

Improving Printing Performance

INTRODUCTION

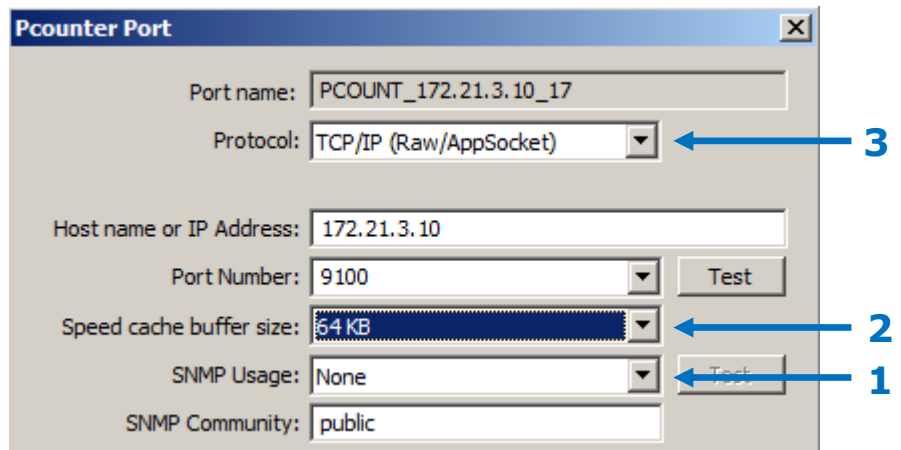
This guide offers suggestions to help improve printing speed through Pcounter controlled printers.

1. Set SNMP Status to None

Pcounter uses SNMP polling to determine the exact colour/mono breakdown of a print job by querying the internal counters of a printer before and after it has printed. This is the most accurate way to determine the colour/mono counts of an individual job.

However, as the Pcounter server needs to wait before the job has completely finished printing before the printer will send back it's update counters, this process can occasionally cause a performance hit. To disable this option:

Browse to the **Printer Properties** > **Ports** tab > **Configure Port**. Set **SNMP Usage** to **None**.



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Please note: Setting SNMP Usage to None is **not recommended** in a charging environment.

2. Enable the Speed Cache Buffer

The Speed Cache Buffer is a feature of a Pcounter port which allows Pcounter to send larger packets to the printer. This is known to be particularly effective on HP and Xerox devices.

To enable to the speed cache buffer, browse to **Printer Properties** > **Ports** tab > **Configure Port**. Set **Speed Cache Buffer Size** to **64KB**.

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Remember

If changing the **Print Processor**, make a note of the current one in case reverting to **WinPrint** and **RAW** causes problems.

We have a large number of other **How To** guides available from <http://www.altman.co.uk/support/print-copy-management/how-to-guides>

Best Practice Tips...

Apply each suggested change individually and test thoroughly before applying the next to ensure the change has caused no problems.

Certain applications create spool files much larger than the source file giving the **appearance** of slow printing. Ascertain whether it is Pcounter that is at fault by **reverting** the port to the original one and performing the same tests.

3. Change Port Protocol to TCP/IP (Raw/AppSocket)

If the port protocol is set to **LPR**, change this to **TCP/IP (Raw/AppSocket)**.

The TCP/IP protocol is the Windows successor to the LPR protocol and is the recommended protocol for Windows Server 2003 onwards.

