

Functional Tips for Print Envoy



This month's tip for getting more from your Print Envoy implementation!

Printer Selection Rules with Ghost Printers

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In this month's issue of Print Envoy Functional Tips, we're going to take a look at how to set up our print handlers to ONLY print if given circumstances are met. The best way to do this is to create printer rules which represent the non-printing case, and send the label data file to a "ghost" printer, or simply a printer that does not exist and will not be recognized by your label printing engine. This method ensures we can still track and identify errors in both "print" and "do not print" cases. I'm going to walk through setting up this simple process and provide an example case where a ghost printer may be the best solution for you.

Getting Started: Setting up a "Ghost printer"

First, let's create an entry in our Printers table that we will use as our Ghost Printer. You can use any string for the Printer Id and Printer Name, as long as the Printer Name DOES NOT match a real printer on your network. The one I have created will be identified in D365 by GHOST. DoNotPrint will appear as the PrinterName in my label data file output. I have also selected a Drop Folder and a printer type, so that the label file is generated and polled by Print Courier to my label engine server. If I were to leave either of these fields blank, I would receive an error upon firing the print handler, and no label data file would be generated. In my case, I do not want to allow for errors that could be confusing to other users, and I want to have a log of "do not print" cases.

Printer Id	Printer Name	Site	Warehouse	Drop Folder Name	Printer Type
GHOST	DoNotPrint			Bartender	Default
01	Default Printer			Bartender	Default
02	Dock 1	1	11	Bartender	Default
03	Spools	1		AKSH087779B	Default
04	FG1			AKSH087779B	Default
05	FG2			AKSH67YYULW	Default
06	Receiving			AKSH67YYULW	Default
07	Packing			AKSH67YYULW	Default

Now that I have set up my printer, I need to create a printer selection rule. For this example, I will be using the Report as Finished Print Handler. I want to ONLY print a label when the Production Pool is Manual. If the production pool is something else or is blank, I do not need a RAF label. Below, I have set up two simple printer selection rules: the first representing my "print" case and the second representing my "do not print" case. Notice that the Priority of my "do not print" case is set to a higher value (meaning lower priority) because its criteria is less specific. This should ensure the "print" case rule is evaluated first.

Print Case:

Standard view ▼

Printer Selection Rules

Rule Name: Printer ID: Priority:

Rule Fields

+ New 🗑️ Delete

Field ID	Value	Description
PrintHandlerName	ProdTable_Release	
ProdTable1.ProdPoolId	Manual	

Do Not Print Case:

Standard view ▼

Printer Selection Rules

Rule Name: Printer ID: Priority:

Rule Fields

+ New 🗑️ Delete

Field ID	Value	Description
PrintHandlerName	ProdTable_Release	

Now that my Printer rules are set up to only print to Printer 01, my Default Printer, when the Production Pool is Manual, I am going to release two production orders to view the difference in the label data file output. On the production order below, P003239, the Production Pool is set to Manual. When I release it, I get the blue Infolog message at the top, previewing my label data output. *Infolog is enabled via the "Confirmation" toggle on the print handler configuration. As you can see, PRINTERNAME is set to Default Printer. When my label printing engine reads this file from the drop folder, it will be printed by the Default Printer.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8" standalone="no"?><DOCTYPE labels SYSTEM "label.dtd"><labels> <label_FORMAT="Default_ProdRelease.fmt" _QUANTITY="1" _DUPLICATES="1" PRINTERNAME="Default Printer" _JOBNAME="ProdRelease-03152024"> <variable name="ProdTable1.ItemId">D0003</variable> <variable name="ProdTable1.ProdId">P003239</variable> <variable name="ProdTable1.ProdPoolId">Manual</variable> <variable name="ProdTable1.QtyCalc">1</variable> <variable name="ProdTable1.ReqPoolId"></variable> <variable name="InventDim1.inventDimId">000072</variable> <variable name="UserName">OliviaJohnson</variable> <variable name="CurrentDateTime">3/15/2024 02:01:27 pm</variable> <variable name="PrintHandlerGUID">{C9A8003-A501-4798-8F65-5134B693753C}</variable> <variable
```

Navigation: Save, Delete, New production order, New batch order, **Production order**, Schedule, Warehouse, View, Manage costs, Options

Maintain	Process	Inventory	Order details	Consolidated batch order	Cases	DSI Print Envoy
Split	Estimate, Report as finished, Reset status, Release, End, Batch balancing, Start, Log	Transactions, Trace, On-hand, Update registrations, Lot	BOM, Route, Formula, All jobs, Cost, View progress	Consolidated on-hand, Add to, Remove from	Create case, View cases	Print Labels

Production order (details) | Standard view ▼

P003239

General

IDENTIFICATION	PRODUCTION	Time	STATUS	GROUPINGS	End date
Production: P003239 Item number: D0003 Name: StandardSpeaker	Type: Standard Quantity: 1.00 Delivery: 3/31/2023	10:00 AM Planning priority: 0.00 Color: 128	Status: Started Scheduling status: Job scheduled Remain status: Material consumption	Pool: Manual Production group:	4/4/2023 Start time: 10:15 AM End time: 10:31 AM

DATE SCHEDULED
Start date:

For Production order P003238, my production pool is blank. When I release the production order and call the ProdTable_Release handler, the Infolog shows PRINTERNAME is DoNotPrint, aka my Ghost printer. When my label printing engine interprets this file from the drop folder, it will not print, as I do not have a real printer called DoNotPrint. I can review the contents and log of both the Print case and the DoNotPrint case in the Print Envoy Print Log Inquiry, and in my Label Printing Engine's logs.

The screenshot shows the SAP Production Order P003238 interface. At the top, an XML header is visible with a red box highlighting the attribute `PRINTERNAME="DoNotPrint"`. Below the header is a navigation bar with tabs for 'Production order', 'Schedule', 'Warehouse', 'View', 'Manage costs', and 'Options'. A secondary navigation bar contains various functional areas like 'Maintain', 'Process', 'Inventory', 'Order details', 'Consolidated batch order', 'Cases', and 'DSI Print Envoy'. The main content area shows the 'Production order (details) | Standard view' for order P003238. A 'General' section is expanded, displaying a table of order details:

IDENTIFICATION	PRODUCTION	Time	STATUS	GROUPINGS	End date
Production P003238	Type Standard	10:00 AM	Status Started	Pool	3/31/2023
Item number D0002	Quantity 1.00	Planning priority 0.00	Scheduling status Job scheduled	Production group	Start time 11:30 AM
Name Cabinet	Delivery 3/31/2023	Color 128	Remain status Material consumption	DATE SCHEDULED	End time 11:52 AM
				Start date	

I hope this walkthrough will help you to start leveraging Print Envoy's logical flow to optimize your label printing process and only print labels when you need them! As always, please reach out to me at Olivia.Johnson@cloudinventory.com with questions, concerns, or ideas for next month's topic.

Thanks for being a fabulous Print Envoy customer!