

Bachmann Software PrintBoy Technical Note

Integration with PrintBoy Documents

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Introduction

This document provides instructions on how to programmatically call PrintBoy Documents and ask it to print a compatible document file.

Overview

PrintBoy Documents is an "applet" that encapsulates document printing for the PrintBoy product family. It is capable of recognizing and printing documents which are compatible with all of the major Palm OS document programs available today.

PrintBoy Documents can be used to print documents in one of two ways:

- 1) Running PrintBoy, viewing the list of available documents, selecting a document, and printing from within PrintBoy.
- 2) Passing a document file (a .pdb file) to PrintBoy Documents and asking it to print it on behalf of another application

This document describes how to implement the second approach, which is already in use by several of the 3rd party document programs to enable printing directly from a "Print Menu".

The basic mechanism used in the second scenario involves the use of the standard Palm OS "launch code". A launch code is a special command that may be passed to another Palm application in order to ask it to perform a specific function or behave in a certain way. Many applications support standard Palm launch codes that support the Go To function, or infrared beaming. Additionally, many applications create their own custom launch codes.

PrintBoy Documents supports a standard Palm launch code "sysAppLaunchCmdOpenDB", normally used to ask an application to open a database. Except that for PrintBoy Documents, an "Open Database" is being mapped to a "Print Database" command.

A Code Example

The following is a snippet of code, written in "C", that illustrates the basic steps for printing a document stored as a pdb file:

```

// allocate a structure that will be passed to PrintBoy:Doc as part of
// launch code

SysAppLaunchCmdOpenDBType* Pkg = (SysAppLaunchCmdOpenDBType*)
MemPtrNew(sizeof(SysAppLaunchCmdOpenDBType));

// set the database id of the PDB file that is the doc you want to
// print

Pkg->dbID = record->DBID;

// set the card number (here it is defaulted to 0 for clarity)
Pkg->cardNo = 0;

// set the memory for the structure so that it can be shared
MemPtrSetOwner(Pkg, 0);

// Find PBDoc
Err err;
DmSearchStateType searchState;
unsigned short CardNo;
LocalID dbid;
char FileName[32];

DmDatabaseInfo(0, Pkg->dbID, FileName, NULL, NULL, NULL,
               NULL, NULL, NULL, NULL, NULL, NULL);

err = DmGetNextDatabaseByTypeCreator(
    true, // new search
    &searchState, // where the search leaves off
    'BSPB', // type of db
    'BPDO', // creator
    false,
    &CardNo,
    &dbid
);

if (err != dmErrCantFind)
{
    // found PBDoc, launch it and tell it to print the pdb
    SysUIAppSwitch(CardNo, dbid, sysAppLaunchCmdOpenDB, (Ptr) Pkg);
}
else
{
    // pbdoc not found, handle error, tell user how to obtain pbdoc
}

```