

Getting started with PQplus

Before you get going with PQplus it would be a good idea to spend five minutes reading this guide and getting a brief understanding of how the software operates so that you can get up and running as quickly as possible.

Overview

The commands :

PQplus has a command line interface and a menu system which will work on most terminals with a UNIX terminfo definition, VT100 etc.

/usr/pq+/bin/printq : add, modify, list and delete print requests from the PQplus queue

/usr/pq+/bin/pcon : start, stop and control the PQplus system and printers

/usr/pq+/bin/pqmenu : PQplus menus - fully functional and really useful for adding and configuring your printers

How it works :

PQplus has a master 'controller' process whose job it is to start any PQplus printers when necessary. The PQplus printers are responsible for ensuring the delivery of any print requests to the actual printer itself.

PQplus replaces the UNIX LP system and does not depend on it in any way.

That's not so bad is it? Right, let's just go through a few simple examples which will show you how to control PQplus and run a few simple jobs.

Starting PQplus

Before any PQplus will service any print requests you must start the PQplus system.

\$ pcon -start

Having started PQplus the 'PQplus Controller' process will service any print requests found in the PQplus queue.

Checking the status of PQplus and printers

To check that PQplus is started and to check whether the printers themselves are started you can use the following commands :

\$ pcon -status

\$ pcon -list

Setting up a PQplus printer

Ok, this is probably the most tricky part of setting up a PQplus system. The main thing to have ready is the following information, if you've got that it will be a snip to set up your printers.

NT/Novell print

TCP/IP direct

TCP/IP terminal server

Need more help?

For a complete list of all the PQplus options you should refer to the PQplus user guide which can be found on the 'download' page of the Software Innovations website.



For a brief overview of all 'printq' and 'pcon' options you can issue the following commands :

\$ printq -help
\$ pcon -help

queue 'netflex'

You will need :

The server name or TCP/IP address if it is not defined in your hosts file.

connect e.g. via a JetDirect card 'jetdirect'

You will need :

The TCP/IP address assigned to the JetDirect card in the printer. (Print off a configuration sheet to find this out)

e.g. via a Spider server 'network'

You will need :

The TCP/IP address of the terminal server and the IP port number assigned to the asynchronous or parallel port which the printer is plugged in to.

Start the PQplus menus by typing 'pqmenu' and follow these steps :

- Select 'Administration' -> 'Printers' -> 'Create, modify & delete printers'
- Select 'Create a new printer'
- Type in a name for your printer, e.g. 'myprinter' and press <return>
- Use the select key (Control-L by default) to display a list of printer types
- Position to your type of printer (see table above) and press the select key again
- Execute the form by pressing the execute key (Control-W by default)
- The printer will be created and you should press <return> to proceed with the definition process
- Next you will need to provide the details specific to the type of printer you are adding. This information is as shown in the table above. You may like to use the editor screen to supply the information which can be displayed by typing the edit key (Control-P by default)
- Type the execute key to complete the printer definition process

Starting a PQplus printer

Having set up your printer it is necessary to start it. Once started PQplus will be able to run the printer and it will be able to service prints when they are placed in the queue.

```
$ pcon -start myprinter
```

Printing a job through PQplus

To print a job with PQplus you have to issue a command that places a print in the PQplus queue. Once in the queue PQplus will start a PQplus printer to service the request when it is possible to do so.

```
$ printq /etc/hosts -at myprinter
```

This command will place a request in the PQplus queue which will result in the hosts file being printed by the printer 'myprinter'.

Checking the log for a PQplus printer

You may want to inspect the logfile for a particular PQplus printer if for example you wanted to see a list of all the files that have been sent to it.

```
$ pcon -log myprinter
```

Restarting a PQplus print from the start

If you want a print to be restarted you should issue the request to the printer that is servicing the print .

```
$ pcon -restart myprinter
```

Restarting a PQplus print from a few pages back

You can instruct a PQplus printer to reprint a few pages back from the current position.

```
$ pcon myprinter -back 10
```

This command requests that the print currently being printed by 'myprinter' is restarted back 10 pages. One thing to note here is that you should take into account any buffering that may be being performed by the printer itself. You can 'tune' PQplus to deliver a print to a printer at a gradual rate and you should refer to the user guide if you want to try this.

Listing the PQplus prints

To view all the PQplus prints in all the PQplus queues you should use the following command.

```
$ printq -list
```

Modifying a PQplus print

You may want to modify a PQplus request that is already in the PQplus queue. To achieve this you must know the PQplus request number, which can be found by listing the PQplus jobs (as above).

```
$ printq -mod 10 -at myprinter
```

This command will instruct PQplus to send print request number 10 to the printer 'myprinter'.

Deleting a PQplus request

You may want to delete a PQplus job from the queue either before it has been printed or perhaps while it is being printed.

```
$ printq -del 10
```

If the job is already printing it will be requested to abort from wherever it has got to.

Ok, that's the end of your first PQplus experience. We hope you found this guide useful and would like to refer you to the PQplus user guide for more information and if you have any more questions please contact us here at Software Innovations at support@softwareinnovations.co.uk.