

TCPSpool:

For Epson & Compatible Ethernet Connect-It Print Server Cards

For those sites wishing to use Epson or compatible Ethernet print servers, there is a new spooler program called TCPSpool. It allows print jobs to be spooled to any IP addressable print server using TCP or UDP protocol.

The command's syntax is:

TCPSpool.exe IPAddress Port Spool-Name [Omit Chits] [BACKUP] [DIAG]

In the above command:

IPAddress is any valid print server's address (192.168.1.150 for example)

PORT is the print server's listening port (Epson uses 9100 as a default)

SPOOL-NAME is the name of the FreePOS Spooler (For example REC1)

OMIT CHITS is a station number to omit chits from (For example a bar terminal)

BACKUP is an optional backup spooler (For example, REC2)

DIAG is an optional keyword which tells the spooler to display its setup parameters

If we have an Epson Ethernet Connect-It card set up at 192.168.0.150 listening on port 9100 and we want to spool BAR to the printer, we would use this command:

```
\FreePOS\Prg\TCPSpool.exe 192.168.0.150 9100 BAR
```

If the BAR terminal was #2 and we didn't want bar orders to print if they were entered at station #2, we'd run this command:

```
\FreePOS\Prg\TCPSpool.exe 192.168.0.150 9100 BAR 2
```

To make the BAR printer now backup to KIT, we'd run this command:

```
\FreePOS\Prg\TCPSpool.exe 192.168.0.150 9100 BAR 2 KIT
```

It should be noted that if you want to enable a backup printer, you must specify a value for omit chits. Use a number like 99 just as a space filler.

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IP Address Resolution

The IP Address may be specified in URL form. For example, you can change the 192.168.0.150 to kitchen3.yourintranet.com TCPSPool will attempt to resolve addresses using DNS (and any other Windows name services available).

Firewall Interference

FIREWALLS can cause problems with Ethernet printing if they are blocking data on a particular port. If a firewall is used, be sure to disable it on the listening port of the print server on the machine running the TCPSPool program. In the example above, we'd turn off firewalling on port 9100 in order to make the program operate correctly.

Redirection

Another important point about redirecting print jobs: Since the print server is a buffered device, it is possible for the print job to reach the print server but not print due to a mechanical issue with the printer. In this case, the print job is held in the print server's buffer until the paper is refilled or the printer is back online.

Redirection will occur any time one of these events occurs:

1. The print server's network cable becomes unplugged
2. The printer is powered OFF
3. The printer is in a failure mode

Print & Hold

If no backup printer is specified, the TCPSPool program will retry sending the print job(s) every 5 seconds indefinitely.

DHCP & Static IP Addresses

NEVER use DHCP with a print server... always set the Connect-It cards to a static IP address. If you must use DHCP, create a MAC address to IP translation table so that each printer always gets the same IP address.

TCPSpool Live Example: For Epson & Compatible Ethernet Connect-It Print Server Cards

How To Configure The Epson Connect-It Cards

Epson Connect-It cards are print servers that convert data sent via CAT/5 ethernet cabling to the printer. Connect-It cards are modular and can be swapped out with other Epson Connect-It cards. They come in these supported varieties:

- USB (you must install the **TMCOMUSB** emulator to use USB with FreePOS/Comspool)
- SERIAL (run comspool)
- PARALELL (run phspool or pspooler)
- ETHERNET (run tcpspool)
- WIRELESS ETHERNET (run tcpspool)
- IDN or RS485 (limited support using Windows Print Drivers & ipspool)

Before you can begin using an Ethernet Connect-It card, you must download the **TMNet WinConfig** program from the Epson website. This utility allows you to set up the Connect-It card's IP address and subnet mask.

After you have configured the TCP/IP settings on the Connect-It Card, you may verify the printer's settings by pushing the ball of a pen into the small button hole on the Connect-It card. When this button is held down for 3 seconds, a setup page will be printed showing the Connect-It card's current setup.

You may access Epson's website at: www.epsonexpert.com **You must register with Epson** before they will let you download the files mentioned above.