Functional Tips for Print Envoy

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

Print Envoy: Overriding User Defined Fields

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User Values in Print Envoy are a flexible tool that allows you to define static values for your label file output, or apply custom fields or identifiers to your Template and Printer selection rules. This month's Functional Tips article will dive into some of what you can do with the User Values feature, and hopefully give you the tools and knowledge to achieve even more label printing greatness with your Print Envoy implementation.

What are User Values?

In a Print envoy Print Handler, there are 8 user defined fields. UserValue1, UserValue2, UserValue3, UserValue4, UserValue5, UserValue6, UserValue7 and UserValue8. User values can be assigned with a static value, a calculated value, or via SQL statement. When using an SQL Statement to override a User Value, use the AS function to rename the field you need to assign, and enter a static value in the corresponding User Value field which will be overwritten if the SQL query returns a record. Below, the static value in UserValue1 is Override. When I print my label, the UserValue1 field will be populated with the user's Personnel Number.
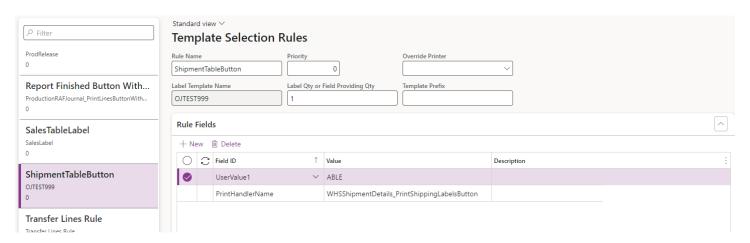
Why Use User Values?

User Values can be used as criteria in your template and printer selection rules, whereas a joined field cannot be. Let's say you had 1,000 different customers with different customers requiring different shipping labels. You have 10 different possible shipping label templates, depending on which customer the order is for. What are some potential options?

1. You could create 1,000 different label template rules with each having a distinct Customer Name criteria value. Every time you add a new customer you might have to create a new template rule. This would require a lot of data entry, is hard to test, and takes longer to process when you want to print labels.
2. (*Better Option!*) You could use the "Select Statement" feature in a Print Handler and assign a value to a user defined field. The user defined fields are available in all the Print Handler rules, so overriding a value is quick and easy to test.

You can override these user defined values using the "Select Statement" and specifying an alias of the one of the four user defined columns as shown above. For example, here is a quick outline of how to classify customers based on their name using a LIKE qualifier and a CASE statement. This way you can group multiple values by single value that represents a group of customers. In this case, any customer that has the string "ABLE" in the name will be classified as an "ABLE" customer.

```
$SELECT CASE WHEN CustomerName LIKE '%ABLE%' THEN 'ABLE'
             WHEN CustomerName LIKE '%BAKER%' THEN 'BAKER'
             WHEN CustomerName LIKE '%CHARLIE%' THEN 'CHARLIE'
ELSE 'DEFAULT' END AS UserValue1,
<the rest of your select statement>
```

Once you have defined your User Value(s) appropriately, you can add the User Value to your template or printer rule criteria. Below, I have added the UserValue1 with value ABLE as a criterion on my template selection rule.

In the above example, if the user value is not evaluated to be either ABLE, BAKER or CHARLIE, the UserValue would be DEFAULT, my fallback value, which I can use to create an additional 'catch-all' template selection rule.

I hope this quick walkthrough of Print Envoy's User Values feature will help you to streamline your label printing process by making it easier to create and maintain printer and template selection rules, no matter how complex your label requirements are. Please reach out to us at Olivia.Johnson@cloudinventory.com with questions, comments, concerns, or ideas for next month's Print Envoy Functional Tips topic. We look forward to chatting with you!

As always, thanks for being an amazing Print Envoy customer.