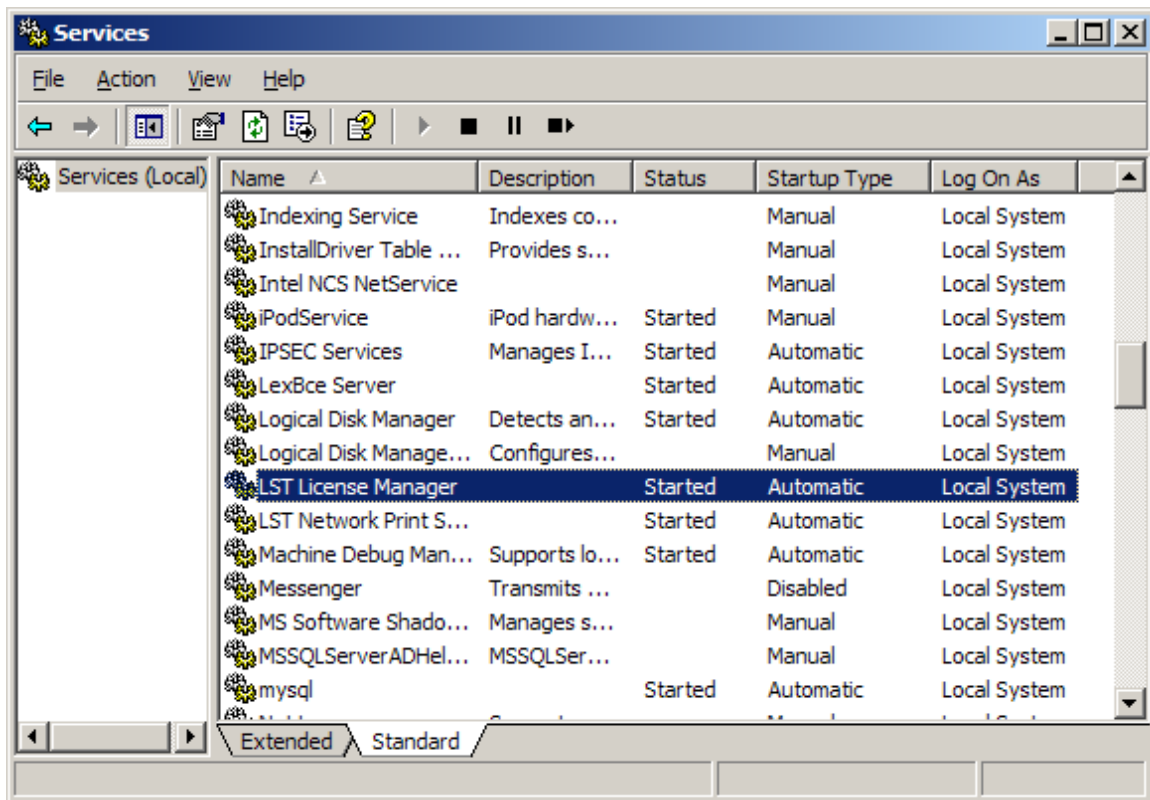


Larson NT Network Print Server Quick Start

Setting up the Larson Network Print Server has been designed to be fast and simple. Nevertheless, please do not hesitate to contact Larson Support if you have any questions or comments about the software at 1-713-977-4177, or support@cgmlarson.com.

After running the Network Print Server installation, you will be advised to reboot your computer. Please do so. Even though the installation has probably not replaced any system dlls, it is possible that dependent services have not been restarted. If you choose not to reboot, and things don't proceed like you expect them to, then reboot. We will proceed with the assumption that you have rebooted.

