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# How do I print to a file in SCO OpenServer 5?

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## Keywords

openserver 504 505 5.0.4 5.0.5 print file dump interface model /var/spool/lp/admins/lp/printer screen lpadmin

## Release

SCO OpenServer Enterprise System Release 5.0.4, 5.0.5

## Problem

I want to be able to print to a file on my SCO OpenServer 5 system. I use an application that contains embedded **lp(C)** print commands that usually sends output to a printer. However, I want to be able to specify a printer name, but actually direct the output into a file.

## Solution

(a) In the following example, a simple printer is configured and the interface file it uses is altered to direct its output to files in the "/tmp" directory.

As the "root" user, start the "scoadmin(ADM)" utility and choose:

```
Printers, Printer Manager, Printer, Add Local

Name:          scoprint
Description:   file printer
Model:         dumb
Device:        /dev/tty2a
```

In this example, there is no physical printer at COM2. The printer is enabled and set up:

```
# lpstat -a
scoprint accepting requests since 03:44:51 PM Mon 27 Mar 2
```

The associated interface file in this case is in the file "/var/spool/lp/admins/lp/interfaces/scoprint". This is a copy of the "dumb" interface file kept in the "/var/spool/lp/model" directory. Make a backup of this file and insert the following code:

```
< ---- cut here ---- >
```

```
:
```

```
#Set up some global variables.
: ${SPOOLDIR:=/usr/spool/lp}
: ${LOCALPATH:=${SPOOLDIR}/bin}

#Set up the default filter.
if [ -x "${LOCALPATH}/lp.cat" ]
then
    LPCAT="${LOCALPATH}/lp.cat 0"
else
    LPCAT="cat"
fi

#If we are not using a filter, use the default one.
if [ -z "${FILTER}" ]
then
    FILTER="${LPCAT}"
fi

if [ -x "${LOCALPATH}/drain.output" ]
then
    DRAIN="${LOCALPATH}/drain.output 1"
else
    DRAIN=
fi

nobanner="no"

if [ -z "${BANNERS}" ]
then
    nhead=1
else
    nhead=${BANNERS}
fi

for i in $5
do
    case "${i}" in
        nobanner )
            nobanner="yes"
            ;;
    esac
done

request=$1
copies=$4
saveargs="$*"

shift; shift; shift; shift; shift
files="$*"
i=1
while [ $i -le $copies ]
do
    echo Print request ID S1 > /tmp/${request}
    echo Created `date` >> /tmp/${request}
    id >> /tmp/${request}
    echo "Arguments passed to interface :-" >> /tmp/${request}
    echo $saveargs >> /tmp/${request}
```

```

env >> /tmp/${request}
echo "Print data follows..." >> /tmp/${request}
echo >> /tmp/${request}

for file in $files
do
    cat ${file} >> /tmp/${request}
done
i=`expr $i + 1`
done

exit 0

< ---- cut here ---- >

```

Make the permissions of the file as follows:

```

# ls -al scoprint
-rwxrwxr-x  1 lp          lp          1805 Mar 27 16:18 scoprint

```

A file can now be sent to the "scoprint" printer and the output should appear in the "/tmp/" area, for example:

```

# lp -d scoprint /etc/motd
request id is scoprint-523 (1 file)

# ls -al /tmp/scoprint*
-rw-rw----  1 root      lp      1682 Mar 27 16:19 /tmp/scoprint-523

# pg /tmp/scoprint-523
Print request ID S1
Created 04:19:03 PM Mon 27 Mar 2000 BST
uid=0(root) gid=18(lp) groups=3(sys),0(root),1(other)
Arguments passed to interface :-
scoprint-523 root 1 stty='9600 cs8 -parenb' /etc/motd
BANNERS=1
HZ=100
LC_MESSAGES=en_GB.ISO8859-1
LC_TIME=en_GB.ISO8859-1
LEVEL=wait
LPDEBUG=0
PATH=/bin:/etc:/usr/bin:/tcb/bin
PS1=#
SPOOLER_KEY=967005361
SPOOLER_SLOT=78
TERM=unknown
TZ=GMT0BST,M3.5.0/1,M10.5.0/1
...
the contents of "/etc/motd" follows here .....
....

```

(b) Another method to print to a file is as follows:

As "root", create a file, for example "/myprintfile":

```
# cat >myprintfile
# ls -al myprintfile
-rw-r--r--  1 root      sys  0 Apr 10 09:17 myprintfile
```

Change its owner and group permissions to "lp":

```
# chown lp:lp myprintfile
# ls -al myprintfile
-rw-r--r--  1 lp        lp   0 Apr 10 09:17 myprintfile
```

As in (a) above, start SCOadmin and create a local printer, with the following parameters:

```
Name:          fileprint
Description:   Print to file
Model:         Standard
Device:     /myprintfile
```

Check that it is set up:

```
# lpstat -a
...
fileprint accepting requests since 09:24:15 AM Mon 10 Apr 2
```

Print a file:

```
# lp -d fileprint /etc/motd
request id is fileprint-546 (1 file)
```

The file prints into the file "myprintfile" including its banner page. Subsequent prints are appended to the file.

The configuration file with the "/myprintfile" **device** can be seen in the file "/var/spool/lp/admins/lp/printers/fileprint/ configuration".

(c) You can also print to a console **multiscreen**, for example, "tty12".

Log in to the **multiscreen** (using <Ctrl><Alt><F12>) and verify the port number using "tty (C)". Log out and then disable the login using:

```
# disable /dev/tty12
/etc/inittab updated
/etc/conf/cf.d/init.base updated
```

The **device** must be writable by lp:

```
# ls -al /dev/tty12
crw----- 1 bin terminal 0, 11 Apr 10 09:36 /dev/tty12
# ls -al /dev/tty12
crwx---rw- 1 bin terminal 0, 11 Apr 10 09:36 /dev/tty12
```

We can also use the "lpadmin(ADM)" command, for which SCOadmin provides a front end, to add the printer:

```
# /usr/lib/lpadmin -p tty12pr -b 0 -D "tty printer" -m
standard -v /dev/tty12
# accept tty12pr
# enable tty12pr
```

Then print the file:

```
# lp -d tty12pr /etc/profile
```

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TA110966 created on 13 April 2000 , last updated on 21 April 2000

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