

Infoprint Server for iSeries



Highlights

- **Addresses the information presentation requirements of e-business**
- **Provides integrated PDF support for iSeries output**
- **Enables the electronic distribution of documents and reports via built in e-mail capability**
- **Transforms PostScript, PCL, PDF, GIF, TIFF and JPEG data into iSeries formats**
- **Applies iSeries print management capabilities to output generated on the network**
- **Proven IBM Infoprint technology, designed for business and e-business**

IBM® Infoprint® Server for iSeries is a new integrated program product that extends core iSeries output capabilities to address the information communication demands of e-business. Infoprint Server provides the facilities for electronic distribution and presentation of business information, enabling critical business processes to be re-engineered to drive increased service levels, decreased transaction costs, and competitive advantage. Infoprint Server also addresses the network flow of documents and reports. It enables you to apply iSeries printing management and iSeries-attached printers to the task of managing application output generated within your extended computing network. This results in improved reliability, increased throughput, and can result in lower overall printing costs.

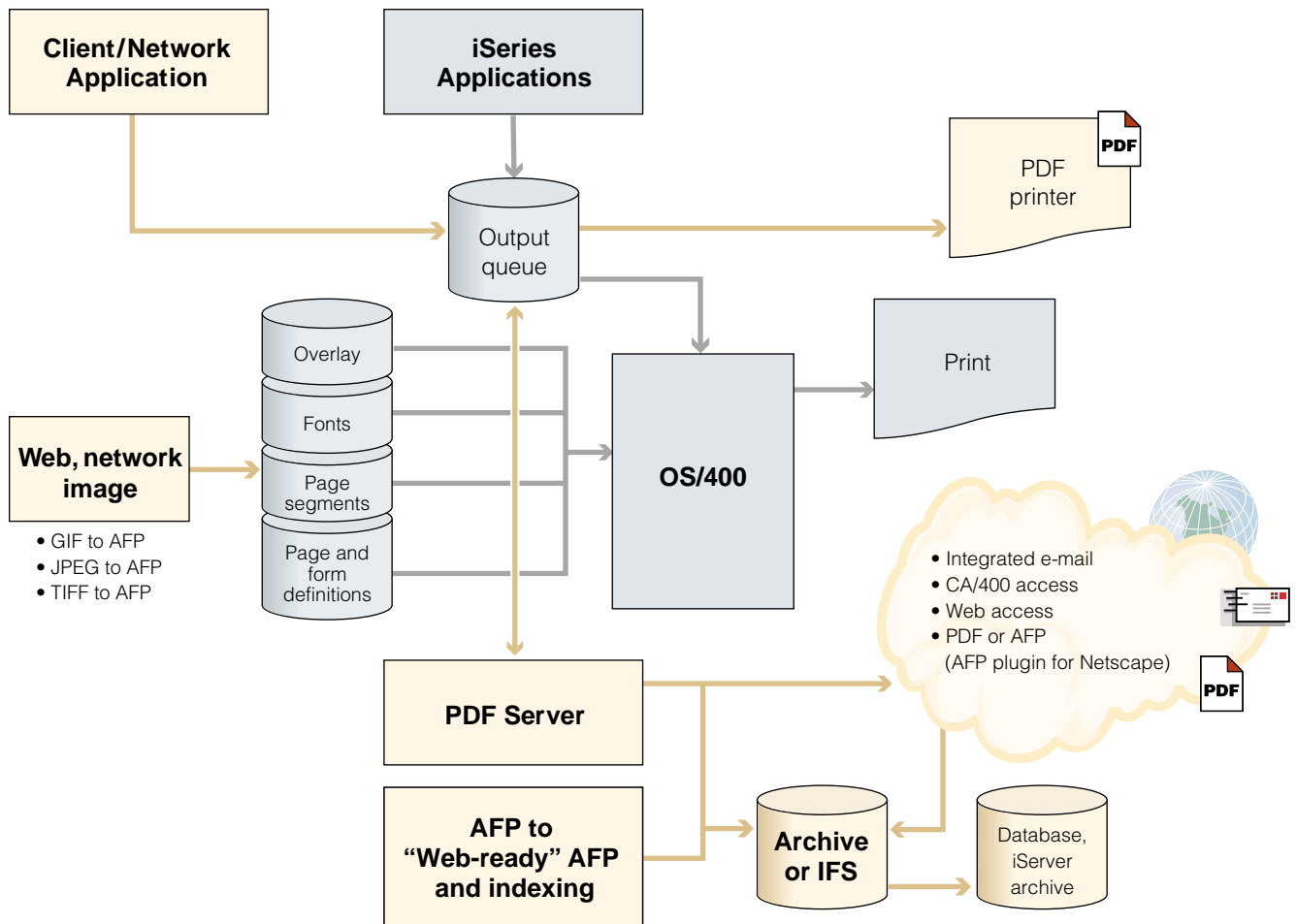
Electronic output

Integral to e-business success is the re-engineering of business processes, particularly the flow of information.

This often means moving from a traditional “print and distribute” model to an electronic distribution model. In this new “e-output” model, information should flow to the desired destination in the appropriate format. For example, a B2B re-engineering project might require that shipping or order confirmation documents, formerly printed and mailed, must now be produced and distributed electronically. Infoprint Server provides the tools to make this transition.

PDF transforms

Infoprint Server for iSeries integrates PDF support into the OS/400® output architecture. The PDF subsystem enables the production of PDF from any standard OS/400 output format — SCS, AFP™, IPDS™, even OfficeVision/400™ format. PDF transformation creates text-based, non-image ASCII PDF. This ability to create full text PDF files delivers document fidelity while preserving the ability to navigate through the document or report.



