

## **Printing from DOS-based Programs to Windows Printers**

Some users have experienced difficulty in printing reports from some of our DOS-based software, especially with the newer Windows-only printers. This document offers you four options for getting around this difficulty.

### **\$    Install a switch box.**

Hopefully, you did not throw away that old Bubble-jet or dot matrix printer. A switch box inserted into your printer cable to switch printers can work very successfully, provided there are no other complicating devices such as external zip drives or scanners. Switch boxes may also interfere with the two-way communication required by the Windows-only printers. Keep your receipt, this solution may simply not work, but if it does, it is a good, cost-effective and simple solution.

### **\$    Re-install your printer.**

All new printers come with either diskettes or a CD for loading onto your computer. Try going through the install process and make sure you check the box for ADo you want to print from DOS programs?@ Surprisingly, even though you may have checked this when you first installed the printer, a second run is often rather more successful.

### **\$    Print to a file.**

This one is a bit messy, but once you have mastered it, can improve your efficiency in printing reports by making your more selective in what you actually print. Every report has the option to print to a file rather than to the screen or the printer. Print to a file, skip out to your Windows word processor and print the report from there. There may be a little reformatting needed, but you may be surprised how adept you can get at this.

### **\$    Use Microsoft's LPT1-DOS solution.**

If you have problems printing to a local printer, try the LPT1.DOS port. This method is similar to printing to a file and then copying the file to the printer port. To enable the LPT1.DOS port, follow these steps:

1. Click Start, point to Settings, and then click Printers.
2. Right-click the printer you want to use, and then click Properties.
3. On the Details tab, click Add Port.
4. In the Add Port dialog box, click Other, click Local Port, click OK, then type "LPT1.DOS" (without quotation marks) in the Enter A Port Name box. Click OK.

Printing to the LPT1.DOS port may be slower than printing to the LPT1 port. Because printing to LPT1.DOS uses low-level DOS commands to send a job to the printer, not all of the available wiring (or lines) in the port and printer cable are used.

Note: More information on this particular solution can be found at:

<http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/q128/3/45.asp?FR=0>