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ADF SCAN JOB DISTRIBUTOR

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ADF Scan Job Distributor

Abstract

In today's fast-paced world, optimizing user's time effectively and efficiently is a big challenge. In this context, provision for digitizing the physical documents in a bunch through mechanisms like ADF (Automated Document Feeder) on a MFP (Multi-Function-Printer) is a convenient feature. However, in scenarios where the user has a big load of documents to be scanned and distributed to different recipients, the user must manually scan pages for each intended recipient separately.

This paper proposes a solution to the problem by having one-on-one mapping between each page of the scan job and the intended recipients of it. Based on the user's input the Scan Job is distributed and sent to the correct recipient email IDs.

Problem Statement

ADF (Automatic Document Feeder) is a way to scan the documents automatically by feeding them in a bunch which can be scanned as a single file or multiple scan files. Today, the user has to sequentially scan documents that are to be sent to different clients. Scanning each document separately on scan bed and waiting for scan-to-email to be completed is quite cumbersome.

Prior Solutions

Today's MFPs treat scan job processed by the ADF as one job with one or multiple files (each of which has same number of pages as shown in Figure1). There is no known solution which can partition a big ADF scan job into different page sized files and distribute them to multiple recipients thereby saving time of the walkup user.
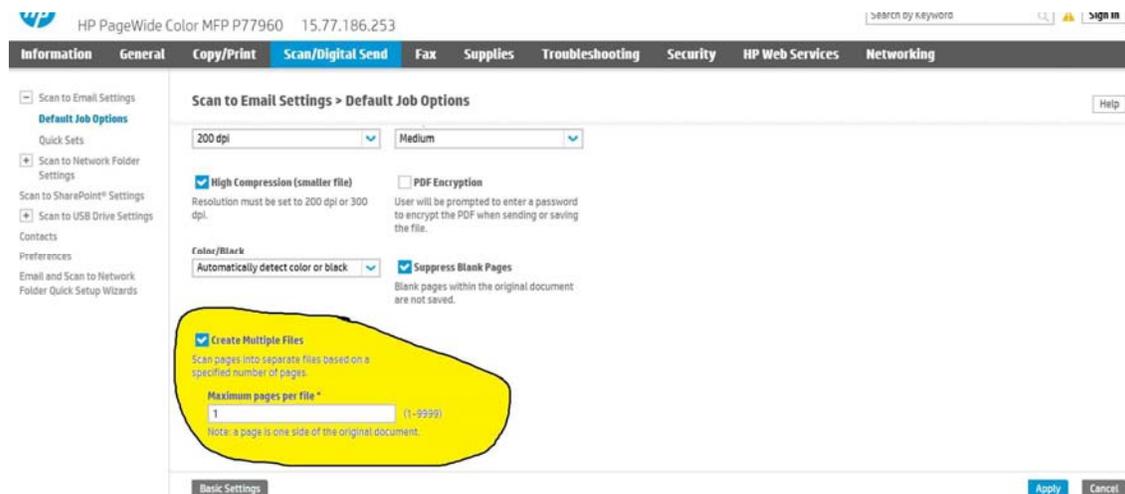

Figure 1: Existing Scan to Email feature provides provision to have multiple scanned files of same no of pages per file

Proposed Solution

ADF Scan Job Distributor to save walkup user's time

The proposed solution envisages ADF scan job distribution to send scanned jobs to different destination email IDs as shown in Figure2 below: -

Figure 2: ADF scan job distributor

The flow of operations would be as below:

1. A walkup user intending to do scan of the physical documents places them on the ADF.

2. The walkup user then selects the pages of the physical documents that should be sent to different users identified by their email IDs. For example, let us take a scenario wherein the administrator needs to send question papers of different subjects (having different no of pages) to various examination centers. He might decide to send Economics question paper having pages 1-5 to Center 1 and Center 3, Physics question paper numbering pages 6-12 to Center 2 and so on.

3. MFP creates a unique scanned job (.pdf etc.) for each user/email ID. Continuing with the previous example, assuming there are 3 Examination Centers each of whom having their own unique email IDs, the MFP might create 3 scanned jobs having names as Center1.pdf, Center2.pdf and Center3.pdf.In the beginning (before the first page is digitized), all these scanned jobs would be empty without any content.

4. For each page once its digitized, MFP would append the digitized page to the corresponding scanned job(s) where the page is earmarked for, in step 2 above. Thus, if page 2 is destined for Centers 1 and 3, the corresponding scanned jobs (Center1.pdf and Center3.pdf) would be appended with the digitized page2. This process continues till all the pages present on the ADF have been digitized and appended to their respective scanned jobs.