Gold color shows new functionality; gray color shows functions integrated with core iSeries printing architecture.

Text-based PDF is far smaller than PDF created as full-page image. This means superior network and user performance characteristics. PDF files can be written to the Integrated File System (IFS), iSeries output queues, or passed to the automatic e-mail function.

Integrated e-mail of iSeries output

Automatic electronic distribution via e-mail, a core function in the implementation of B2B or B2C applications, is integrated into the PDF

subsystem. This means that a newly created PDF file can be attached to an e-mail and sent. For example, sales reports that have previously been printed and distributed can now be distributed in electronic format via e-mail. The receiver can then view, print, or even forward the report as required. This kind of re-engineered business process can reduce costs, decrease cycle time; and make it easier for customers and vendors to do business with you.

Document segmentation

It can be advantageous to segment reports and documents, dividing a larger output file into several logical sub-documents or sub-reports. For example, a sales report print file may actually contain sub-reports for each region and it would be desirable to create separate electronic distributions for each region. OS/400 has added the capability to place segmentation "triggers" within the output data. Infoprint Server can

act on those triggers and create separate PDF files for each logical segment. These multiple PDF files can then be written to the iSeries file system or automatically sent via e-mail. Customization exits give you additional control over the electronic distribution process.

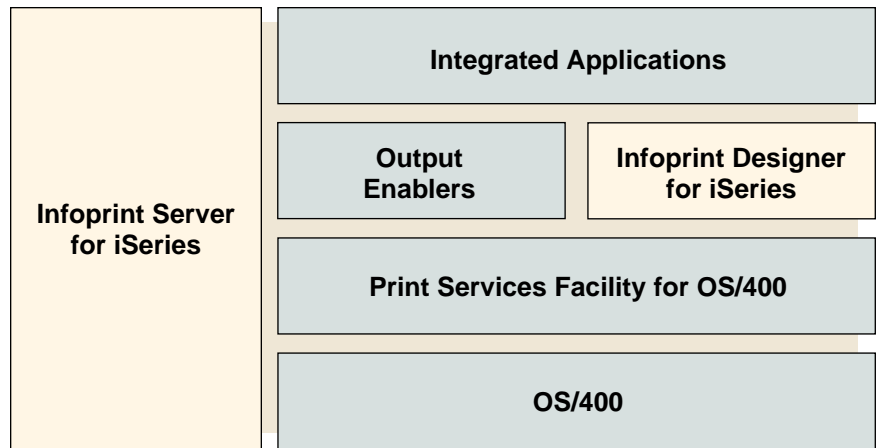
Web-ready AFP output

A key strength of the AFP architecture is the division of documents into logical components. The AFP print file may only contain application data while overlay, image, and font resources are stored externally. This works well for printing when the iSeries is in control but limits the ability to distribute AFP data electronically.

