



"Spooling print from a VAX/VMS system to multiple modern production printers, such as the Xerox Docutech 6100 is no easy task! The first printer in the pool received jobs so quickly, that the others sat idle. The fine folks at Nearstar came up with a plan, and now our issues are a thing of the past.

Thanks Nearstar!"

Jeff Harris, VMS Administrator, NFO Worldgroup

NFO Worldgroup Selects NearStar's DataServer As Job Management Solution For Xerox Printers

NFO Worldgroup realizes tremendous gains in Workflow and Job submission efficiencies due to DataServer

- Robust job management and workflow*
- Seamless integration to address customer specific requirements*
- Improved Error Handling*
- Improved Load Balancing*
- Data extraction process Improved overall productivity and efficiency*



NFO Worldgroup one of the world's leading providers of research-based marketing information and counsel. With 15,000 employees in 65 offices in 40 markets around the world, NFO Worldgroup is the global leader in providing companies and brands with custom research-based information.

WORKING TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM

NFO Worldgroup looked to NearStar for a solution to facilitate job management to four (4) Xerox DP96 network based printers using Xerox VIPP. NFO's environment presented several business issues, which they attempted to resolve internally without success.

There were 3 main issues NearStar needed to address:

1. Balance the workload and maximize printer utilization across a group of Xerox printers. As these printers are spooler devices, their DEC OpenVMS environment could not reliably load balance the large number of submitted print jobs.
2. Acquire the correct job name, user name and requested copies of submitted print jobs. Due to limitations within OpenVMS, this information was not provided to the Xerox printer in the current environment.
3. Handle Xerox VIPP errors and settings to support special requirements such as paper tray selection, simplex/duplex modes etc.

GETTING THE JOB DONE

NearStar implemented DataServer as a base solution to receive the Xerox job submission process. DataServer provided load-balancing features, including a unique job leashing facility that limits the number of jobs printers can accept. This provided reliable load balancing and printer throughput in NFO's production environment. DataServer Data Transformation Manager (DTM) scripts provided a method to extract user name, job name, and copies associated with each job. These scripts also provided enhancements to the Xerox VIPP data stream thus resolving the VIPP errors on the printer.

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