5. MFP then sends these scanned jobs to the respective destination email IDs.

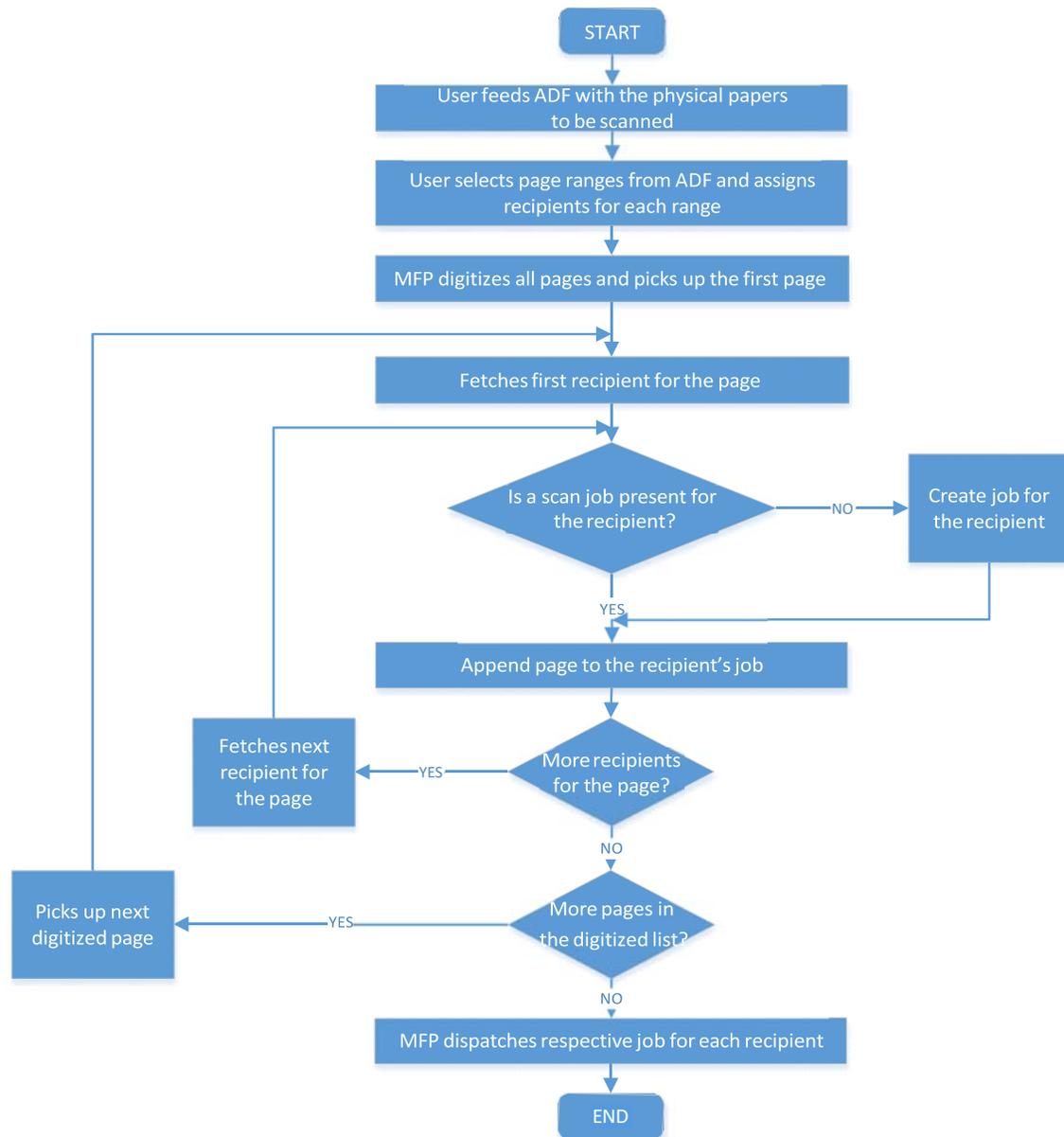6. The operational flowchart of this solution is enunciated in Figure3 below.

Figure 3: Operational Flowchart for ADF Scan Job Distributor

Advantages

1. This solution provides user convenience by allowing the user to enter all the destination email ID's mapped with each page.

2. The solution provides the user an option to provide all necessary details on the printer front panel at once, helping him in time management.

3. The beauty of the solution lies in the fact that it can be easily extended to have scan configuration settings like color, Resolution (in dpi) etc. differentiated to every destination email ID.

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