



ClusterQue

Is a server based network printing software solution that provides three critical capabilities to Hewlett-Packard LaserJet printing environments:

1. Throughput:

ClusterQue harnesses the power of multiple LaserJet printers by "job splitting" to automatically distribute large print files across a cluster (group) of printers.

2. Reliability:

ClusterQue will detect errors on a printer or cluster and ensure that print jobs are only sent to functional printers, delivering maximum uptime and guaranteed print job completion for mission critical printing.

3. Management:

ClusterQue is a complete queue management solution that allows administrators and authorized users to dynamically manage print jobs and print environments.

Print jobs may be generated by virtually any platform or application on the network (mainframe, UNIX, Windows 95/98/NT/2000™, AS/400, HP3000, DEC VAX, etc.). The IT Manager or System Administrator configures the appropriate printers, queues, clusters, etc. within ClusterQue according to printing needs. Based on this setup information, print jobs are sent to the most efficient cluster configuration either by the user or from the command line within an application. ClusterQue then sends the job to the printers in the cluster. ClusterQue software is optimized for processing ASCII and PCL5e (or earlier) print files and works in concert with a number of HP preferred solutions to deliver a flexible and scalable solution to virtually any print process that requires high throughput, reliability and/or queue management.

Critical Capabilities:

ClusterQue software is:

Flexible: installs on any Windows NT/2000™ server on the network and does not require a dedicated server (UNIX versions available soon).

Scalable: can support virtually any size and/or type cluster of HP LaserJet printers.

Easy to install and operate: IT managers can install quickly; both administrators and users can easily manage jobs with ClusterQue's Java GUI.

Non-intrusive: clustered printers can be used in or out of the cluster at any time Solution Provider.

Operating System and Host Server Requirements:

- Windows NT 4.0 Server or Workstation with SP4.0 or higher *OR*
- Windows 2000 Professional or Server.
- 100 megabytes free space
- 64 megabytes memory
- CD-ROM drive or ftp download capability
- IE 4.0 or Netscape 4.0 (or higher)
- TCP/IP networking capability
- Optional: Webserver capabilities MS IIS (Internet Information Services) 4.0 or MS IIS 5.0
- Java Applet viewer (a Windows version is supplied by LBM)

Job splitting:

distributes large print files across a cluster which maximizes throughput capabilities and eliminates reliance on single printer/single point of failure print systems; for example, ClusterQue software turns three 50 ppm printers into a single 150 ppm printing system with printer redundancy.

Reliable print job distribution:

ClusterQue will detect errors on a printer or cluster and ensure that print jobs are only sent to functional printers.

Queue management:

- Print requests can be stopped
- Jobs can be re-started at any page

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- Jobs can be re-routed to different printers
- Jobs can be re-queued for later printing which eliminates the need to regenerate printing requests from applications and allows partial range printing in situations where only part of a print file is needed.

Global printer cluster diagnostics: displays condition of all printers and print jobs in an easy-to-use GUI so administrators and authorized users can easily manage clusters from a single point of control, even remotely.

Load balancing: automatically load balances print jobs across a cluster so that print jobs will always be sent to the next available least used printer or cluster (if one cluster is busy or unavailable, the print job is routed to the next available cluster).

Printer and cluster scheduling: users can define parameters such as priority, load, and class of printer so that print files can be processed in order of importance and routed to the first available printer or cluster without operator intervention.

Features & Benefits:
The concept behind the ClusterQue software solution is simple: harness the power of multiple print engines to deliver maximum printing throughput, maximum printer uptime and maximum control over the printing process.