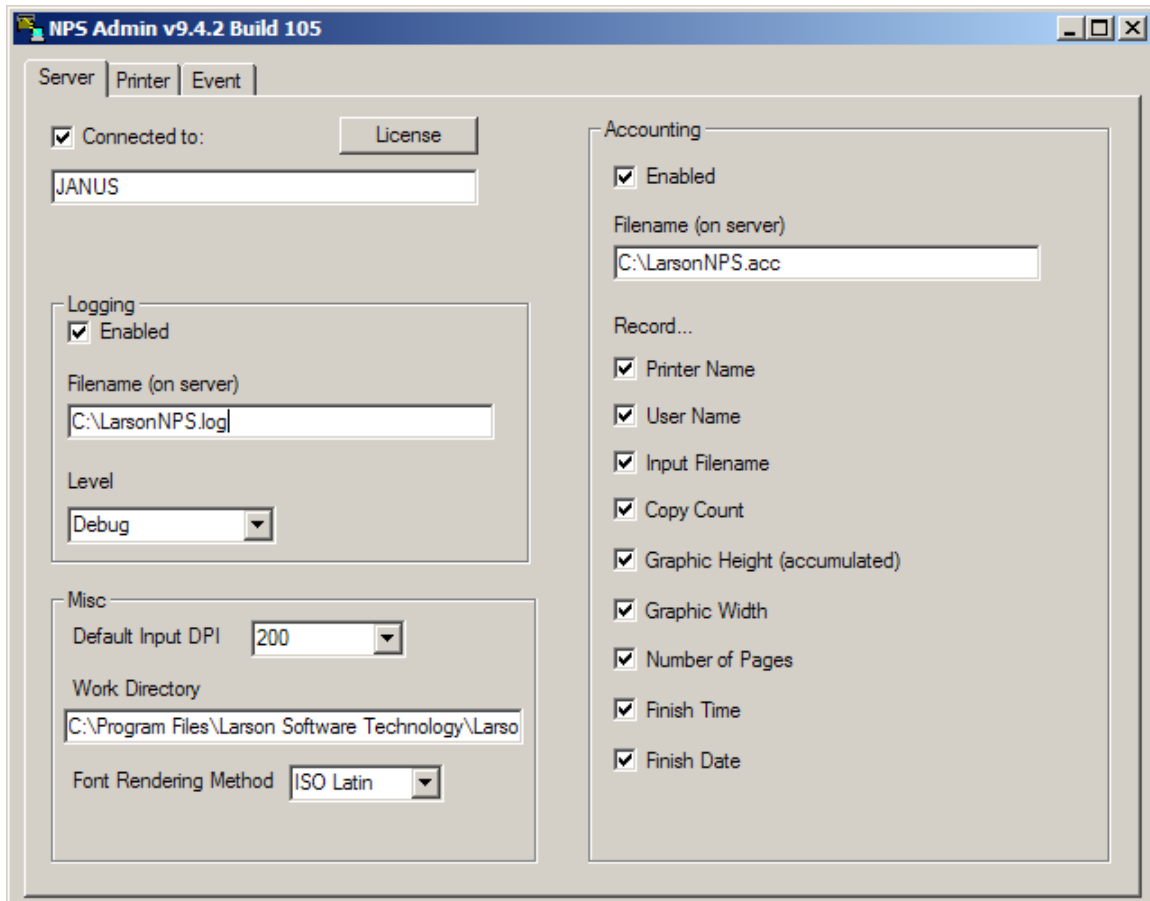
After rebooting, the first thing you need to do is go to the Windows Services, and start the LST Network Print Server service. Under Windows XP this is under Control Panel | Administrative Tools | Component Services | Services (local). It is also probably a good idea to go ahead and set it to start automatically on boot.



Windows XP screen shown

Note that this step **must** be completed before any further work can be done.

Next, go to your Start menu | Programs | Larson Software Technology | Larson NPS Admintool. This is the main interface for configuring and maintaining the Larson Print Server. You should see this screen:



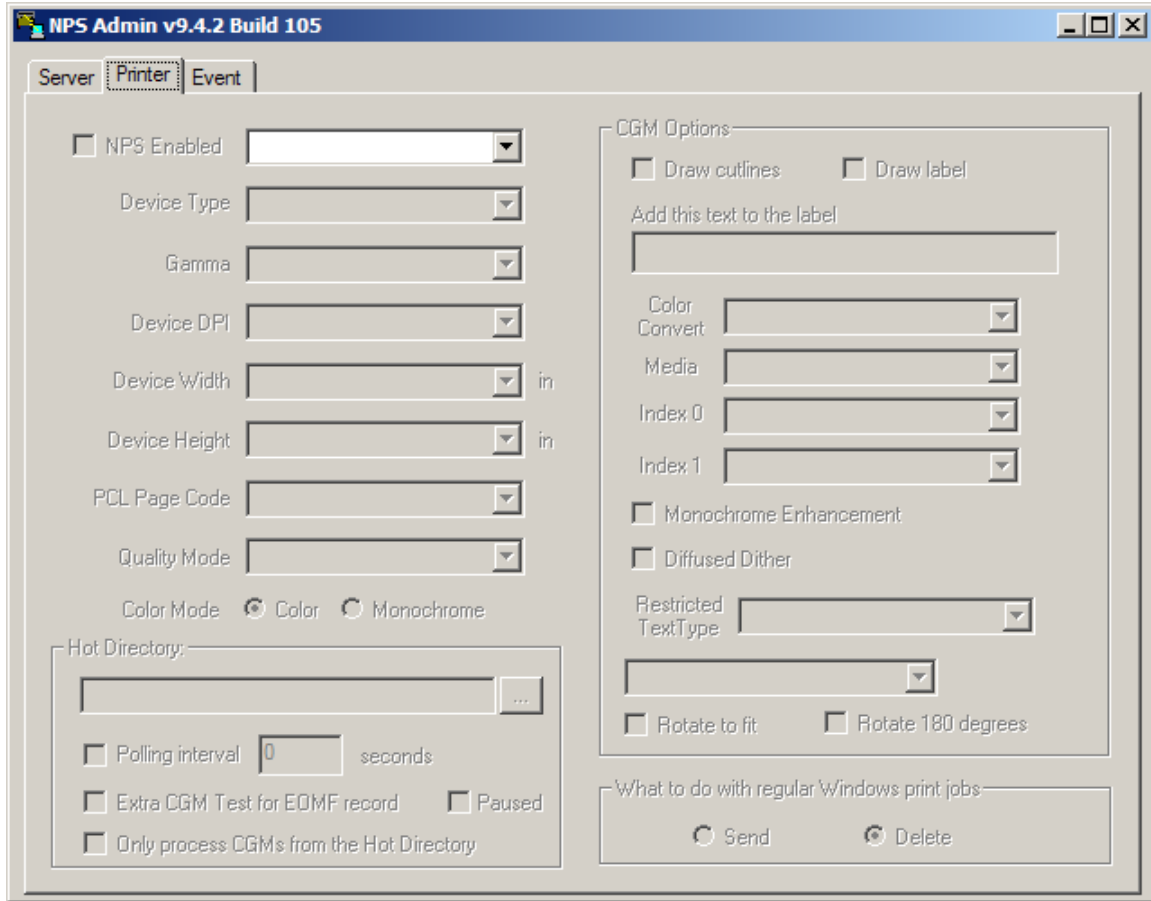
Notice the three tabs at the top. The Server tab is for all global settings. The Printer tab sets attributes for individual printers. The Event tab is a convenient way to monitor what the Network Print Server is doing.

