

Re: VBA and API

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Office/microsoft.public.office.developer.vba/2005-08/msg00129.html>

- *From:* DS <bootybox@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 23 Aug 2005 16:43:43 -0400
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Karl E. Peterson wrote:

DS wrote:

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Not sure if this is the right place, let me know if its n
recently downloaded code from Jonathan West that kicks ba
staus of your printer before you print. The problem is i
the status of whats in the Print Que, "this works fine",
whats connected to the computer either locally or accross
network. I need to find if the printer is able to print
and if it's not, because it lacks paper or is offline, th
it to another printer. Is there a way to do this? I'm u
Access 2002.

I believe the only place Windows exposes this information is
through the print queue.

OH Boy, how can I do this? I've seen other applications send up an
Error Box whenever a printer is offline, how is this done? Without
even sending a print job. Also is there a way to monitor the print
spooler, and send a message from there?

Re: VBA and API

You can get the status of any given printer pretty easily. Didn't mean to confuse things by using the term "pring queue." All the same group of stuff. IOW, what you see in the queue is the same info that's available to you.

What you'll need to do is call GetPrinter, and check the Status member (of the PRINTER_INFORMATION_2 structure that's returned) for the PRINTER_STATUS_OFFLINE flag. It's not a pretty API to call, but that's what Windows (NT) offers. There's a functional example that shows this (in CPrinterInfo.cls), and a *lot* more, at <http://vb.mvps.org/samples/PrnInfo>. I've never used that class in VBA, but I'm told it drops right in.

Earlier versions of Windows, 9x and 3.x, allowed direct port I/O. I wonder if that's what you're remembering? Directly probing a printer port, you could tell whether an attached printer was on or offline. Those are days gone by, however.

Thanks Karl, I downloaded the example started it up, I saw my printers. So I popped the lid on one of them and tried to print to it, it said ready, so I went to the Que and that said printing...I waited nothing happened. So where is this functional example of CPrinterInfo.cls ? Thank you for your help.

That sample fairly well (in my experience) replicates what Windows shows. Are you seeing the same thing as you do if you Open Printers? In general, I find the status info to be woefully lacking, and often not updated until you actually try to print.

Ok I see what you mean, it says printing, just like in windows. But status is ready when I take it offline.

DS

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