Infoprint Server resolves this problem by enabling the creation of portable, or Web-ready, AFP data. This is accomplished by embedding the external resources within the distribution file. Infoprint Server also adds the ability to index the AFP data enabling easy navigation through the document or report. At the receiving end, there is a downloadable AFP plug-in for Web browsers that resolves this Web-ready output file for viewing.

Networked printing

A core focus of Infoprint Server is applying the substantial print management capabilities of iSeries servers to the proliferation of output pages and printers in today's typical



Schematic of delivery structure for print and e-output on the iSeries.

enterprise networks. Client, network, and even ERP applications are generating documents and reports in ASCII data streams — PostScript®, PDF, and PCL — that are designed for personal and workgroup applications. While printing personal applications on personal printers works satisfactorily, printing business applications on network-attached printers can create both financial and management problems. ASCII data streams lack the capabilities of iSeries servers to manage print jobs effectively page by page to the printer with full error recovery. Using many slow-speed network printers generally creates higher total printing costs than when the printing volume is consolidated on faster, more cost-effective printers, and provides no central point of control.

Infoprint Server provides the bridge to iSeries print management and iSeries-

attached printers. Infoprint Server transforms use the integrated, iSeries transform infrastructure to convert PostScript, PDF, and PCL documents and reports to AFP. You simply route a target file to the iSeries and the print data stream will be automatically detected and the appropriate transform applied. Additionally, the PostScript and PDF to AFP transforms have been jointly developed by IBM and Adobe®, combining excellence and experience in both data streams.

The iSeries printing architecture is built around AFP, an architecture designed for high volumes and reliable delivery. The iSeries can apply its IPDS interactive dialog with the printer and superior printing management function to the task of printing the job. The control and management is assured regardless of whether printers are direct-attached or network-attached.

Infoprint Server for iSeries at a glance

Convert any standard iSeries output file to PDF

Provide automatic e-mail of any iSeries output file using PDF

PDF files can be routed to iSeries output queues for printing on PDF-capable printers

PDF files can also be routed to the iSeries integrated file system for "downstream" electronic access

Provide ability to segment an iSeries output file by logical group and create individual PDF files for each segment

Provide a user exit to facilitate customization and ID lookup for the e-mail process

Provide real text, high-fidelity PDF output, enabling search, navigation, and superior performance through the output

Transform PCL print files into AFP

Transform PostScript Level 3™ print files into AFP

Transform PDF print files into AFP

Convert applications formatted using iSeries page definitions to AFP (Note that Infoprint Designer for iSeries uses page definitions for page formatting)

Convert standard AFP print files to fully encapsulated AFP files, meaning externally referenced resources such as fonts, page segments, and overlays are built in

Index AFP print files for use with Web browsers and archival

Convert standard Internet image file formats — GIF, TIFF, and JPEG — to iSeries (AFP) image format

Web-based images made iSeries-compatible

Web and client applications typically use GIF, TIFF and JPEG image file formats where the iSeries uses AFP image file format. In many applications, there is a need to bridge these format differences and enable use of Web and client image in iSeries output applications. Infoprint Server provides GIF, TIFF, and JPEG to AFP transforms.

The iSeries printing and presentation experts

Printing is not easy, and today's networks and e-business applications have not made it any easier. IBM is the expert in iSeries printing and information presentation and this expertise can translate into success in implementing output applications. Call (800) 358-6661, option 3, or contact your local IBM Printing Systems representative or visit ibm.com/printers for more information.



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