Cloud Printing Requirements and Model

Status: Interim

Abstract: This document contains specifications to support Cloud based printing using the PWG semantic model.

This document is a PWG Working Draft. For a definition of a "PWG Working Draft", see: ftp://ftp.pwg.org/pub/pwg/general/pwg-process30.pdf

This document is available electronically at:

ftp://ftp.pwg.org/pub/pwg/cloud/wd-cloudmodel10-20120917.docx

ftp://ftp.pwg.org/pub/pwg/cloud/wd-cloudmodel10-20120917.pdf

1. Requirements
   1. Rationale for Cloud Print Model and Requirements

Cloud-based applications and solutions are increasingly common, and Cloud-based printing, scanning, and facsimile (collectively called "Cloud Imaging") are emerging in several different forms. Adopting standard protocols and schemas now will help interoperability, speed adoption, and address privacy, security, and legal issues involved in Cloud Imaging.

Cloud printing has many potential implementation methods to comply with the need for security, and that the components can be located or contained within different locations.

The cloud can be a private cloud, a public cloud, or some hybrid federation of the two. The actual print device may be located at the users location, part of the service provider, at a remote user’s location, or remotely as a pay to print destination.

* 1. Consideration of Print Use Cases

Each of the Cloud Printing use cases in this section require establishing a connection to a Cloud-based entity (typically involving authentication and authorization of the prospective Job Originator ), although it is possible that this connection may not have been made specifically for printing. The printing process follows the network printing process, and the use cases for network printing apply.

Further, although identified use cases assume a problem-free sequence in implementation, problems do arise and the requirements must address them. Rather than complicate each use case discussion with consideration of the various problems, a separate section identifies “exceptions”, essentially problems that may occur in addressing different use cases.

* 1. Cloud Printing Requirements

For these requirements the following scenario applies. This sets a scenario where a transversal is required between the user and the cloud print provider, and between the printer and the cloud print provider. User is not part of the cloud print provider domain and is not directly connected to the printer domain and the Printer is not part of the cloud print provider domain.

* + 1. User must be able to connect to the cloud print provider from a variety of devices, operating systems, and applications.
    2. User must provide acceptable credentials to the cloud print provider
    3. User must be able to select the print destination.
    4. User must be able to submit a print job including a document (direct or by reference) and the print job attributes.
    5. Cloud print provider must return a response that indicates the submission is acceptable or rejected.
    6. Cloud print provider must return a status of printing completed, or the print job failed.
    7. Printer must be registered with the cloud print provider by the printer owner, including user rights associated with the printer.
    8. Printer must provide to the cloud print provider it’s attributes, including supported document formats, paper sizes and types, finishing options, and operational status.
    9. Printer must initiate all communications with the cloud print provider (maybe?)
    10. When the cloud print provider has a job available for printing, the printer must return acceptance or rejection of the job.
    11. Printer must return operational status when requested
    12. At end of printing, printer must return a completion status
    13. If unable to complete job, or job is canceled, printer must return status indicating such activity occurred.
  1. Out of Scope

From the Charter of the Cloud Imaging working group [ ] and the recognition that Cloud Printing may use different paths and elements within the cloud that are not within the province of the Printer Working Group, the detailed definition of the following elements and aspects of Cloud Printing is out of scope for this specification, although the general functions performed by these things in Cloud Printing may be identified in the Model discussion.

1. OOS-1: Defining Cloud federation interfaces and associated protocols and technologies.
2. OOS-2: Defining the interface between the physical Printer Device and the component that provides the interface between the Printer and the Cloud (later called the Cloud Imaging Manager); this component may be part of the Printer device in which case it is an “internal” interface; or it may be external, possibly serving multiple physical Printers, in which case it is assumed to use already standardized Printer interfaces.
3. OOS-3: Defining new protocols for authentication, authorization, and access control (AAA), enumeration, transport, notification, or device management.
4. OOS-4: Defining new document file formats.
5. OOS-5: Defining new abstract job tickets.
6. OOS-6: Defining specific interfaces within the Cloud Environment established to support Cloud Printing (later termed the Cloud Print Provider).
7. OOS-7: Defining the interface by which Printers are registered with the Cloud.
8. OOS-8: Defining the interface by which Users, including potential Job Originators are associated with the Cloud.
9. OOS-9: Defining the interface between the User and the local component that provides the User’s interface with the cloud (the User Client), this being part of an application (or operating system) than can be assumed to be proprietary.
   1. Design Requirements

As previously discussed, the scenarios in section 3.2 can be divided into series of “Front-end” interactions between the User and the Cloud and “Back-End” interactions between the Printer and the Cloud. Considering the Out-of-Scope items, the design requirements are limited to defining or referencing an existing the definition of the User Client-to Cloud interface on the Front end, and the Cloud to Cloud Print Manager interface on the Back End. These definitions will, however, assume or impose some characteristics of the otherwise out-of-scope components.

* + 1. User side Design Requirements

In all of the scenarios, the User, operating though a Client, must establish a connection with the Cloud elements supporting the functions necessary for Cloud Printing. The authentication and authorization of the User, and the methods by which the printers that he can use are located are out of scope. However, the following are in scope and must be addressed by this specification:

* + - 1. Selecting a Printer

The cloud can determine, on the basis of User Association and Printer Registration, what printers can be used by the User. The User will select a printer of group of printers, possibly indirectly on the basis of his requirements, or possible directly by reviewing the requested printer capabilities. This may be a multistep process, often including a query of printer status.

Req 1. The User, operating though the user Client, must be able to communicate to the Cloud the attributes needed of the printer, and the Cloud must be able to provide a list of printers that can be used by the User that include the required attribute values. From the scenarios, attributes include but are not limited to the applicable items in the Standard set of printing capabilities (e.g., Table 8 in IPP/2.0 [PWG5100.12]), and those identified in Section 5.6 of JPS3 [PWG 5100.13].

Req 2: The User, operating through the client, must be able obtain the values of specific configuration, capabilities and/or status items of an identified printer. The values that may be queried include but are not limited to the applicable attributes in the Standard set of printing capabilities (e.g., Table 8 in IPP/2.0 [PWG5100.12]), and those identified in Section 5.6 of JPS3 [PWG 5100.13]. This requirement especially includes access to printer status element values

* + - 1. Determining Job Request Status and Job Status

As part of the job request submission process, and possibly as an aspect of Printer selection, a Job Originator will want to check on the progress of his request.

Req 3: User, operating through the User Client, must be able to determine the status of a submitted Job Request, and if that request has been accepted by a printer, the status of the resulting Job.

Users with some administrative rights may want to check on the job and their status in a clod printing service or on a specific printer.

Req 4: Users with proper authorization must also be able to determine what Jobs and Job Requests exist within the printer or service they are authorized to access, and the state of these job requests and jobs.

* + - 1. Submitting a Job Request
      2. Specifying Handling of the Printed Documents

Specifying to whom, when and where the printed job is to be made available.

* + 1. Printer-side Requirements

Although the registration of the printer with the Cloud Service, including communication of printer capabilities and possibly User access restrictions, is out of scope, the communication of status and possibly changes in capabilities is not.

* + - 1. Communication Printer Status and Configuration Changes
      2. Communicating Job Status
      3. Handling a Job Request
      4. Handling of Printed Document

(Accepting Specification Of How A Job Is To Be Delivered)

* + - 1. Access of a Referenced Document

Optional capability for printers capable of print-by-reference.

* + 1. Transforms

?

* + 1. Notification events

TBD

* + 1. Privacy and security policies

TBD

* + 1. Logging