*Note: The NPS Admintool does **not** need to be open for the Network Print Server to function. It is only necessary to bring it up when configuring or debugging the system.*

This would be a good time to hit the License button and enter the license key for the software. If you have not done so already, please contact Larson Software Technology for a key. If you have received a second key for the PostScript/Image Printing option, hit the License button a second time to do it separately.

After entering a license key, for the purposes of this Quick Start, the Server tab can be ignored. Please note in the upper left hand corner that the GUI does indicate which machine's Network Print Server service you are connected to. It is possible to type in the name of a remote machine, and hit Enter, and administer it remotely.

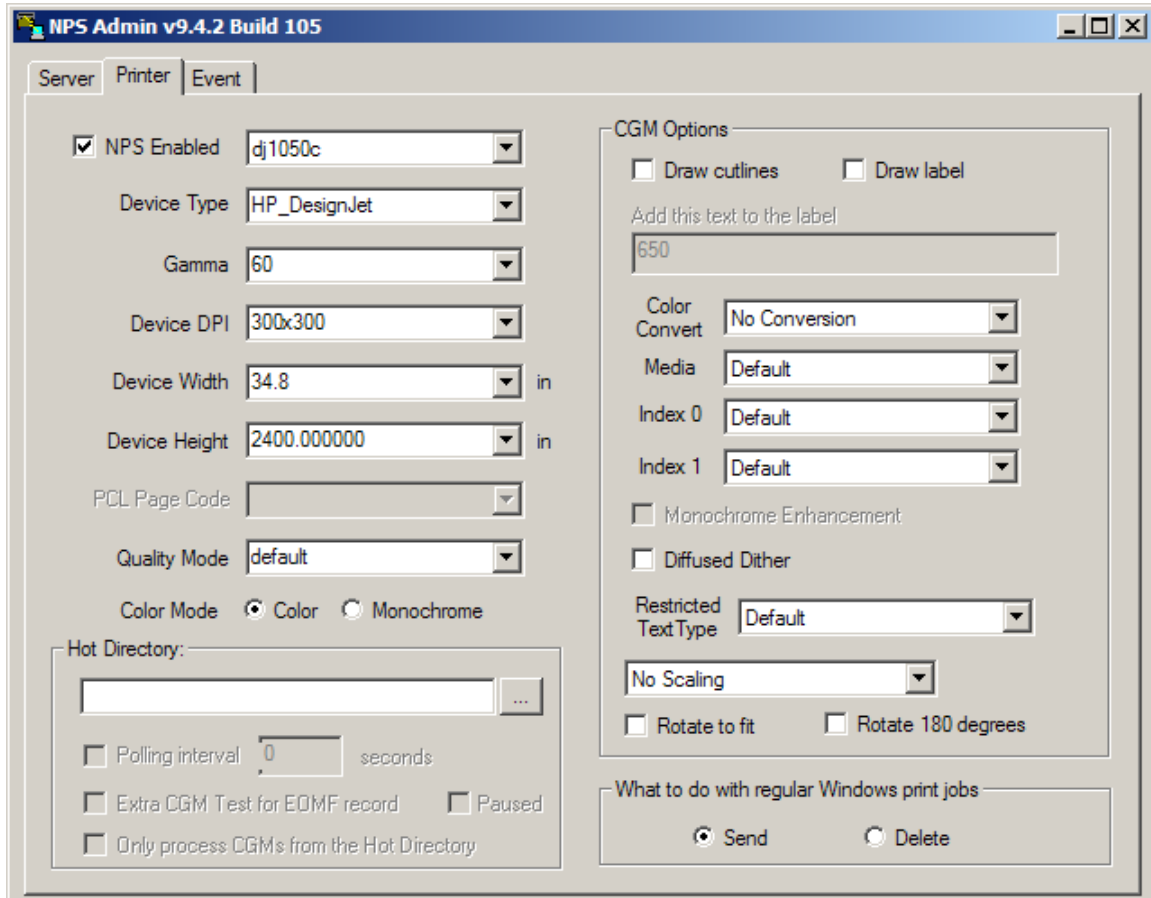
Now, click on the Printer tab. You should see this:



