

# Pcounter Europe

## Comprehensive and affordable network-oriented Printer Accounting and Management software

### Datasheet: **Pcounter**

#### Overview

**Pcounter** is being used at many schools, institutions, corporations and governments all over the world, from well-known prestigious names to local high schools and small firms.

**Pcounter** is the perfect tool for the Academic world, where the demand for print control is increasing dramatically. The use of electronics archiving systems, internet and general use of computers has increased the print volume significant over the past years, which is expected to continue. Students can use a lot of paper, whether they are printing out multiple drafts of research papers or surfing the web. Pcounter enables academic sites to eliminate print waste completely. It can be used in a pay-as-you-print scheme, or students can be granted a limited amount of pages each semester.

**Pcounter** for project and client cost control, where Pcounter will track the print usage pr project and client, and hereby provide the company with an opportunity to bill for the print cost or simply help the company to get a better overview on cost pr project and client

**Pcounter** can be used to track the general cost of printing in all kind of corporations and institutions. The print cost is typically significant higher than expected, and hereby also the potential saving. The first step is to know the cost, and here is Pcounter the perfect tool, which can be implemented with a limited investment. The next natural step will be to control the cost and to ensure that it stays's inside the budget for printing.

**Pcounter** is a comprehensive network-oriented printer accounting and management software suite, unlike some products, which require repetitive and cumbersome software installation on each workstation.

**Pcounter** will track print jobs from any platform (PC, Mac, Unix), which can print, to a NetWare, NDPS, NT, or 2000 print queue. Pcounter integrates everything: accounting, load balancing, and queue management into a single cross-platform interface which works with both Microsoft Windows NT and Novell NetWare networks at the same time.

**Pcounter** has a built in User accounting feature, which can charge Students/Users each time they print. A printing account is setup in Pcounter for each user, to which funds can be added at any time by administration. If an institution wants to provide student with e.g. 500 clicks by the start of each semester, then can this be arranged by the administrator. Prices can be assigned to each paper size and when a page is printed the cost/value will be deducted from the users printing account. At any time the user can check their balance from the workstation. When the balance is \$0.00, the user will be notified and they will not be able to print until more funds are added to their account.

**Pcounter** is low investment software, which ensures that the limited investment is returned in a matter of 1-4 month in most cases. Limited administration, easy maintenance, no add-on cost to hardware, low cost maintenance agreement (recommended option) ensures a low operational cost and a product which keeps its value for many years in the future.

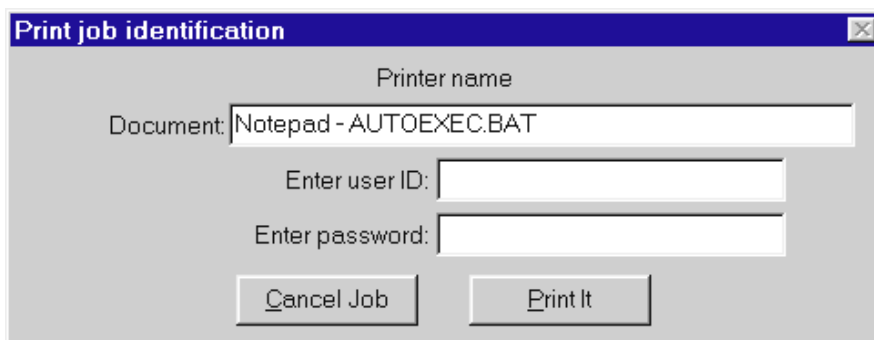
## Pcounter Europe

## Pcounter menu

If Pcounter is used as a tool to track and account for print in corporate and government environment, then will the user not see any popup menus. User ID will be identified by the windows ID, and Pcounter will hereby know who the user is based on that. If Pcounter is used in Academic environments where student have access to shared terminals or Pcounter is used for project and client print tracking and accounting, then will below menus be used for identification of user, project or client. The first popup menu is a must and the second popup menu is an option.