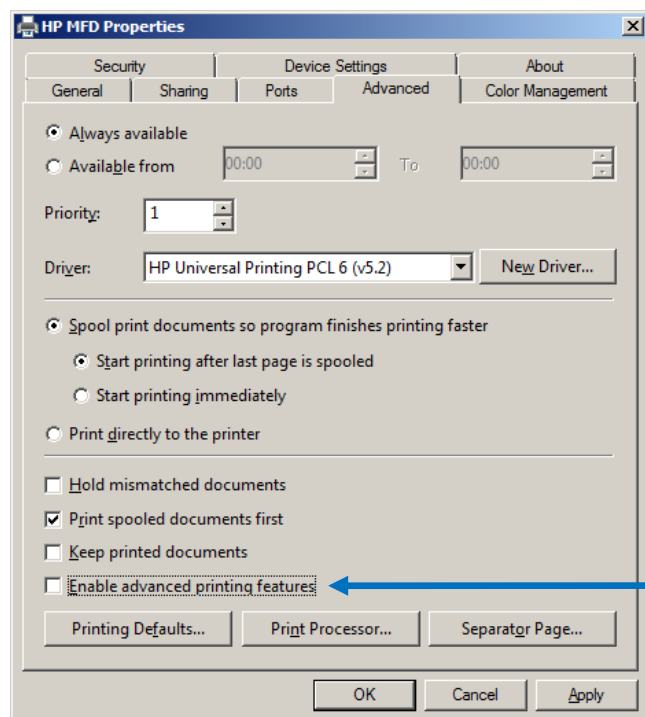
Please note: If you are making use of the specific features of **LPR printing** (such as printing via an LPD Server application) **DO NOT** change the protocol from LPR.

4. Disable Advanced Printing Features

Having the option Enable Advanced Printing Features checked on a printer causes a change to the datatype of the spool file from RAW to EMF.

The RAW datatype will produce a spool file which is much smaller than the one produced using EMF, which will then obviously take less time to transmit to the printer. RAW is also more reliable than EMF.

To disable advanced printing features browse to the **Printer Properties** > **Advanced** tab and uncheck the box "**Enable Advanced Printing Features**".



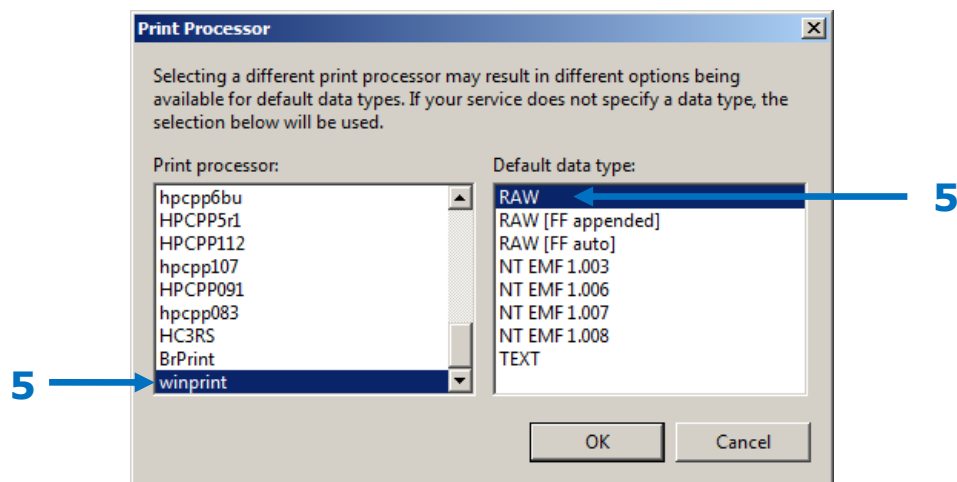
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5. Change Print Processor to WinPrint and datatype to RAW

Some brands or models of print driver will install and use a custom print processor to communicate with a printer. This can have the same effect as printing with Advanced Printing Features enabled in that it alters the datatype and consequently can increase the size of the spool file.

The default **Windows Print Processor** of **WinPrint** is a generic processor which will produce spool files in the **RAW** format.

To change the print processor browse to **Printer Properties** > **Advanced** tab > **Print Processor**. Set **Processor** to **WinPrint** and ensure **Default Datatype** is **RAW**.



6. Try a different Printer Driver

If none of these options improves performance we suggest trying a different printer driver for the affected printer. Suggestions would be:

- The latest version of the model specific driver
- A driver in a different printer control language, such as PCL6 or PS
- The Universal driver for the brand in question

7. If all else fails

Contact ATL Support:

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