Notice how absolutely everything is greyed out. This is because no printer is selected. Click the down arrow under Printer in the top left hand corner and select a printer.

*Note: The Printer dialog displays only **local** printers. The way the Network Print Server works is it “takes over” a pre-existing print queue and enables it to rasterize CGM files, and other image types if desired. Therefore, a functioning print queue must already exist before we can “take it over”. If you are having trouble setting up a print queue, Larson Support would be glad to help out.*

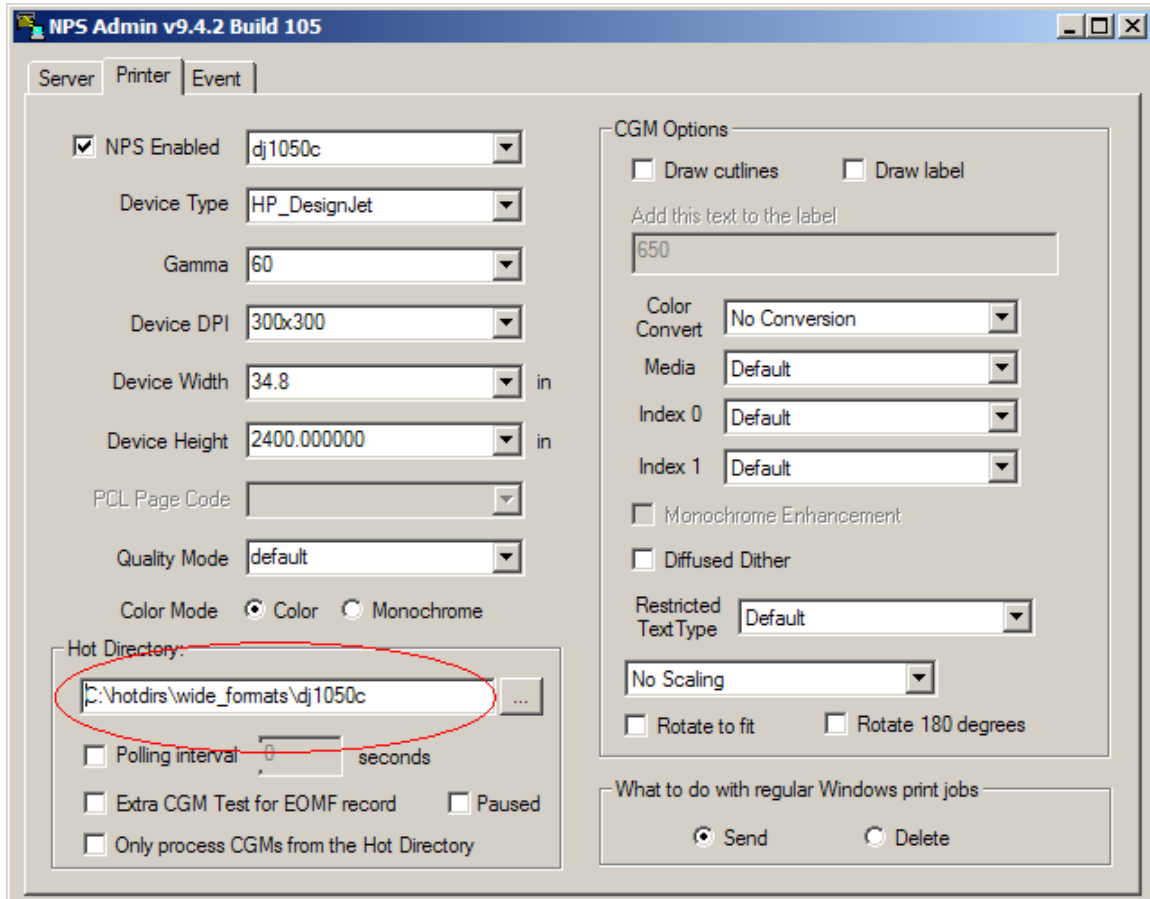
Once you have selected the print queue you wish to activate, check the Larson NPS Enabled box. Suddenly, you will see something like this:



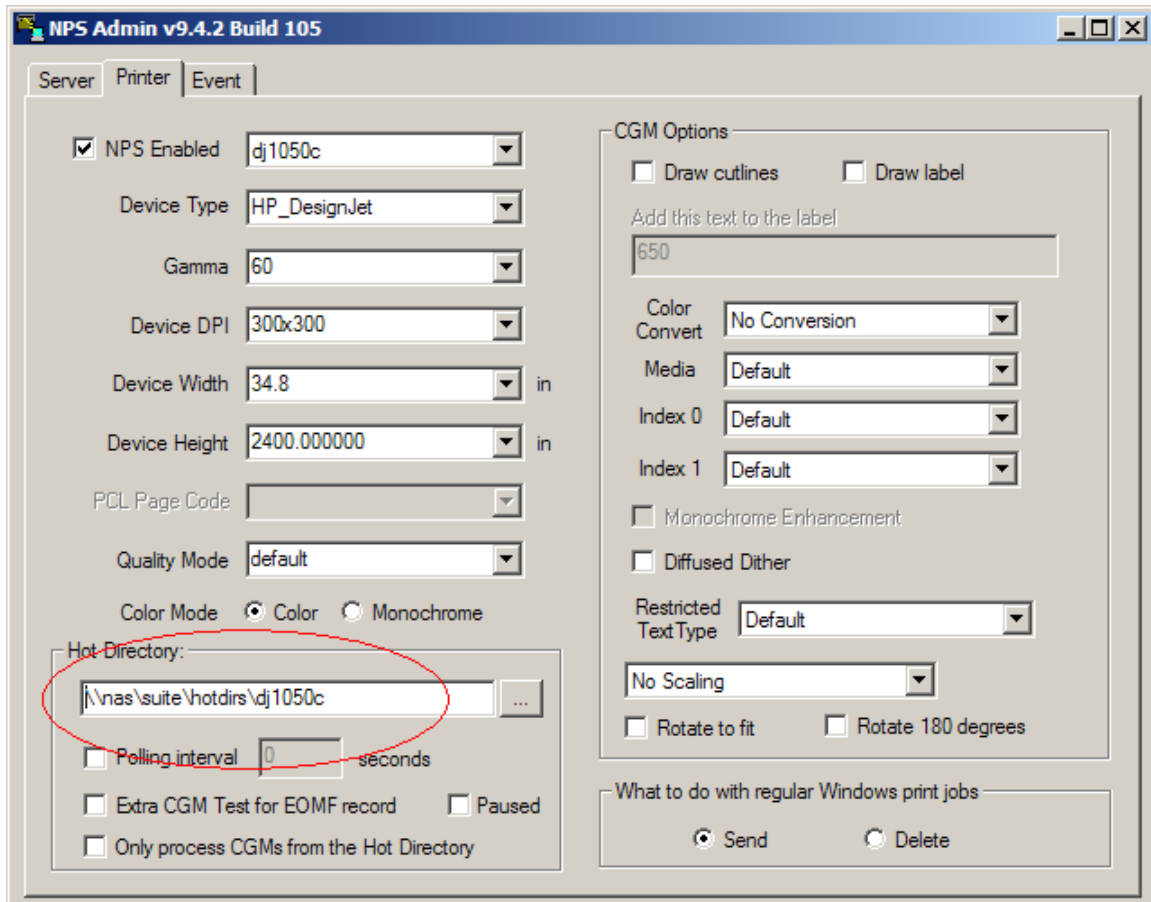
At this point, the queue is ready to accept CGM files and plot them.

However, it is rather inconvenient to submit CGM files straight to a print queue. As of this date, there are exactly zero applications which will submit a CGM file straight to a print queue, as it is not a printable format. This is why we have added Hot Directory functionality.

