a-time output, but want to shift into the dynamic world of electronic printing, AFP PrintSuite is for you. With the choices offered by AFP PrintSuite for iSeries, you can make this transition easily, smoothly, and without changes to your existing applications.

For more information

To learn more, contact your local IBM Printing Systems representative or call (800) 358-6661, option 3. You may also visit **ibm.com**/printers

Capabilities/General	—Enables composition of full-function electronic documents and reports
	—Integrates fully into the iSeries printing and e-output architecture
	—Note: APU, PPFA, Toolbox and SAP/R3 AFP Print are separately orderable products

Capabilities/APU	—Interactive end-user system, a Query/400 for AFP
	—Application-independent, no changes to application program
	—Visual redesign of existing output
	—Creates complex pages and multiple copies simply and easily
	—Production system includes job customization, spool management and document distribution

Capabilities/PPFA	—Dynamically changes existing applications, due to tight integration
	—Application-independent, no changes to application program
	—High performance
	—Note: Infoprint Designer for iSeries provides the functions of PPFA with a graphical user interface

| **Capabilities/Toolbox** | —Set of high-function APIs to generate AFP |
| | —Designed for complex applications where full control of page content is required |

| **Capabilities/SAP R/3** | —AFP output support for SAP R/3 applications |
| | —Full management of printed output with PSF™/400 including resource management and error recovery |

| **Prerequisites** | —Print Services Facility™ for OS/400 |
| | —Intelligent Printer Data Stream (IPDS) printer or equivalent |

Complementary Products	—Infoprint Server for iSeries	—AFP Font Collection
	—AFP Font Collection / Type Transformer for Windows™	—Facsimile Support for iSeries
	—Content Manager OnDemand for iSeries	—Content Manager Common Server for iSeries
	—iSeries Client Access Family	

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