

MegaForm Print

for NT, OS/2, Unix

User manual

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Introduction

MegaForm Print is the command-line utility of the MegaForm family. It merges data files with multipage forms, and handles data intelligently, with calculation, validation, dynamic pagination.

MegaForm Print exists for multiple operating systems:

Windows 95

Windows NT

OS/2

Unix *

*: please contact us for availability

Command Line Format

Syntax:

MEGAPRT <formName> [dataFile] [options]

<formName>: MFF file name (MegaForm Form file). This is the minimum parameter, except when the `-v` parameter is set. If no `«.mff»` file extension is defined, MegaForm will add it (in lowercase).

[dataFile]: data file name (spool or ASCII data). If not specified, the form is printed without data.

[options]: optional parameters for the MegaForm Print module.

Option parameters

-c#

printer-based multi- copy printing

The printer will print the specified number of similar copies of each page.

Values for #: 1 to 999

-C#

Software-based multi- copy printing

MegaForm Print will print the specified number of copies of each page. Each data file page will be applied # time to each form page and the [\$COPY] value usable in calculations will reflect the occurrence number.

Values for #: 1 to 999

(applicable to spool file printing only).

-f

To indicate you want multipart sorted page

-i#

Override the form first macro number (defined during form design). Note that for a multi-page document, each page uses one macro number. For example, if you specify 100 as the first macro number for a 4 pages document, the first page will be stored in the printer RAM as macro 100, the second page as macro 101, third page as macro 102 and fourth page as macro 103. You then must make sure documents

loaded in RAM don't have macro numbers that overlap.

Values for #: 1 to 32750

-l

if the forms are preloaded in the printer

When specified, MegaForm Print assumes the forms are already loaded in the laser printer.

Note that when the form status in RAM is set as « Temporary » in the form design, that parameter has no effect and the form is reloaded in the printer.

No parameter

-m#

data character set

Specifies in which character set the data file is using.

Values for #: 1 = Windows ANSI (default)
2 = PC850
3 = Roman 8

-n

Indicates to perform no Post Reset (only available for OS/2). In OS/2 V3 and older, the OS/2 print manager performs a Form Feed when the last byte is not form feed. This is generating a blank page after each print job, unless the -n parameter is specified, insuring the last bte sent is the Form Feed char.

-oOutput

indicates the output destination (file or device name)

examples :

-oLPT1 for a device like LPT1

-o\\SERVER\HP5SI for a LAN queue (OS/2, NT)

-oprintfile.prn for a print file
-ostdout for a print file sent to stdout

If no output destination is indicated, the output device name is taken from the MEGAOUT environment variable. If no MEGAOUT environment variable is defined, the name of the form, with the «.prn» extension is used.

-O"Unix process"

This option is available only in Unix environment. To indicate a Unix process, i.e. to indicate a Unix printer. 'oOutput' option is used only to generate an output file.

Example :

`-O"lp -dHP4000 -oraw"`

where HP4000 is the name of Unix printer.

-p<model>

to change the printer code generation

If the target printer is different from the original printer, you can indicate the target printer model. MegaForm Print will then adapt the printing to that model (fonts, color, graphic resolution, printer language...).

<model> must be one of the following printer model identifiers :

LJ3, LJ3D, LJ3S, LJ3P : HP LaserJet III family (S=Si)

LJ4, LJ4S, LJ4L, LJ4P, LJ4PL, LJ4V : HP LaserJet 4 family (S=Si)

LJC : HP LaserJet Color

LJ5C, LJ5L, LJ5S, LJ5, LJ5P : HP LaserJet 5 family (S=Si, C=Color)

LJ6P, LJ6L : HP LaserJet 6 family

DJ1200, DJ1600 : PCL5 color HP DeskJet family
LJ4000

HPPCL4 : All PCL4 printers
HPPCL5 : All PCL5 printers
HPPCL5E : All PCL5E printers
HPPCL5C : All PCL5C printers
HPPCL5EC : All PCL5EC printers

PROPR : IBM Proprinter dot matrixprinter (data only)
4722 : IBM Financial impact printer (data only)

-q

for quiet form download
When Specified, the forms are loaded in the printer and not printed.
No parameter

-s#1,#2

Spool pages print range
MegaForm Print will print only the spool file pages in the specified range, from pages #1 to #2 (applicable to spool file printing only).

-t

Instructs MEGAPRT.EXE to return the number of spool pages processed, instead of the error code. Will then return 0 if an error occurs.

-u#=<value>

Defines the [\$U1] to [\$U9] User Variables for fields formulas.
Values for #: 1 to 9
<value> is an alphanumeric string, without blanks

-v

Returns the Print Engine version number as a program return code (multiplied by 100: value from 100 to 9999). When invoked with `-v` as the first parameter, MegaForm Print quits and returns the Print Engine version number multiplied by 100. Example : version 5.10 is returned as 510. No form name is needed. In example :

MEGAPRT `-v`

No parameter

-v#

Specifies the verbose mode.

Values for #:

0 = no screen output (silent mode)

1 = command line and input/output information

2 = command line, input/output and document information

3 = command line, input/output, document and pages information

That mode can be used by the MegaForm technical support center to determine the origin of problems you could have with a form.

Return value

MEGAPRT.EXE returns 0 if no error was encountered.

If `-v` was specified on the command line, the program returns the module version number multiplied by 100.

If `-t` was specified on the command line, the program returns the number of spool pages printed by MegaForm Print.

If none of those parameters are defined, if an error was found, the run-time sends back a value greater than zero as the return code. A message describing the error is displayed.

Most common values :

- 2: Read error in Form file
- 3: The file is not a MegaForm Form file
- 4: Unexpected end of file in Form file
- 5: Corrupted Form file
- 7: Can not open output device or file for printing
- 8: Can not open Form file
- 9: Can not open data file
- 10: The validation formula failed for the Form
- 11: Memory allocation error while reading Form (not enough memory)
- 12: Printer specific FFM font file not found
- 14: Corrupted FFM font file
- 20: Invalid data file pages range parameter

- 21: Invalid copies parameter
- 22: Unknown target printer identifier
- 23: Unknown character mapping ID for data
- 24 : First macro indicated on the command line is out of range
- 50: Next Page formula returned a page number out of range

51: The Document validation formula looped more than 10 consecutive time

300: A memory allocation error occurred. Please contact the Megaform support

Environment variables:

MEGAOUT

This variable can contain the name of the output device to which the output data has to be sent. If no `-o` parameter is defined on the command line, that variable will be checked for a destination.

Note : MEGAOUT can be a device name like `stdout`.

MEGAOPT

This variable can contain the default settings for the MegaForm Print Engine. This is especially useful when the Print Engine is called as a filter using `stdin` and `stdout` standard I/O.

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