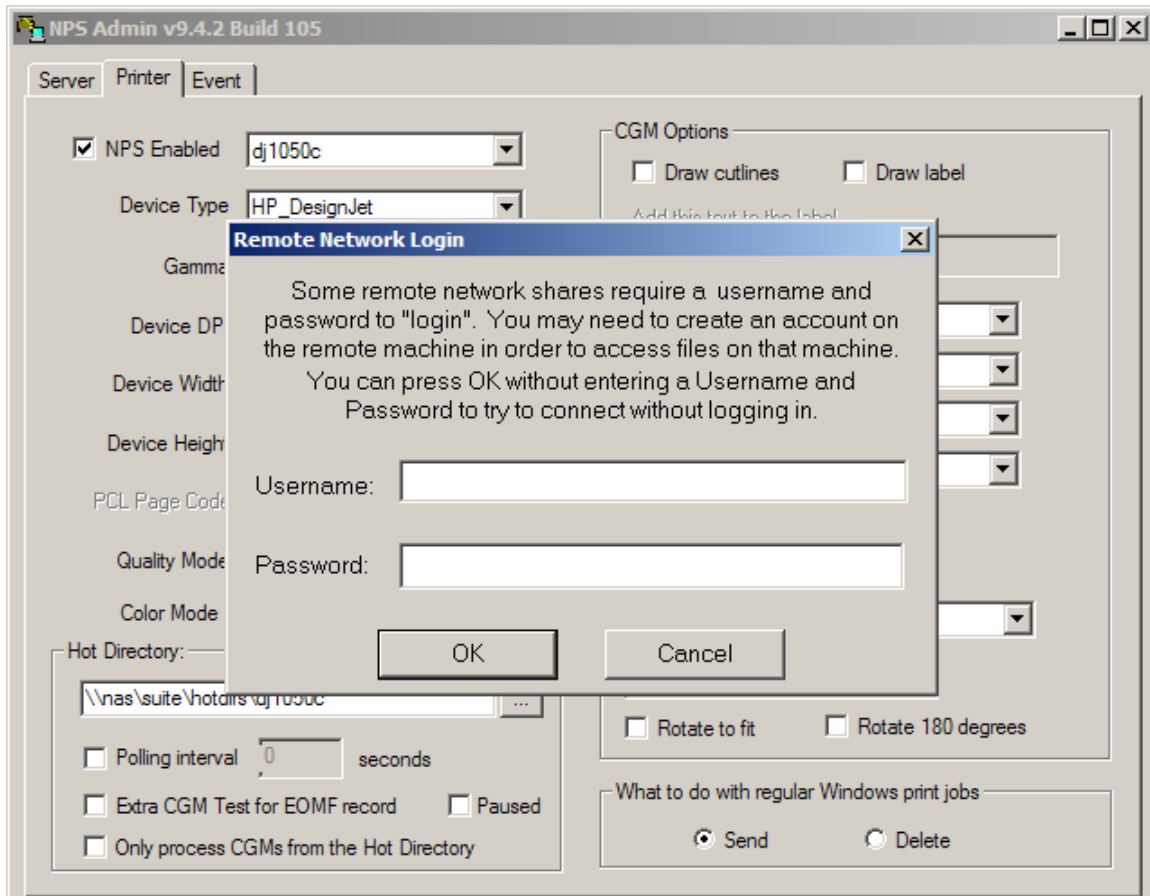
In the bottom left corner of the Printers tab, you will see the Hot Directory box. Type in a DOS path to an **EMPTY** directory, or to a nonexistent one, and then hit Return. The Admintool will then cause the directory to become active, or create it and then become active (you just have to hit Return once):



If you are trying to put your hot directories on a remote resource, such as a NetApp, then you must enter a UNC path in the Hot Directory field, and then press the Return key. Please note again, the directory must be empty at this point.

