Microsoft Questions

Use the following as a template for logging interactions with Microsoft:

Question_to_ask
> date   Response: include name of person contacted and details of the conversation

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Is it appropriate to add subkeys under the printer in the registry?
> February 17, 1995   Randy Morgan - Adding to the registry should be ok. Randy will ask for specifics on adding to the printer name sub-section.
> February 28, 1995   Don Miller - Yes, this will go away when they delete the printer.

How much of the NT spooling system is implemented for Win95? What is the API for adding jobs and getting status information? Are we able to call the status dialog from an application?
> February 17, 1995   Don Crouch - Will ask and get a response.
> February 22, 1995   Don Crouch - The spooler provides api's to list the jobs. He will check to see if the dialog box can be called from an application. He will also check to see if we can use the AddPrintProcessor api to put out print spooler there and how we would send jobs to it.

Why are the printer drivers currently 16bit dll's? Are they going to ship this way?
> February 17, 1995   Randy Morgan - Will ask and respond with answer.
> February 28, 1995   Don Miller - Yes, all printer drivers are 16bit. The printing syb-system is 32 bit and a print processor would need to be 32 bit.

How is printer driver install supported?
> February 22, 1995   Don Crouch - Will ask the driver people.
> February 28, 1995   Don Miller - This should be similar to 3.1. He did not know if the format of the .INF file has changed. This documentation should be included in M8. If we don't get it, we need to work with our Beta rep.

When I list the exports for the winspool.drv I see each routine listed with twice, once with an 'A' appended to the name and once with a 'W' appended to the name.
> February 22, 1995   Don Crouch -The 'A' means ANSI character sets, the 'W' means Wide character sets. Wide character set routines are stubbed in Win95 and supported in NT.

What is the format of a Journal Record created by the spooler?
> February 28, 1995   Win95, EMF files are the journal records. This is different than journal files from WinNT.

What is the output of a print processor? GDI calls?
> February 28, 1995   Don Miller - Print processor is responsible for playing EMF file to the driver via GDIPlaySpoolStream if the data is of type EMF. If data type is RAW, use the monitor primative, WritePrinter, to output the data.

What is the relationship between StartDoc and StartDocPrinter?
> February 28, 1995   Don Miller - StartDoc is for 3.1 compatibility, StartDocPrinter will work.

What is the lpszOutput   string for in the DOCINFO structure? Is this pOutputFile in DOC_INFO_1 treated the same?
> February 28, 1995   Don Miller - Yes, The pOutputFile name is recognized by the mini-driver and most large manufactures drivers as the output file for the print job. This should work in Windows3.1 as well.

Can we define our own data type to put in the pDataType field of DOC_INFO_!?

February 28, 1995   Don Miller -Yes, should work, but the Print sub-system currently has the print processor hard coded. This should change with the M8 build?

Is there an API available for Bi-directional communication with a printer?

February 28, 1995   Don Miller- He is not sure. He thinks something will have to be provided but information is sketchy.

Has the PrintProcessor replacement been enabled.

March 14, 1995   Don Miller (206-704-5338)- Yes, the name is no longer hard coded in the operating system. However, the DDK doesn't have the necessary include files or sample PrintProcessor code. This should be comming in two to three weeks. The include file, winsplp.h, should have the definitions needed for a PrintProcessor. Don is waiting for Eric Bitstrip to review his work of splitting our the PrintProcessor and PrintMonitor from the spooler code.

In order for our custom print processor to be used, we must set the print processor for the current printer to be our print processor. Why can't we just set the print processor through the GetJob() and SetJob() calls?

June 29, 1995   Don Miller - The only fields that SetJob changes are the priority and time fields. Currently there is no way to change the print processor or data type fields using GetJob/SetJob. Get/SetPrinter will not work either. This will not be fixed for the initial shipment of Win95. He will let us know when the functionality is added.

The data type is always RAW when our print processor's PrintDocumentOnPrintProcessor() routine is called, even though the current printer has a data type of QCD AND we have set the data type to QCD using GetJob()/SetJob(). How do we set the data type on a job by job basis?

June 29, 1995   Don Miller - See the above answer. The data type will always be RAW.

It seems that DeletePrintProcessor() does nothing. True? All of the print processor data is still in the registry even though the print processor has been deleted.

June 29, 1995   Don Miller - DeletePrintProcessor() currently does nothing, and it will probably not work for the initial release of Win 95. For coding there is a work around: Shutdown/Restart in MS-DOS mode and that will allow the *.DLL to be overwritten.

It looks like Windows 95 caches all of the info relative to print processors, so to truly delete a print processor, the print processor information must be removed from the registry and then the machine must be rebooted. True?

June 29, 1995   Don Miller - Yes, the spooler scans all of the printers and print processors at startup.

The print processor handle that is passed to PrintDocumentOnPrintProcessor() is actually a pointer to a PRINTPROCESSORDATA structure. The hPrinter field in that structure is used by WinPrint as a parameter in StartDocPrinter() with DI_CHANNEL_WRITE. Where does that printer handle come from?

June 29,1995   Don Miller - This is the handle of the output stream, the OpenPrinter() call for this handle is probably done by the spooler.

Are we supposed to use the information in the PRINTPROCESSORDATA structure?

June 29, 1995   Don Miller - Yes, the handle is meant to be used as a pointer to a PRINTPROCESSORDATA structure.