### ID and password

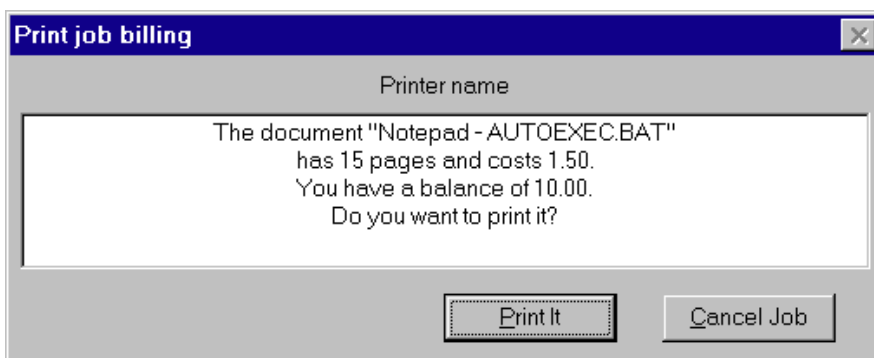
The user is shown a login and password prompt, where a network login name and password must be authenticated before printing can continue. In the NT version only, this can also be used for shared logon printer accounting with support for account balances - specific printing accounts are created outside the NT domain structure and users must authenticate each print job for accounting.



The dialog box titled "Print job identification" has a blue header bar with a close button (X) on the right. Below the header, the text "Printer name" is centered. A text input field contains "Document: Notepad - AUTOEXEC.BAT". Below this are two more text input fields: "Enter user ID:" and "Enter password:". At the bottom, there are two buttons: "Cancel Job" and "Print It".

### Confirmation

The user is asked a question and decides whether the job will be printed. The message, which is displayed, can substitute the user name, document name, pages, cost, and account balance. This feature is typically used in Academic environments.



The dialog box titled "Print job billing" has a blue header bar with a close button (X) on the right. Below the header, the text "Printer name" is centered. A large text area contains the following text: "The document 'Notepad - AUTOEXEC.BAT' has 15 pages and costs 1.50. You have a balance of 10.00. Do you want to print it?". At the bottom, there are two buttons: "Print It" and "Cancel Job".

## **Pcounter Features**

:: Counts pages printed on PostScript, PCL, and Epson (ESC/P, ESC/P2) printers. This covers most lasers, inkjets, and multifunction devices on the market today. Support for TIFF printing is included, and Pcounter also tracks plot size on HPGL/2 and PostScript plotters.

:: Enforces printing account balances/quotas for users.

:: Keeps a log file of all print activity - for printers hosted on multiple servers the log can be kept in one central location for easy access. The log file includes user name, document name, printer/queue name, date, time, client station, client code, sub-code, paper size, features, byte size, page count, cost, and account balance.

:: Windows users may have a popup window for billing print jobs to clients/job numbers. The cost for each page is determined by the paper size used in the print job, allowing variable costs for printers, which support multiple paper sizes. Print jobs requesting an invalid paper size can be discarded. Roll plotters can be accounted for based on image size.

:: Can generate various printing usage reports and print histories of users, printers, and client codes. Reports and histories can be saved as HTML, CSV, or formatted text, can be directly launched into Excel or web browsers, and can be sent by email.

:: Rules based printing for load balancing based on maximum and minimum byte sizes and/or page counts - print jobs can be deleted, moved to the end of the queue, or moved to another print queue.

:: All print jobs can be automatically held/paused, and global (print job configuration) settings for queues can be automatically enforced. Each server has a default template, which can be used globally for all print queues on that server.

:: A Plot Manager handles batch submission of printer-ready files to printers and plotters, including support for client billing codes and scheduling.

:: Reject incorrect print job types such as Postscript on PCL printers.

:: Network broadcast messages can be customized and sent at any time to keep users informed.

:: Customisable banner pages can be used which contain all information about the print job, including the page count and account balance.

:: Administration can be done from any Windows 95/98/NT workstation or server on the network, including printer/queue set-up, configuration, properties, permissions, and print job management.

:: The Pcounter workstation tools (popup and account balance information) are internationalized in French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, German, Finnish, Dutch, Czech, Swedish, Danish, Polish, and Norwegian.

Pcounter is available free on a 60-day trial from all Pcounter Europe partners or by download from Pcounter Europe's website [www.pcounter-europe.com/download.html](http://www.pcounter-europe.com/download.html)

For more information please contact your local Pcounter Partner who can be located at [www.pcounter-europe.com/how2buy.html](http://www.pcounter-europe.com/how2buy.html) or Pcounter Europe at [sales@pcounter-europe.com](mailto:sales@pcounter-europe.com)

**Pcounter Europe**