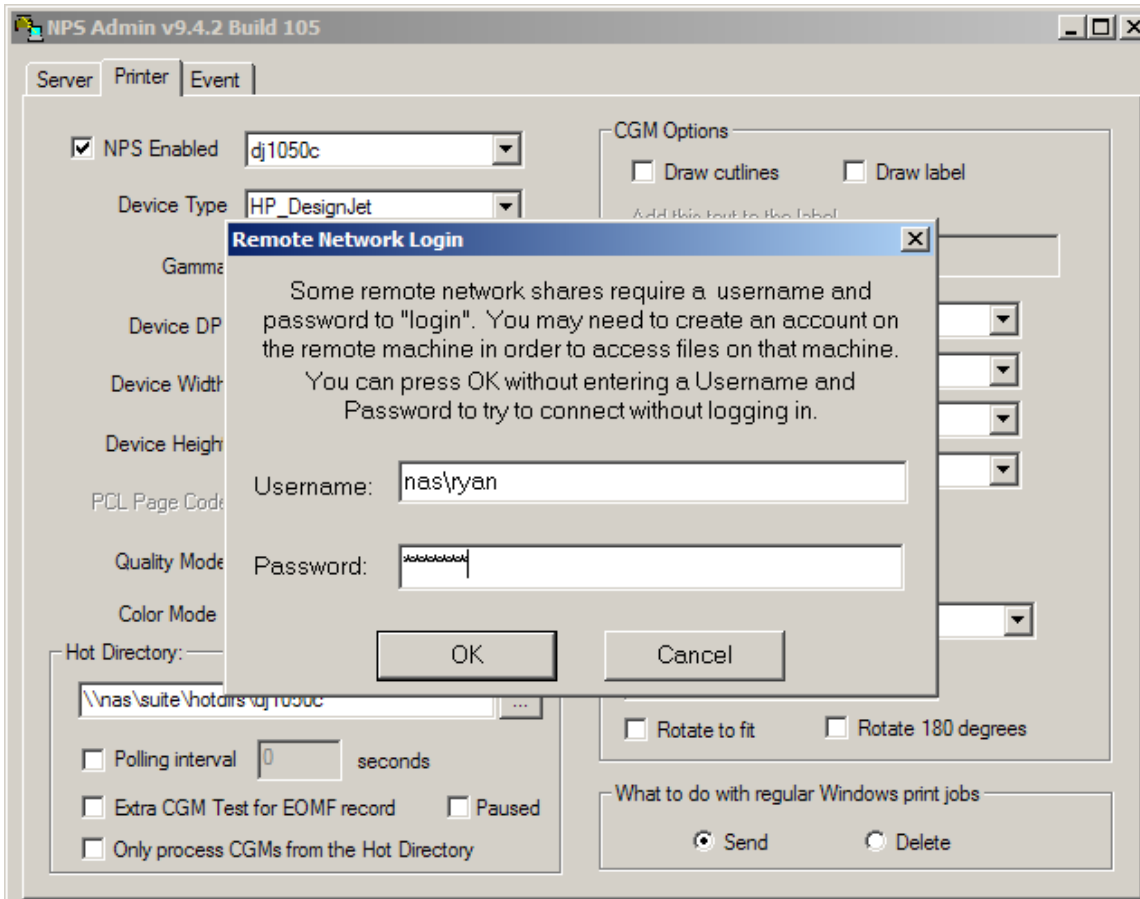


When using a UNC path to a remote resource, a dialog will appear requesting user credentials.

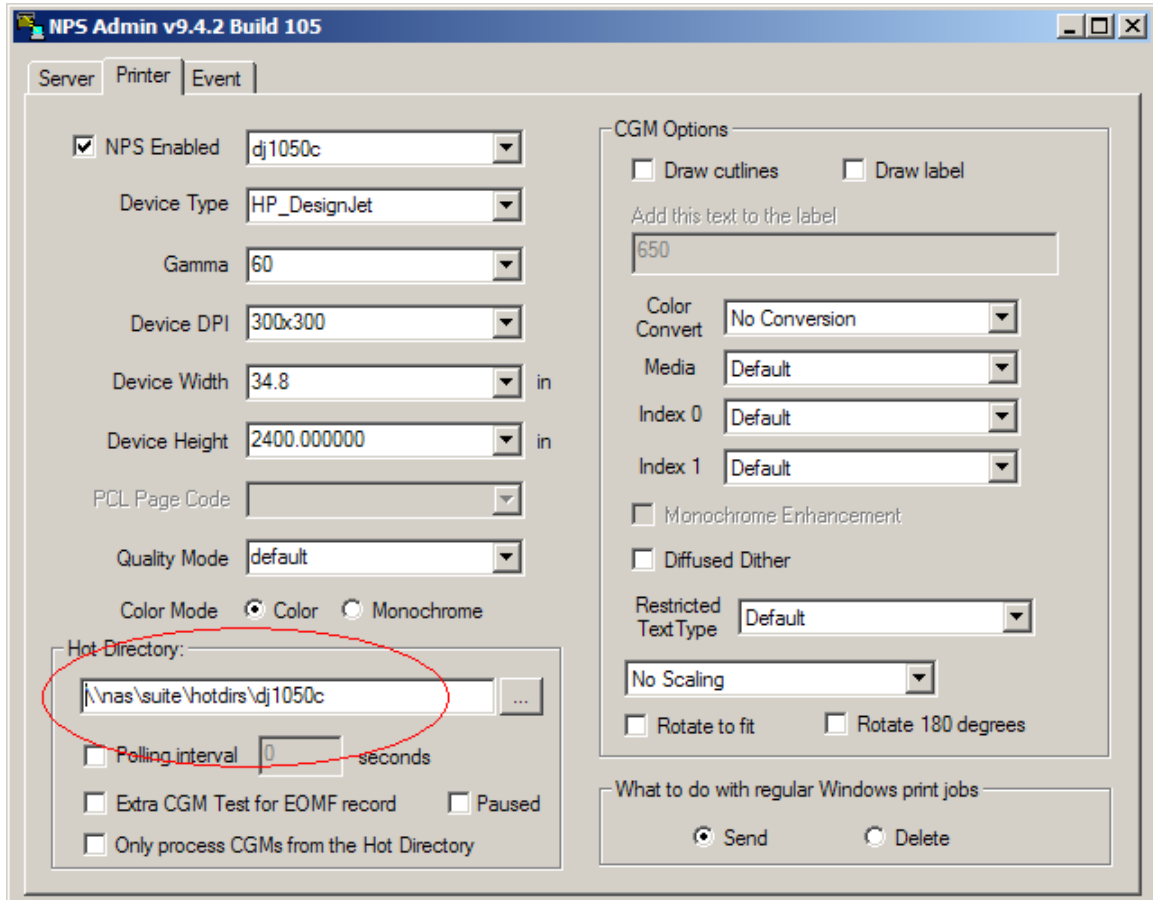


You need to supply a username that has full read/write permissions to the resource. We have to be able to delete the file when done processing. Enter the username in the form: <domain>\<username>

