ADVANCED TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Canon

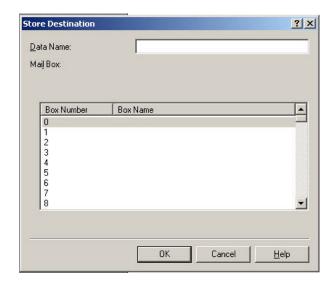
ATI-SY-061

Model: GP285,335, 405, 605

Subject: Mailbox names with CCD PCL v4.51 and above

Detail:

The GP285, 335, 405, 555 and 605 all support the Mailbox feature, also known as the Image Server. This feature allows users to print to a predefined mailbox, which can have a name and a password associated with it. Unfortunately, even if the driver is updated by using the dynamic configuration function, the mailbox names are not copied across from the GP to the driver, resulting in the user having to remember their mailbox number rather than a "friendly name."



Screenshot of mailbox screen from CCD v4.41. Even though a column exists for "Box Name" it is never populated, the user must remember their box number.

A method has been developed to allow the "Box Name" field to be populated, by means of an information file which conforms to the ".ini" file format, allowing access through the Windows API. Once created, this file can reside on a server or client or be shared from one location.

Creating the Information File

Before the file can be created, a list should be made of the Mailbox names and their corresponding numbers. This data will be used to populate the information file.

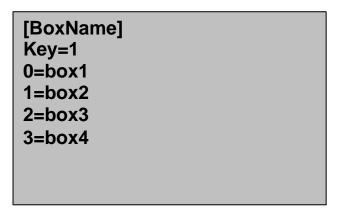
Any file name can be used providing its extension is .ini, e.g. mailbox.ini

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Example information file:

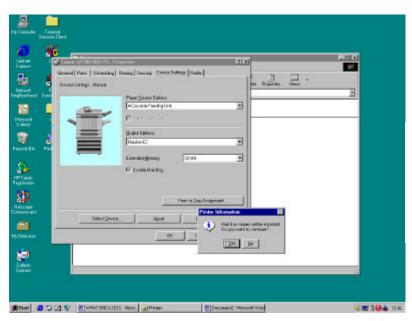


The first two entries, [BoxName] and Key=1 are mandatory. The following entries refer to the actual mailboxes (0,1,2 etc) and their names (box1, box2 etc). Box names are limited to 24 characters.

Note that if Mailbox entries on the GP are changed or added, the information file should updated accordingly.

Using the Information File

If clients are printing directly to a GP using LPR or SMB, each client must update their driver using the information file installed locally or shared somewhere on the network. If each client has a copy of the information file installed locally and mailbox entries change on the GP, all the information files must be updated. Obviously, it would be more convenent to have one information file shared across the network. In either case, when the information file is used for the first time or updated for any reason, each client must update the driver by using the "get device status" command. Once this is complete, the driver will ask the user if they wish to import mailbox names.



Once the "Get Device Status" command is completed, the user is asked if they wish to import mailbox names

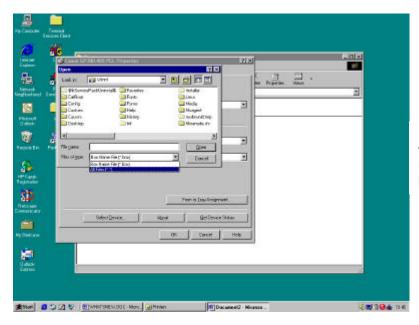
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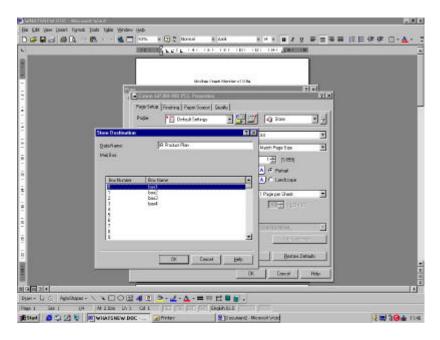
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If the user chooses yes, the location of the information file must be specified.



From the drop down file type menu, use All Files (*.*) to locate information (.ini) file.

Once the location has been specified, the mailbox names appear in the driver.



If clients are printing via point and print from an NT Server and the information file is changed, only the driver on the server needs to be updated by using the "get device status" command. Once completed, the client drivers will automatically reflect the change.

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If multiple GP's are installed on a network and they have different box names, an information file must be created for each device.

Advantages

- Offers a fairly simple workaround for the lack of dynamic updating of mailbox names.
- When used in conjunction with point and print, the client does not have to do anything to update the mailbox names.
- There is no limit on the number of information files that can be created if there are multiple GP's connected to the network. Simply update each driver with the relevant information file.

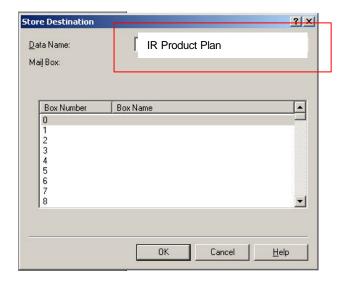
Points to be aware of

- An information file must be created and manually updated if mailbox names change.
- If not using point and print, each client must use the "get device status" command to update their mailbox names.

Additional Information

9 April, 2001

If a client sends a print job to a mailbox on a GP connected via SMB, the print job can be personalised by entering text in the "Data Name" text box.



Any text entered here is displayed on the screen of the GP when the mailbox is accessed.

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Also, the Job Log Document column will show the text entered.

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