Printing Electronic Copies of PowerDB Test Forms and Reports

APPLICATION BULLETIN

Helpful Information on the Application, Operation and Technical Aspects of PowerDB Software

Many users of PowerDB software find it desirable, or even necessary, to be able to share electronic copies of their test forms or job reports with others. Creating an electronic version of their document that can be emailed is a very convenient way to pass important information along. PowerDB does not currently have a built-in method to accomplish this. However, there are several simple ways in which a soft copy can be made at no cost using software currently available on most PCs or by downloading free software.
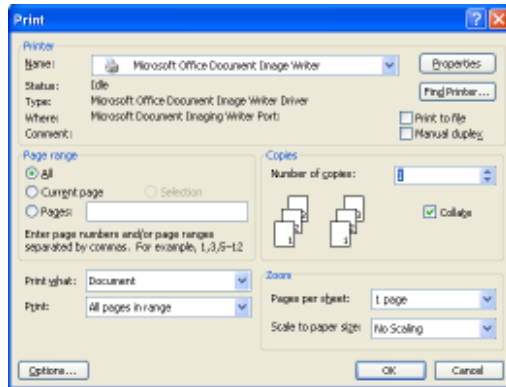
PDF – Portable Document Format

PDF is a generic file format created by Adobe Systems in 1993 and is widely used for document exchange. The PDF format officially became an open standard in 2008 by ISO/IEC. Documents with the .pdf extension can be viewed using Adobe Acrobat Reader and many other viewing programs. Software for creating PDF files is available free for download on the web. One such PDF writer that works well with PowerDB is Primo PDF which can be found at

http://www.primopdf.com/index.aspx

Primo PDF works much like any printer driver. Once it is installed, it is added to the list of printers on the PC as a "virtual" printer. Select to print the desired test form or job report. At the printer selection dialog, select the desired PDF writer. Follow the on-screen instructions. Typically, PDF writers will either prompt you to enter a filename and path, or open the document in a viewing window. From there you should be able to save the PDF.

MODI – Microsoft Office Document Imaging

MDI is a variant of the TIFF file format, used for storing images by page layout and is a proprietary file format of Microsoft. Many scanning programs use this format. It is included in Microsoft Office 2003 and some later versions of MS Office. Files are created simply by printing the document, and choosing the virtual printer "Microsoft Office Image Writer" from the list of available printers.
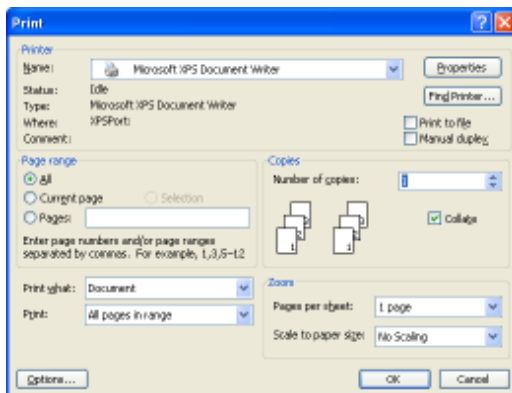
You will be prompted to enter a name and path for the document to be saved. When completing this, the document will generally be automatically opened and displayed in the MODI viewer. This .mdi file can be sent to others that have MS Office on their PCs. MS Office 2007 should also have this capability, but may not have been initially installed. For help with this issue, see the link below

http://support.microsoft.com/kb/926198

XPS – Open XML Paper Specification

Available in Windows Vista and occasionally found in WinXP, the XPS document format is very similar to MDI. The XPS Document Writer allows users to create .xps files using any program that can be printed from in Windows. It creates a file that can be attached to email messages, and it opens for viewing in the Windows Internet browser or, if installed, a specific viewer. The procedure is the same, just choose the virtual printer from the print dialog.

You will then be prompted to enter a name and path for the document to be saved. More information can be found by following the link below.

http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows7/Print-to-the-Microsoft-XPS-Document-Writer