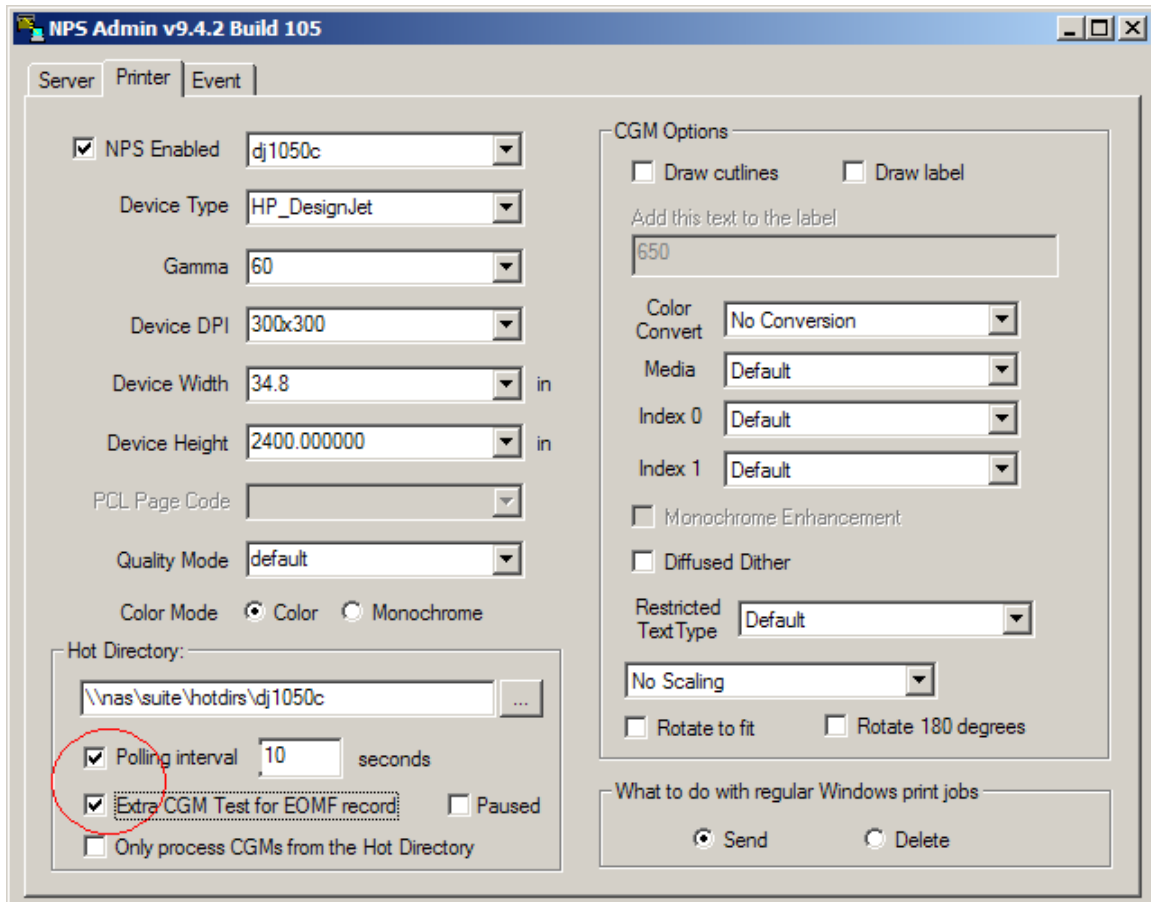
It is important to note that if you are creating multiple hot directories on the same resource, the username and password should only be entered on the first one. On subsequent hot directories, just leave the username and password blank. You should still receive a message stating, "Hot Dir Started."



After pressing OK, you should receive a message stating, “HotDir Started,” and it should return you to the printer tab, looking like this:



For hot directories residing on remote resources, you need to check both the Polling Interval and Extra CGM Test for EOMF record options. This is not required if the hot directories reside on a hard drive in the actual server.



Now you are truly done. Try copying a CGM file to the Hot Directory you created. After it is copied into the directory, it will disappear. This means it is in the system.

Take a look at the Event tab. You should see things happening. Take a look at Control Panel | Printers | <the printer you selected>. You should see the job in there. When the job enters the Printing stage in the printer box, this means the job should actually be printing on the device. You can use the standard Windows print dialogs to control your jobs.

Once you have established that the system is functional, the ideal setup would be to set up permanent mapped shares on all the client machines. This way, users can export or save their CGM files directly to the Hot Directory of choice. Set up a different Hot Directory for each device you wish the Network Print Server to drive.

Another way to integrate the Network Print Server into your environment is to make shortcuts on the users' desktops to the Hot Directories on the print server. This way, they can click and drag CGM's or other files to the shortcut on the desktop, which points, for example, to \\plotservername\hotdirectoryname.

As usual, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or comments about the software:

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